

CLARION

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

SPRING 2021





KEELING HEALTH CENTER

which has long been the clinical site for the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, has undergone renovations in its lower level where students tend to clients.

The waiting room and therapy rooms have been painted and updated.

“It’s like a brand new place,” said Kristina Dworek, CSD chair and assistant professor.

In addition to paint and basic updating, the clinic has kept up with necessary improvements for clinic equipment.

Dworek said the monitoring system where supervisors watch therapy sessions has been upgraded, and they are using new equipment in the voice lab.

“The Clarion University Speech and Hearing Clinic stayed open through the pandemic by offering speech-language services to the community through teletherapy,” said Dr. Mary Pat McCarthy, CSD professor.

The program typically has about 100 clients (both children and adults) who seek diagnostic and therapeutic services for speech and language disorders. The clinic is currently serving 60 clients via teletherapy.

WWW.CLARION.EDU/CSD-RENOVATIONS.



FEATURES

12 From the Fog Emerges Hope

Alumnus Nick Brucker turned a supermarket conversation into Aeras Fog Co., which uses drones for electrostatic sanitization of large areas in little time.

18 Million Dollar Man

Successful prosthodontist David McFadden is now a two-time author by compiling into books the extensive research he's done to inform his own interests.

24 Peer Leadership

The COVID-19 Student Task Force educates and encourages peers to engage in safe practices to stay well.

28 Safe Spaces

Maintenance and custodial workers have been integral to keeping campus safe during the pandemic.

30 A Shot in the Arm

Students in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program get a jump start on their careers by helping to staff COVID testing and vaccination sites.

DEPARTMENTS

4 News Digest

Student Mary Clare Smith creates 'It Isn't Over' clothing, website; theatre majors honored for pandemic productions; university publishes second law journal; Madison Shilk's wins prestigious award for excellence in internship; Venango students add some play to their hard work; Clarion University held a modified commencement May 8 for students wanting an in-person ceremony.

10 Paint 'n Sip

32 Sports Digest

Dave Hrovat retires after 30 years of coaching diving champions, former Clarion diving champ Heath Calhoun returns to take helm; athletics was back in action with modified schedules this spring.

40 Class Notes

48 #WingsUp

When Jada Smith experienced unfair treatment because she was female, the then-8th grader responded by using her birthday money to start a scholarship for girls in her high school. Now a member of Clarion's women's basketball team, Smith continues helping other young female athletes through a nonprofit organization she founded.

On the cover

New graduates celebrate at a modified in-person commencement ceremony May 8 at Memorial Stadium.

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

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**INTEGRATION MOVES FORWARD;
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD OPEN**

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education Board of Governors has approved the proposed implementation plan for integrating Clarion, Edinboro and California universities. The approval represents a major milestone in what has been a nine-month planning process involving more than 400 students, faculty, staff and alumni from across the three campuses.

Clarion, Edinboro and Cal U – three sister institutions with rich histories – all began as schools to prepare much-needed teachers to serve their respective regions. Over time, they adapted as the needs of students, employers and our broader communities changed. Integration marks yet another adaptation in that continued evolution.

The Board of Governors' action prompted a 60-day public comment period, during which the State System will accept feedback on the integration plan for these three campuses. The voices of our campus community continue to be essential. Those who would like to comment may do so via web form, email, mail and at a public hearing June 9 and 10 as outlined at www.passhe.edu/integrations.

We look forward to seeing the comments that will be submitted to the State System and also to the board's final vote in July. We stand poised to honor our past, while continuing to chart a course for a future in service to our mission and the students who are at its heart.

For more information about integration, visit www.passhe.edu/integrations and www.clarion.edu/integration.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Clarion Family,

I hope this finds you and your loved ones well. Spring semester whizzed by at the university. As we continued to work with COVID restrictions in place, nearly 650 students lived on campus, they participated in classes through a combination of face-to-face and remote learning. Particularly this past spring, our campus community made us all Clarion proud.

We have behaved responsibly to minimize the spread of COVID. We continue to wear our masks, abide by distancing guidelines, and wash and sanitize our hands. We tested students before they arrived on campus and implemented surveillance testing throughout the semester. Through these actions, we kept cases extremely low on campus. We care for one another.

Amid the complications and distractions of a pandemic, we continued to focus on learning. In many ways, we created new opportunities for learning.

Notably, our Bachelor of Science in Nursing students were essential in staffing COVID testing sites and vaccination clinics. In fact, my own vaccine was administered by one of our students. Theatre students learned new skills in presenting performances in an online format. Two productions were livestreamed this spring, and two of the students involved received Kennedy Center honors for their work. Education students gained experience using technology in new and non-traditional ways, and our entire campus became proficient at navigating online meeting platforms. Many of us continue to telecommute to this day. Our dedicated maintenance and custodial staff kept and continue to keep us safe and our campus clean. We plan to fully reopen this fall, and we are so excited to do so.

And what better way to end an unusual semester than with a bear up a tree between Founders and Hart Chapel. That, too, became a teaching moment when game officials invited assembled students to get a close-up look at the bear after it had been tranquilized. Many students, faculty and staff watched the whole procedure. Three nursing students had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to assist with processing the bear before it was relocated to game lands.

Planning for the integration of Clarion, California and Edinboro universities also kept us busy. More than 425 students, faculty, staff and alumni were members of working groups that moved the process forward. The purpose of integration is to provide more academic program offerings to our traditional students and achieve financial sustainability for generations to come. Our online programs will be expanded primarily for our post-traditional students. Our beautiful campus will remain, and we look forward to Stevens Hall and Moore Hall renovations being complete.

On the previous page, you will have seen the most recent integration news, along with where to find more information.

We look forward to the fall, reopening the campus as fully as we can, and seeing you at Homecoming and Autumn Leaf Festival.

We are keeping our Wings Up!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Dale". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Dr. Dale
President, Clarion University



STUDENT PROMOTES SELF-HEALING IN 'IT ISN'T OVER' CLOTHING

Mary Clare Smith, a senior nursing major with a minor in social work, has created a clothing design and website focused on mental health. Smith said the "it isn't over" design is a reminder that although you may deal with issues, you may struggle to find yourself, and you may feel hopeless, you can control how you react. "Your life is so precious, so never let one rough patch in the road define the person you are or will become." See Smith's work at selfhealing-com.myshopify.com.



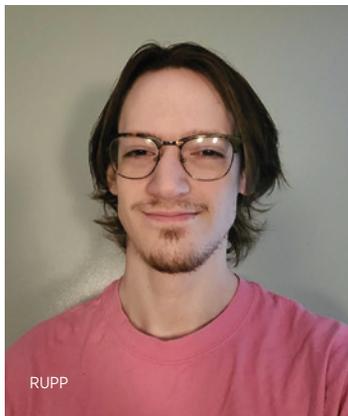
FYE AND RUPP EARN KENNEDY CENTER ACCOLADES

Benjamin Fye of Woodland, a senior double majoring in theatre and communication, and Zachary Rupp of Nottingham, Maryland, a senior majoring in theatre, were awarded certificates of merit at The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (region two).

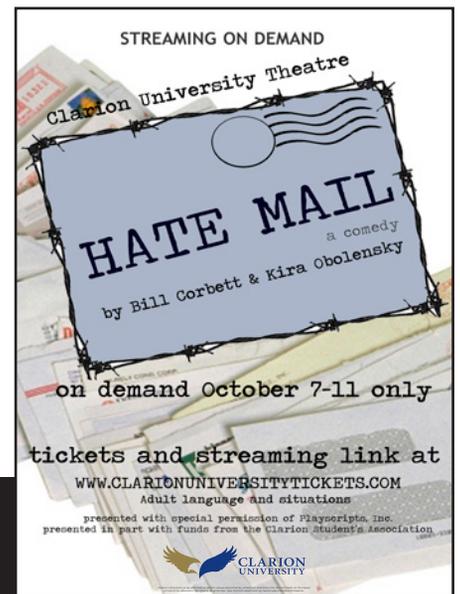
They were recognized in the Film Recording/Editing/Production category for their work on "The Marowitz Hamlet" and in the Video Control and Preparation category for "Hate Mail." KCACTF certificates of merit are given for extraordinary achievement in design and technical areas, directing, stage management, dramaturgy playwriting, ensemble acting, costume running and acting.



FYE



RUPP



tickets and streaming link at WWW.CLARIONUNIVERSITYTICKETS.COM

Adult language and situations

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The Marowitz Hamlet by Charles Marowitz

Streaming On Demand November 18-22

tickets at www.clarionuniversitytickets.com

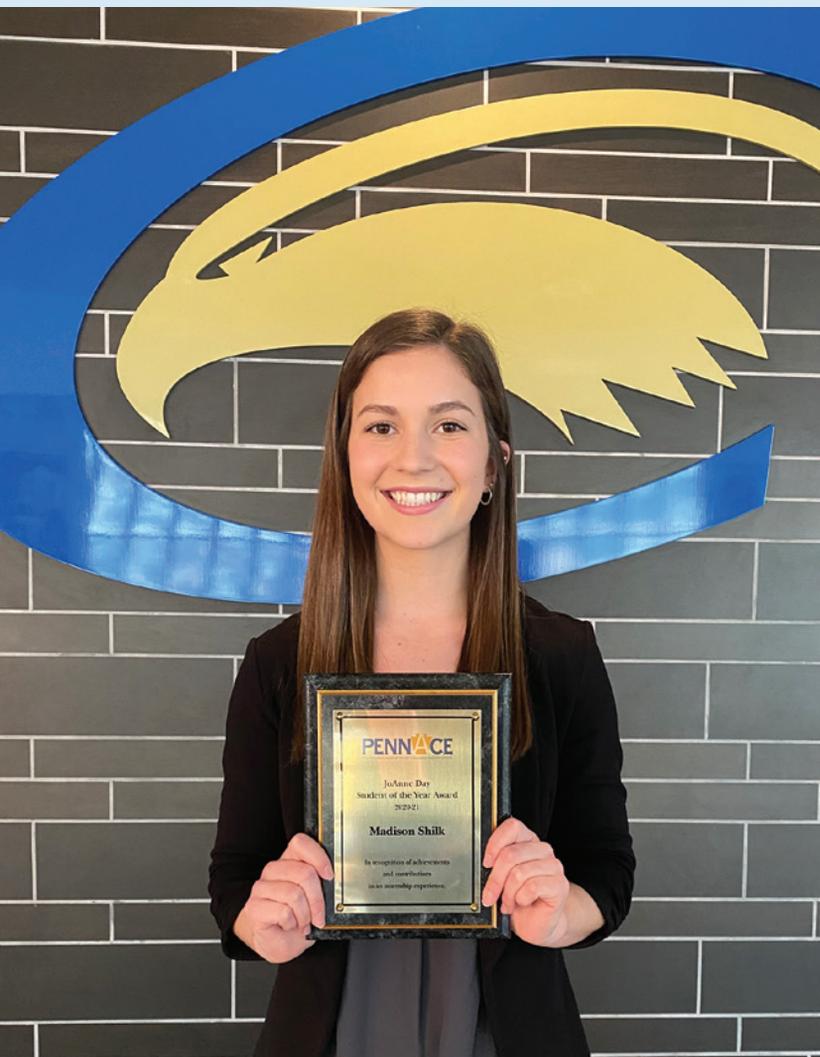
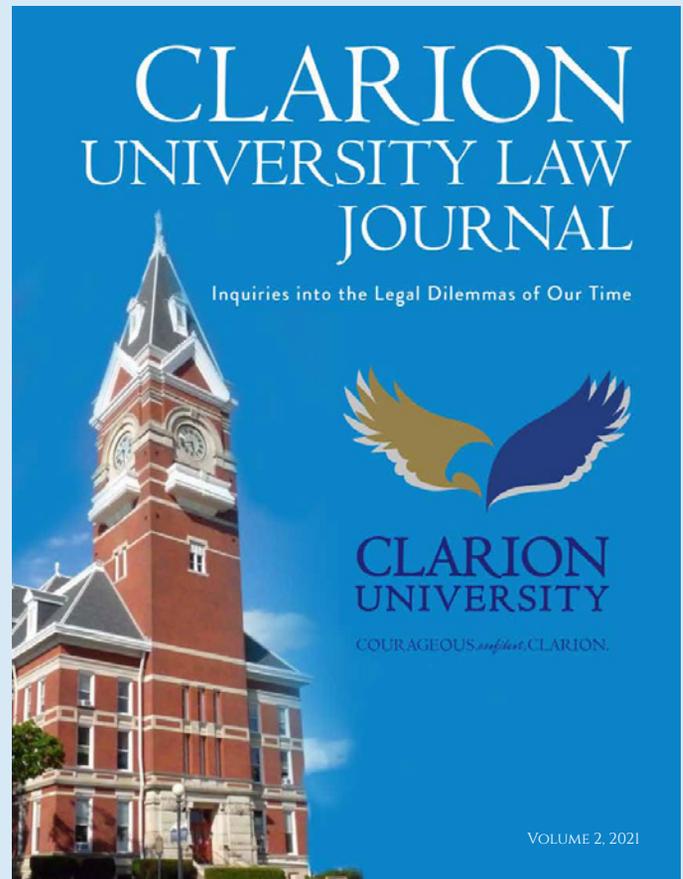
presented by special permission of the Dramatists' Play Service, NY presented in part with funds from the Clarion Student's Association



STUDENTS PUBLISH SECOND EDITION OF LAW JOURNAL

The College of Business Administration and Information Sciences has published the second edition of Clarion University Law Journal. The 56-page journal, which can be viewed at www.clarion.edu/lawjournal2, is the culmination of a class project for Advanced Legal Writing and Research. Dr. C. Frank Shepard, associate professor of finance and instructor of the class, said law journals contain advanced legal research on topics of interest to legal professionals and anyone interested in the current state of our legal system.

"In preparing the journal, the students engaged in detailed legal analysis and applied that analysis to the tough societal issues of our time. This type of in-depth analysis and application will serve them well in their legal careers," Shepard said.



SHILK RECOGNIZED WITH PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Madison Shilk of Ridgway, a sophomore who triple majors in management, human resource management and finance, won the prestigious JoAnne Day Student of the Year award through Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Employers. The annual award recognizes the achievements made by undergraduate students who have completed an internship or co-op with the Student of the Year Awards program. Shilk won in the Business category for her work as a human resource intern at Contact Technologies, Inc., St. Mary's.

FULL SLATE OF FUN KEPT VENANGO STUDENTS ENGAGED

Clarion University – Venango kept students engaged throughout the year with a variety of new and tried-and-true activities, held via Zoom or in person with COVID safety guidelines in place. Along with favorites like Name That Tune and WINGO – bingo with a side of wings – the Campus Activities Board sponsored free pop-up lunches and food truck days. The semester concluded with a virtual concert by The Josephines.



Fall is (rubber) duck season at Venango. Students won prizes and Amazon gift cards for finding ducks.



Venango campus celebrated Halloween with a costume contest. Students submitted pictures of themselves in their costumes, and staff voted for the top three costumes. Winners received Amazon gift cards.

A mini-golf course gave students a respite from their studies.



Students play campus favorite WINGO.



Students were able to make – or stuff – a new friend at the Stuff-a-Plush activity. Participants could choose an eagle, a moose or a bear.



CARTER AMONG BLACK FEMALE ADMINS TO PRESENT LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE

Dr. Laurie Carter '86 is one of five female African American college presidents/administrators who presented Shippensburg University's virtual leadership challenge seminar, "From Challenge to Change: Leading the Next Generation of Women for Change in a Global Economy." Carter has served as president of Shippensburg University since 2017. This summer, she will transition to presidency of Lawrence University, Appleton, Wisconsin.



CAUVEL RECOGNIZED FOR HR EXCELLENCE

Erika Cauvel '13, interim coordinator of part-time talent acquisition, received the 2020 Ray T. Fortunato Award for Excellence in Human Resources for her contributions to human resources at Penn State.

"Erika is an excellent leader, dedicated team player and is an asset to the Human Resources organization," said Lori Yacisin, Cauvel's supervisor. Those who submitted letters of support for Cauvel's nomination described her as "a creative problem solver," "an outstanding leader," and "a can-do person with a positive attitude and calming presence."



PET FRIENDLY CAMPUS

Word is getting around that Clarion University is a pet-friendly campus.

This 250-pound female black bear was spotted in a tree between Founders Hall and Hart Chapel and provided a two-hour diversion from finals week, as well as unexpected hands-on learning for some nursing students.

After Pennsylvania Game Commission responded and tranquilized the bruin, university police, university

employees and volunteer firefighters caught the falling bear in a tarp.

The game warden invited three nursing students from an assembled group to assist in processing the bear, which included pulling a tooth, which will be used to determine the bear's age, and tagging the bear's ear for tracking.

The bear was released on state gamelands.

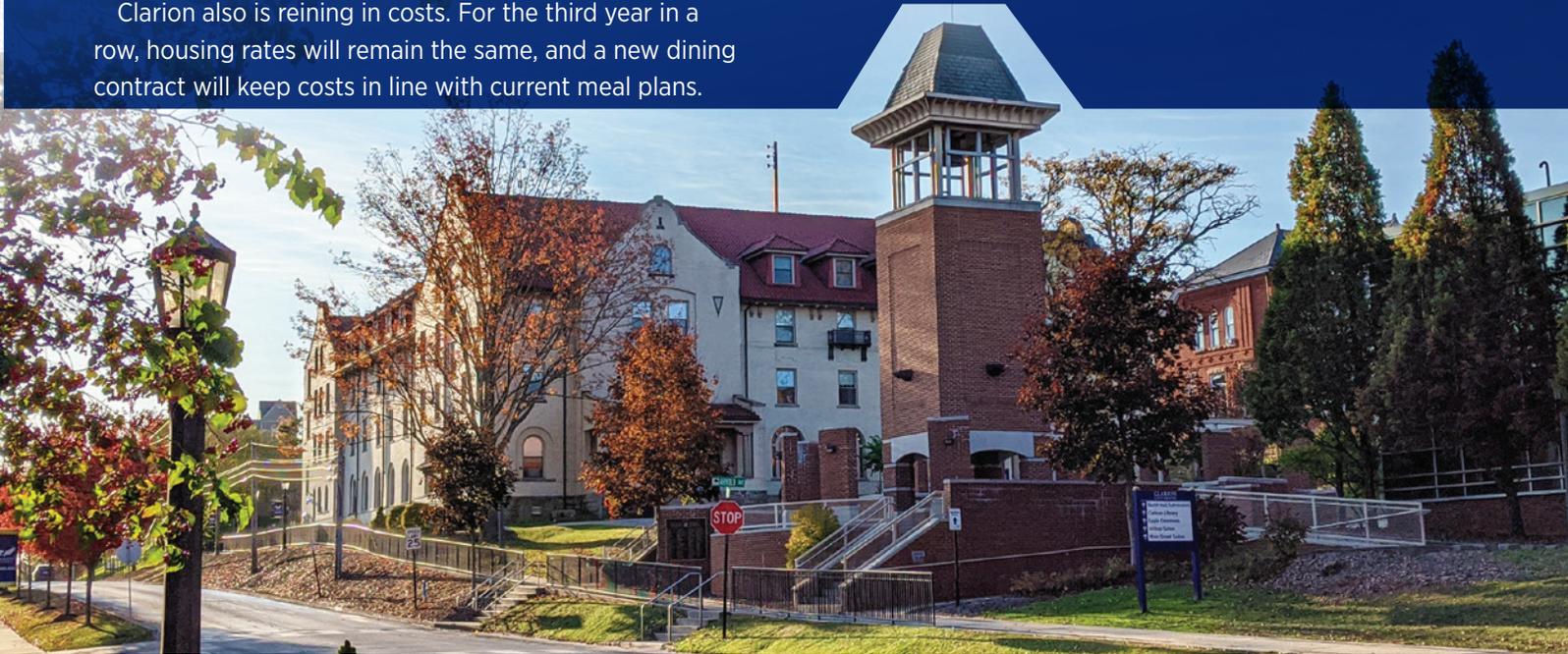


CU, STATE SYSTEM SHOW AFFORDABILITY COMMITMENT

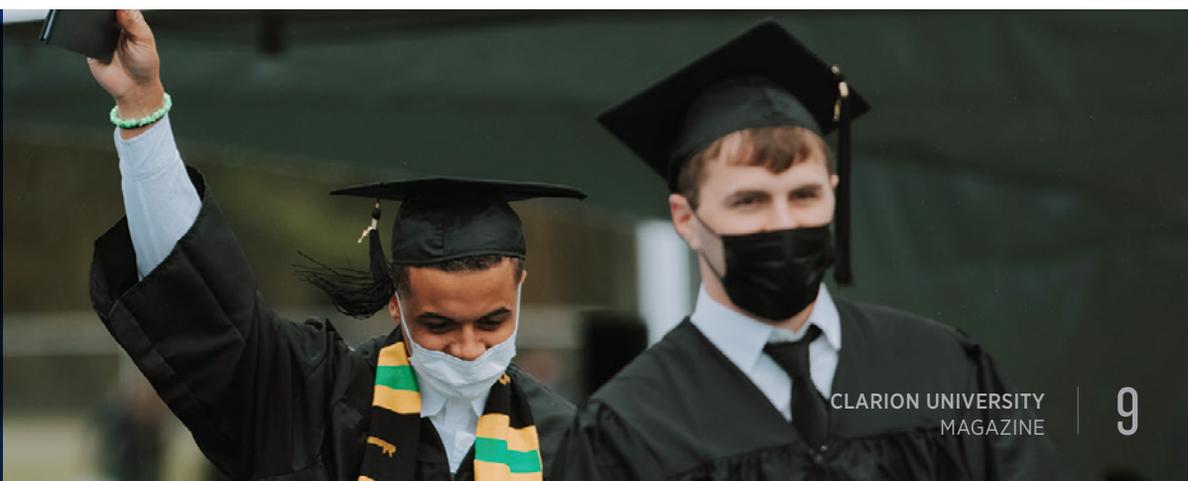
Clarion University students won't see increases in several areas of their educational expenses after the university and Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education took action to keep costs flat. The State System took the historic step of freezing basic in-state tuition at \$7,716 for a third consecutive year. Also remaining the same will be the system's \$478 technology fee for students.

Clarion also is reining in costs. For the third year in a row, housing rates will remain the same, and a new dining contract will keep costs in line with current meal plans.

Additionally, the Student Government Association has selected eCampus.com as its online bookstore provider, a move that will deliver substantial course material savings for students. Students can choose the buying option – rental, used, new or eBook – that works best for them.



New graduates celebrate at the modified commencement May 8 at Memorial Stadium.



Artist Kylie Allen guided alumni in creating winter and spring masterpieces in December and April paint 'n sip events.







AERAS FOG
AERAS FOG
AERAS FOG
AERAS FOG



If the pandemic has given us anything, it might be more time or the opportunity to use our time differently, especially for those of us now working from home. Alumnus Nick Brucker '09 hasn't let any extra time go to waste.



In fact, Brucker has seized the opportunity to foster his inventive and entrepreneurial sides during the past year as well as keep up with some hobbies. With Brucker, however, his hobbies usually have a way of becoming not just side hustles, but full-blown companies.

Already the CEO and founder of Sparq Designs in Pittsburgh and Nashville, he randomly met Eric Lloyd in a Whole Foods and that meeting led to a friendship with big ideas. The pair developed the idea of combining electrostatic sanitization and drones for a solution to a major problem that hit when the pandemic did.

Their venture, Aeras Fog Co., uses electrostatic science with drones in order to sanitize large areas in a short amount of time – as little as three hours to disinfect an entire stadium.

“Right now, the most practical applications for the technology includes sanitization of large venues, stadiums and arenas as they pertain to the drone,” Brucker said. “We are currently negotiating deals in the hospitality and agriculture space as well.”

Aeras has sprayed for the Pittsburgh Penguins, PPG Arena, and for ASM Global.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, “electrostatic sprayers apply a positive charge to liquid disinfectants as they pass through the nozzle. The positively charged disinfectant is attracted to negatively charged surfaces, which allows for efficient coating of hard nonporous surfaces.”

Brucker explained in an interview on Fox News that this science eliminates human error by reaching places a person might miss. The sky’s the limit for such an invention, which could be used in any place people touch.

“Our plans with Aeras are not limited to drone sanitization, as we’ve released and developed commercial backpack units that will be effective in office settings, education, fitness facilities and more. We also have released a residential unit, called the Aerasmini that will be an exceptional product for at-home and inside of automobiles,” Brucker said.

Developing ideas is nothing new to Brucker, who challenged himself and the team at Sparq Designs to “build a brand from scratch and self-propel it into the market” in 2019.



The result was Aiden Ross, a golf glove and apparel brand.

“Our first go-to-market product was the golf glove. I saw an opportunity in the space to enhance a current golf accessory that has remained stale for quite some time. We introduced a unique style and design component to a premium Cabretta leather glove.”

The idea for a golf glove and apparel isn’t surprising since Brucker was a golfer for the Golden Eagles during his time at Clarion and understands the requirements for this type of product.

The brand features Cabretta leather with unique design options on the inside thumb.

“We see golf as an outlet for individuals to express their personalities and style through their clothing and accessories. Golf and fashion have always gone hand-in-hand, and we believed that the premium golf glove space was up for grabs. From a style standpoint, we’ve created a brand that will stand out, but at the same time be subtle,” states the Aiden Ross website.

The idea for the name Aiden Ross was purely market driven, Brucker explained. Knowing the target market would be millennials and that one of the top baby names millennials were choosing for their boys at that time was Aiden, the first part of the name was selected. The second part of the name has a strong connection to golf in general so the full name of Aiden Ross was born.

Fueled by green tea, a little red wine and daily exercise, Brucker is full of ideas. Brucker said he’s up before 7 a.m. to prepare for the day. After work, he exercises for an hour-and-a-half and then heads back to the office to get caught up.

“After exercising, I will usually get back into work and filter through emails, proposals, and campaign work. At night, it feels like downtime to me and I think better – so this is when I brainstorm more. I usually get to bed around midnight,” Brucker said.

He also carries around notebooks and utilizes the notes feature on his phones, lest he forget an idea that might have legs. His ideas come from observations.



“I like to pay attention to people and trends and what is happening. I think that I have a pretty decent sense of what people want and what they are looking for. I think that my ideas are driven by paying attention to others and watching patterns evolve,” Brucker said.

For now, however, he’s focusing on what has already been built.

“At this point I am realizing that I am only one person and I need to harness my efforts to ensure success of all the companies,” Brucker said.

Admittedly, he believes his work-life balance could use

some attention and it's one of his goals in 2021.

One of those existing companies is Sparq Designs, which has hired Clarion graduates in the past and, Brucker suspects, will continue to do so in the future.

"I feel that we Clarion grads have a lot of grit. I think that in business this plays extremely well and helps us to deal with adversity. Our team of Clarion grads have all been great to work with and have helped build Sparq along the way. We understand what it takes to achieve our goals and we know what hard work is all about," Brucker said.

Brucker further explained that Clarion helped him develop his social and networking skills

"I built a group of lifelong friends and people who I've been fortunate enough to build companies with. This is something that I don't take for granted. Jim Blundo (vice president and founder of Sparq) and I were friends at Clarion, and I have been fortunate enough to create one of Pittsburgh's fastest-growing companies with someone who

shares the same drive and passion as myself," Brucker said.

Brucker's has an interest in entrepreneurship, which was enhanced with a BSBA in marketing degree. His advice to anyone who wants to build or invent something to trust your intuition, do your research, and surround yourself with a team of people who help you execute the ideas.

"I've always enjoyed entrepreneurship, and I have been that way since I was a kid. I remember starting little businesses and having ideas for them since elementary school. In college, I realized that I really enjoyed the marketing and advertising side of business. This focus led me to start a design and web marketing firm in 2010. It allowed me to develop my skill set and start a business that would later evolve into Sparq Designs," Brucker said.





MILLION-DOLLAR MAN

If you've ever uttered the phrase, "Someone should write a book about that," **Dr. David McFadden '84** just might be your superhero.

His first book, "Million Dollar Prosthodontist," is a guide to building a successful private dental practice.

McFadden is a prosthodontist in Dallas. Prosthodontics is a dental specialty for replacement of teeth with man-made parts such as crowns, bridges, partials and full dentures. As he sought to build his practice – which is now twice the size as most prosthodontist practices – he found a lack of resources that addressed the business side of a dental or medical practice.



With only about 2,500 prosthodontists in the United States, McFadden knew the book would have limited demand, but he wanted to help his colleagues by championing the private practice sector of prosthodontists.

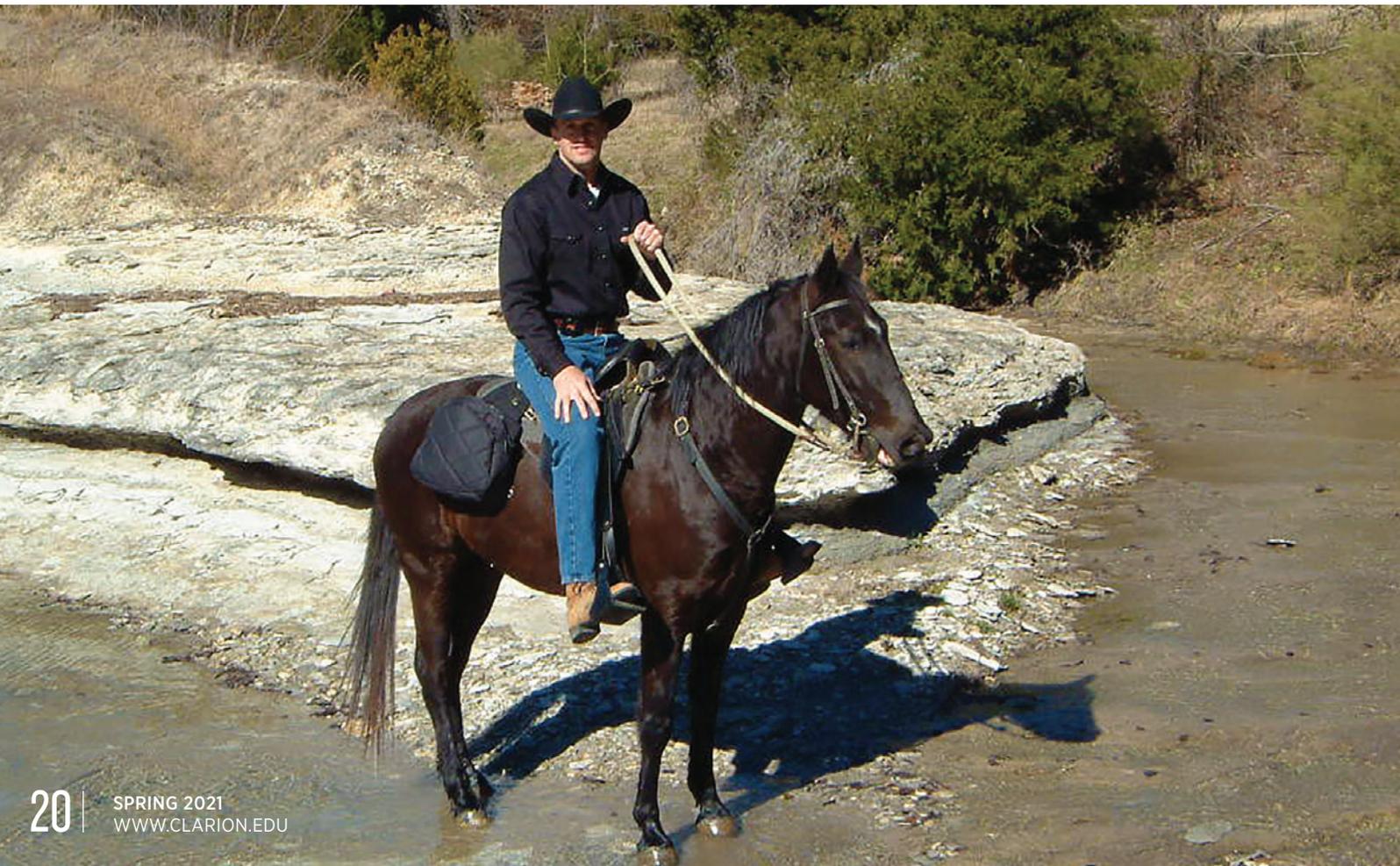
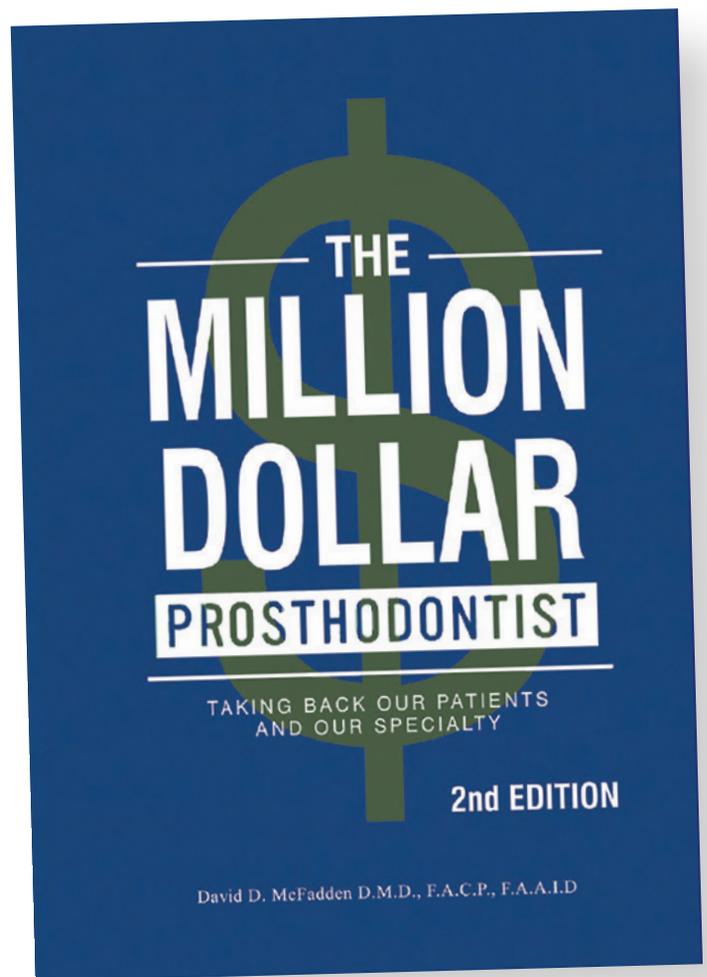
“We’re a tiny drop in the ocean,” he said of private practitioners. He added that many general dentists are trying to do reconstructive procedures, and they’re not referring patients to specialists.

“Anyone in medicine or dentistry practice management can benefit from the book,” McFadden said. “It talks about advertising, finances, accounting, location – everything I found about establishing myself in Dallas.”

McFadden said those who have purchased it have raved about it.

“It’s rich with pearls, even if you have a strong, healthy practice,” he said. “People love the whole book, but they find individual chapters particularly valuable.

That’s what he does: When he encounters an area that lacks a good, comprehensive resource for consumers, he





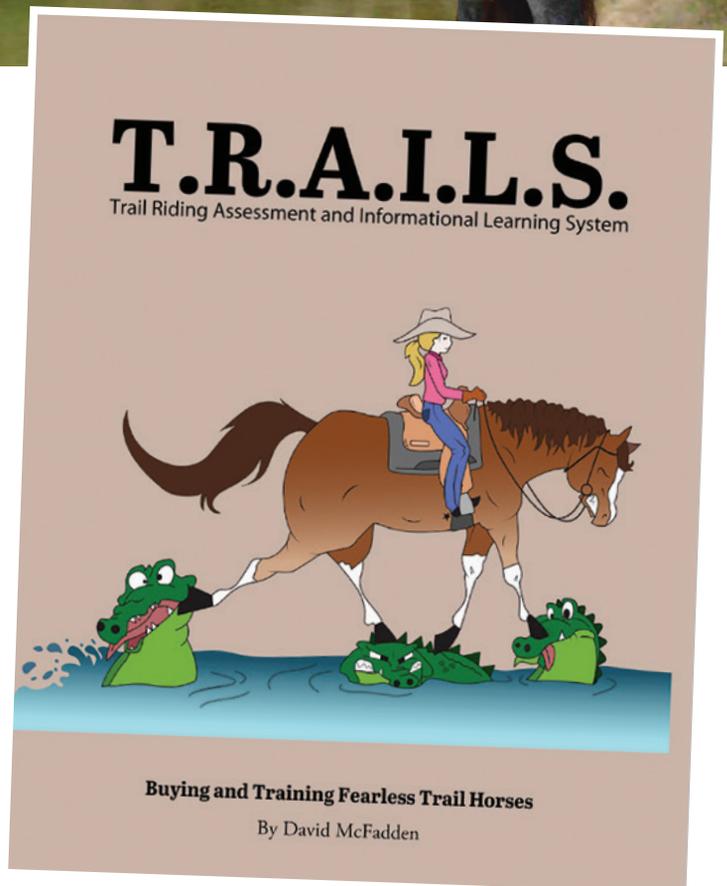
researches to teach himself, then he shares the knowledge through his books.

In 1999, McFadden bought a horse that he describes as “too much for me.” As a new rider on the spirited animal, he can still remember feeling terrified.

Committed to learning how to train and ride the animal, he began buying DVDs and going to clinics. He searched without success for a manual that would guide him. Through his own research, he extracted the information he needed, spliced it together and became proficient at working with horses.

He spent a lot of time and money finding and organizing the information he needed. Certain that amateur riders like him would welcome such a book, he started writing.

As often happens, the project was put on the back burner. There, it simmered until 2019 when he decided to buckle down and spend every weekend writing until he finished.



“Trail Riding Assessment and Informational Learning System’ is a do-it-yourself horse training book geared for the amateur rider,” McFadden said of the 400-page volume with 230 illustrations. “It’s probably the most comprehensive horse training book ever written, from pre-purchase to extreme trail riding.

A third book he has in mind is about parenting.

“There’s been a paradigm shift,” he said. “Parents are killing themselves to make their kids happy instead of the other way around.”

As a prosthodontist, McFadden typically works 14-hour days. He said the work is exhausting, both mentally and physically, but it’s immensely rewarding.

“My practice is full-scope prosthodontics,” he said. “I offer everything from fillings to full mouth reconstructions. I sit with the patient and discuss needs, wants and finances. The average patient comes from neglect or bad dentistry.”

He has found that he’s particularly adept at helping patients who are fearful of going to the dentist; some haven’t been to a dentist in decades.

“I’ve had dozens of people go from crying in the chair to laughing and booking appointments in the next 15 minutes,” McFadden said. “Those patients are your most rabid fans. I get cards and gifts years into the future. I love to do treatment on all patients, but that first patient consult – that’s the most rewarding part of my job.”

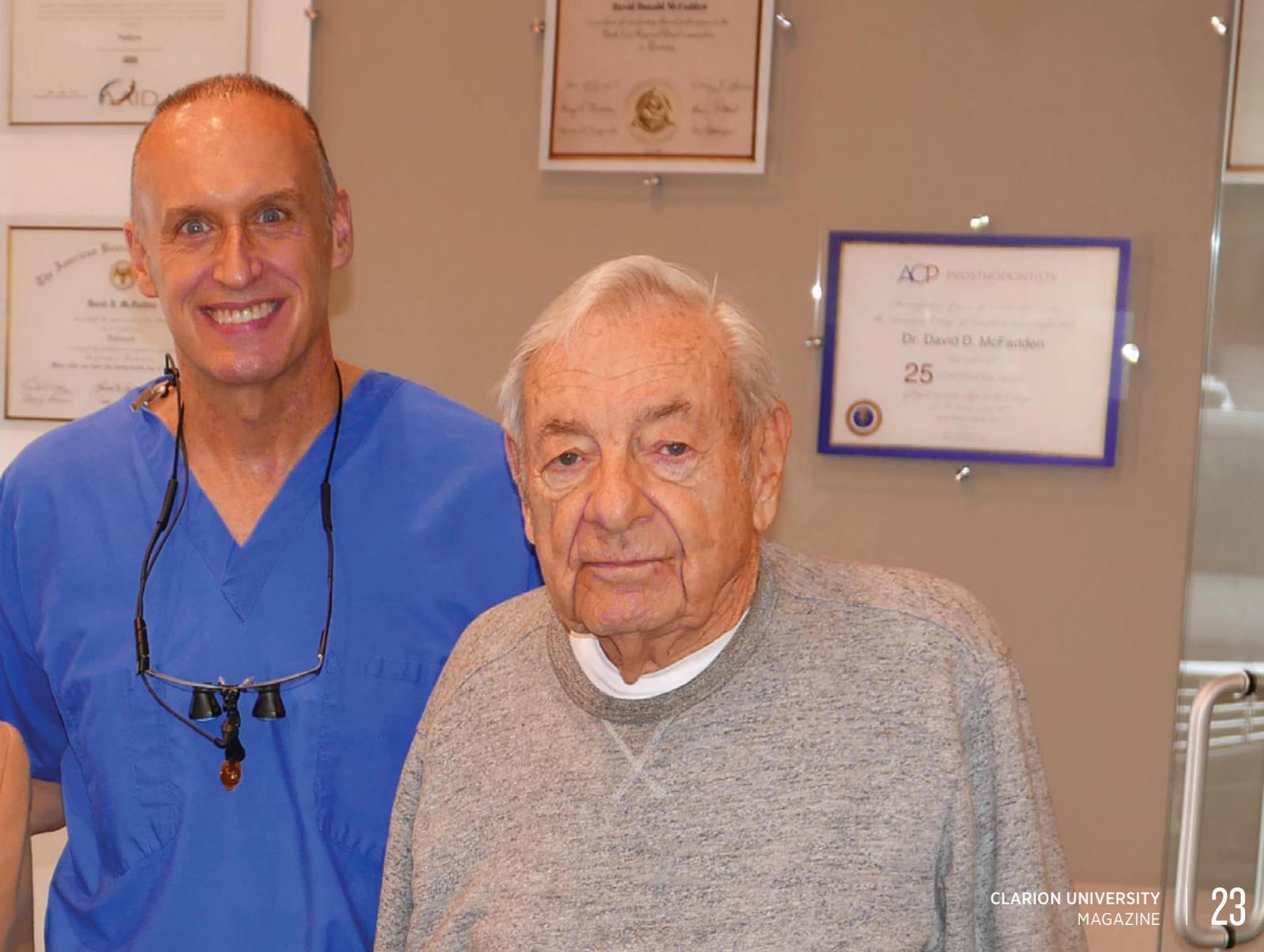
McFadden said he and his team change people’s lives on a daily basis.

“Imagine people who haven’t smiled in decades because they’re ashamed of their teeth, or they haven’t eaten a good meal in decades,” he said. “It’s a snowball effect. It affects the patient’s personality.”

It profoundly affects McFadden, too.

“Not only does it change the patient’s life, it changes my life, too. It’s truly an honor and a privilege to be able to help another person in such a profound manner.”









**STUDENT TASK FORCE
WORKING WITH PEERS
TO REDUCE SPREAD OF COVID**

Clarion University developed a COVID-19 Student Task Force to help fight the spread of the virus as 650 students returned to campus Jan. 25.

The task force comprises 24 student leaders who will work to encourage and educate their peers to follow CDC and state guidelines in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

The Student Task Force has been charged with analyzing multiple areas of student life and working to implement projects, as needed, to decrease the spread of infection, promoting student wellbeing, decreasing irresponsible behavior, and increasing students' general knowledge about the pandemic and how it is currently affecting their day-to-day lives.

Student leaders will manage six work groups focused on public relations and public education, personal protection, governing regulations, programming and events, resident life, and off-campus and remote living.

“While the university has done an excellent job thus far in sharing COVID-19 information with students, we felt that one of the best forms of communicating information to students is through peer interaction,” said student trustee Kaitlyn Krupa, chair of the Student Task Force.



Kaitlyn Krupa

Krupa is a student trustee and has served on the university's COVID-19 Taskforce since July.

“Students deserve to know what is happening on their campus to keep them safe, as well as feeling accountable in keeping each other safe. There is so much power in a sense of community. If we can work together during this troubling time, there will be so much to gain,” Krupa added.

IN ADDITION TO KRUPA, STUDENTS SERVING ON THE TASK FORCE INCLUDE:

Eugenia Barboza, Clarion

Taylor Boyle, Pulaski

Savannah Buttery, Brockway

Mackenzie Carver, Spencer, Indiana

Zack Condron, Rochester Mills

Shelly Jones, Monroeville

Sara Custer, Pittsburgh

Danielle Haley, Butler

Colleen Healey, Bethlehem

Jenna Joseph, Pittsburgh

Emily Keltz, Bradford

Bridget Kent, Pittsburgh

Lindsey Morris, Monroeville

Allie Myers, Morrisdale

Kaylee Olszewski, Pittsburgh

Zoe Ott, Amissville, Virginia

Autumn Pettinato, Butler

Katie Robinson, McDonald

Sam Shannon, Vandergrift

Sydney Spang, Ford City

Antronice Wilson, Pittsburgh

Kaitlin Windt, Youngstown, Ohio

Ryan Zavinski, Warren

“We are so thrilled to have our students taking the lead on such an important issue,” said Dr. Susanne Fenske, vice president for Student Affairs. “We knew having their ideas, voices and guidance at the forefront of the university’s approach to mitigating the impact of COVID-19 would resonate strongly with their fellow students. Our student leaders have really stepped up and exemplified the characteristics we need from them right now – thoughtfulness, dedication and innovation. We are very excited to see the outcome of their work.”

The idea, Krupa explained, is to give students best and better practices.

“I have faith that students will be diligent in following the guidelines put forth by the university and by the state,” Krupa said. “We understand that some students are appre-

hensive in following all the guidelines in place, so we wish to educate them on better practices.”

Students who have questions or concerns regarding COVID-19 can check the university’s COVID-19 web page at <https://www.clarion.edu/covid-19/> or email Krupa at k.e.krupa@eagle.clarion.edu, and the task force will work to address any student issues. Students also should follow university social media accounts for updates to remain engaged and up-to-date with the latest issues.

“I believe that students are excited to return. Any step toward a return to normalcy is positive. There is fear, which is natural, but our university has been working non-stop to address any areas of stress,” Krupa said.



FACILITIES PLAYS BIG PART IN SPRING SUCCESS



Clarion University enjoyed a successful partial reopening this spring, permitting up to 1,000 students to live in on-campus housing and offering 25 percent of classes face to face. The semester went smoothly, in large part due to initial and follow-up testing and the campus community behaving responsibly by wearing masks and maintaining physical distance from others.

Behind the scenes, however, another of the reasons for a low incidence of on-campus COVID cases – the facilities management department – was hard at work.

Last fall, facilities management teamed with Johnson Controls to install ionization units, according to Chad Thomas, director of facilities management. Two different styles are being used on campus: built-in and portable. Built-in units have been installed in the ductwork of buildings with HVAC, and portable units are being used in buildings without HVAC.

According to American School and University's website, ionization units work in three ways:

- Ions are attracted to and steal hydrogen atoms from the pathogens, leaving them to die. In the virus that causes COVID-19, the ions bind to the cellular receptors that enable the virus to attach to and infect human cells, rendering the virus particle inactive and non-infectious, effectively “killing” the virus.
- The ions cause particles that are suspended in the air to become positively or negatively charged. They are attracted to each other, increasing their mass and size. As particles stick together, they create a larger surface and mass that can then fall to the floor or travel within the airstream back to the filters in the HVAC system. The HVAC system can remove more effectively the agglomerated particles from the airstream.



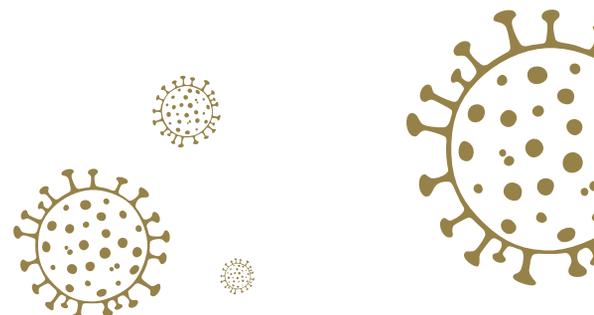
- The ions break down odors and volatile organic compounds into constituent components that are naturally occurring within the atmosphere. Studies of occupants residing in ionized spaces have shown a 70 percent reduction in headaches and a 60.3 percent reduction in flu-like symptoms.

Facilities management has also purchased electrostatic sprayers that the custodial staff can use to disinfect classrooms and other spaces. In addition to using the sprayers, staff has continued to wipe down surfaces and clean high-touch areas.

Schedules were reviewed to make sure sufficient time was allowed for cleaning between uses of a space. Thomas said custodial supervisor Jessie Hummell took on that task.

“Jessie did an amazing job of looking at the class schedules and spacing out the custodial staff so everything is covered,” he said. “The shortest amount of time we have (to clean a space) is 15 minutes; for most we have at least 30 minutes.”

Thomas said the custodians and maintenance crews have really stepped up to meet the challenges of the pandemic. Their normal schedules and routines have changed, but they’ve shown flexibility during a challenging time.







Clarion University's
Associate of Science and
Bachelor of Science in nursing
students have been part of the
fight to stop the spread of the
COVID-19 by volunteering to
vaccinate thousands of people
in western and southwestern
Pennsylvania.



Nursing students have been using the skills they've acquired in their CU classes by administering the vaccine at the Butler Health System-Clarion, UPMC-Northwest, Penn Highlands-Dubois, UPMC Somerset and UPMC Somerset Hospital, Somerset High School, Meyersdale High School and at two vaccination clinics at the Somerset site with Mainline Pharmacy.

"The students have been so excited to take part in this extraordinary worldwide effort to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19. We teach health promotion and disease prevention in our programs, but this has been an opportunity of a lifetime for our students to actually participate in these mass vaccination clinics," said Dr. Deb Kelly, nursing department chair.

Students were more than willing put on their scrubs and help.

"I have administered vaccines at Clarion University Somerset Campus, UPMC Somerset Hospital, and Somerset Area High School" said Clarion University-Somerset ASN student Leah Wahl. "I feel very honored to be a part of the vaccination movement. I feel confident in the skills I have learned at Clarion. With that being said, I get to apply my skills while representing my school and serve my community by vaccinating."

Clarion Hospital chief nursing officer **Leslie Walters '93** first approached Clarion University with the idea of using nursing students to help administer vaccines with the Butler Health System, of which Clarion Hospital is a part. Walters also is an alumna of Clarion University's nursing program.

BY THE NUMBERS

The Pennsylvania Department of Health's COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard reports that in Clarion County nearly 11,000 people have been vaccinated and more than 2,000 have been partially vaccinated. In Venango County, nearly 14,000 people have been fully vaccinated and more than 3,000 have been partially vaccinated.

In Forest County, nearly 4,000 people have been fully vaccinated and nearly 350 have received partial vaccinations.

In Somerset County, more than 21,000 people have been fully vaccinated, while more than 5,000 people have been partially vaccinated.

Also, in Clearfield County, more than 24,000 people are fully vaccinated, while nearly 5,000 people are partially vaccinated.

In Pennsylvania, there are more than 3.8 million people



have been fully vaccinated out of 12.8 million people living in Pennsylvania.

ALL HANDS ON DECK

In addition to nursing students, other qualified students -- including those enrolled in Clarion's pre-professional health programs -- have joined the fight.

According to Dr. Craig Scott, who manages Clarion's pre-professional health programs, a sign-up sheet was placed in Ralston Hall where pre-professional health students could volunteer. Students helped with registration to assist at vaccination clinics. Students volunteered their time and helped with registration, scheduled follow-up appointments, monitored vaccinated individuals for up to 30 minutes after vaccinations in case of reactions, and cleaned areas for safety.

Scott said he's not surprised Clarion University students stepped up.

"I am very proud and not at all surprised that Clarion students volunteered their time to support and protect the local community. Our nursing and pre-professional students (i.e. pre-med) are dedicating their lives to care for and treat the public. So this opportunity to help support the distribution the vaccine to fight COVID 19 is demonstrating

that commitment," Scott said.

Clarion University offers Associate of Science in Nursing at Venango and Somerset campuses as well as a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, an RN to BSN program, a Doctor of Nursing Practice and a Master of Science in Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner degrees.

The ASN at the Venango Campus, BSN and the MSN programs are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. The Doctor of Nursing Practice program at Clarion and Edinboro Universities is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

In Clarion's pre-professional health programs, students choose paths such as chiropractic, dentistry, medicine, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician assistant, podiatry and veterinary medicine.

**After 31 years,
48 national champions,
294 All-Americans and
hundreds of thousands
of hours on the pool
deck, Dave Hrovat is
hanging up his flip flops.**

**The longest-tenured
coach in Clarion athletics
history will retire in June.**



When Hrovat arrived at Clarion in 1990, he was stepping into the shoes of one of the most respected diving coaches, not just in the NCAA, but in the entire United States. Don Leas was the Golden Eagles' first diving coach and was a giant in the sport, serving as one of the original architects of Clarion's dominance at the collegiate level. To call the legacy of the program "immense" is, perhaps, still an understatement. But in his time as the Golden Eagles' diving coach, Hrovat did not just rise to the standard left by his forebears. He made his own indelible mark.

"It was certainly part of the challenge of coming to Clarion," Hrovat said of the program's legacy. "I knew what Clarion diving was, and I knew it was going to take a lot to live up to that standard."

The numbers are, in a word, staggering. In 31 years as Clarion's diving coach, Hrovat's charges claimed 48 national championships. His athletes earned an incredible 294 All-American finishes. He was named the College Swimming Coaches Association of America Division II Women's Diving Coach of the Year 15 times, and the Men's Diving Coach of the Year another 11 times. In 30 appearances at the NCAA

Division II Championships, Hrovat's divers failed to capture at least one national championship only four times. Hrovat's women divers captured 27 national championships from 1990-2020; by comparison, the rest of the field combined for just 33 national titles. Likewise, the men won 21 out of a possible 60 national titles.

To date, four athletes that Hrovat coached have been inducted into the Clarion Sports Hall of Fame: Ken Bedford (2012), Dr. Jamie Wolf Jackel (2014), Kayla Kelosky Renninger (2017) and Logan Pearsall (2019). A fifth, Stephanie Sutton, was elected to the most recent Hall of Fame class. That quintet alone combined for 23 national championships. Kristin Day Shute, herself a three-time national champion, became the first recipient from a Pennsylvania-based institution of the NCAA Woman of the Year award, and just the fourth recipient from a Division II institution. Most recently, Collin Vest was a four-time national champion and a two-time NCAA Men's Diver of the Year, and Christina Sather was a two-time national champion and two-time NCAA Women's Diver of the Year.



“While his accomplishments as a collegiate coach on a national level are unrivaled, they were achieved through his genuine care and support of his student-athletes and their success in the pool, classroom and community,” said Dr. Wendy Snodgrass, director of intercollegiate athletics.

“I’m proud of everything they accomplished, but what I’m really proud of is all the kids that came through this program that worked hard academically and earned their college degrees,” Hrovat said. “The most rewarding part of my job, the thing that makes me smile when I reminisce, is seeing these kids grow up, get jobs and become parts of their communities.”

Hrovat’s care for his student-athletes is reflected in the way they have spoken about his impact on their lives.

“Coach Hrovat was such an integral part of my success in college, in graduate school, and even in my life today,”

Jackel said. “He was so much more than a coach. He taught values like hard work and teamwork. We built a family in that pool. He taught us how important success was, not just in athletics, but in academics and in our communities.”

“I congratulate Dave Hrovat on the completion of an incredible career as Clarion’s diving coach,” said Clarion president Dr. Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson. “Dave helped our university earn the reputation as the home of the best collegiate divers in the nation. More importantly, he mentored student-athletes through their college years, urging them to be champions not just on the boards, but in the classroom and in their communities. As a leader and a teacher, he embodies everything we want in our coaches at Clarion.”

“There is not a more decorated or successful coach to ever come through Clarion than Dave Hrovat,” said Clarion head swimming & diving coach Bree Kelley.

NATIONAL CHAMPION CALHOUN RETURNS TO COACH CLARION DIVING



Heath Calhoun '14, a three-time Presidents Athletic Conference Diving Coach of the year and a six-time All-American diver at Clarion, will join the Golden Eagle staff as diving coach. He will be just the third diving coach in school history, joining Dave Hrovat and the late Don Leas.

“The tradition that Coach Hrovat and Coach Leas established is something I will strive every day to continue with the current and future student-athletes,” Calhoun said.

Calhoun has spent the previous seven seasons as diving coach at Westminster, where he helped make the Titans a premier program. He won seven PAC Diving Coach of the Year awards (four men’s, three women’s) in large part by developing some of the top performers in the nation. In 2021, Calhoun’s divers took home three of a possible four PAC titles at the conference championships.

Calhoun was a six-time All-American as a diver at Clarion. He won the NCAA Division II national championship in the 3m Dive at the 2014 NCAA Championships. A team co-captain his senior year, Calhoun was named the College Swimming Coaches Association of America Division II Men’s Diver of the Year.

ABBREVIATED SEASONS MARK RETURN TO PLAY



WRESTLING

The Golden Eagles competed in an abbreviated dual match season before heading to the 2021 Mid-American Conference Championships, where they improved five spots on last year's finish by placing seventh overall. It was a matter of quantity as well as quality as the Golden Eagles placed six wrestlers in the top eight in their respective weight classes, including a third-place finish for Greg Bulsak and a fourth-place honor for Max Wohlabaugh. Bulsak punched his ticket for his fourth NCAA Division I Championships appearance, with the senior winning a match at the tournament in St. Louis March 18.



CROSS COUNTRY

The Golden Eagle cross country squad competed in just two dual meets before their conference championship meet March 20, with Clarion placing 11th overall in the field at the PSAC Championships hosted by Lock Haven. Leading the pack was sophomore Courtney Kosanovic, a two-sport athlete who also competes on the women's swimming team; she took 20th in the field with a time of 19:32.9. The rest of the lineup was dominated by underclassmen, including another two-sport athlete in sophomore Abigail Sullivan (soccer) and freshmen Chelsey Kabel, Mackenzie Carver and Autumn Pettinato.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Playing with a short bench primarily due to injuries, the Golden Eagles showed fight and heart in their shortened season of action. Leading the way was freshman Gerald Jarmon, a first-year player who posted one of the best scoring seasons for a Clarion player in recent memory. Jarmon averaged a team-high 22.4 points per game, the best per-game average for a Golden Eagle in nearly 30 years.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Also playing with a smaller roster than normal, the Golden Eagle women's basketball squad made the most of the situation as a number of freshmen and reserves gained valuable in-game experience during the 2020-21 season. Newcomers such as Abby Gatesman and Devon Adams cut their teeth against top competition for the first time in their college careers, while seniors such as Keke Massiah and Neely Whitehead adjusted to new roles necessary to their team's success.



MEN'S & WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING

The Golden Eagles kicked off a shortened dual season Jan. 30 against IUP, adjusting to a schedule that saw the PSAC Championships take place in April, two months later than normal. The teams were rounding into form fairly quickly given the circumstances, as evidenced by the strong showings at a PSAC invitational hosted by IUP in February. The conference also hosted a series of virtual meets, with teams swimming in their home pools and submitting their times to the PSAC for placement at the conference meet in April.



STUDENT-ATHLETES BACK IN ACTION THIS SPRING

It didn't happen when originally expected. Even for the optimistic sorts, there was probably a time when they thought it might not happen at all in 2020-21. But after delays, additional precautions and some schedule juggling, athletic events returned to Tippin Gymnasium Jan. 9, the first competition in more than 300 days.

The Golden Eagle wrestling program was the first to start their 2020-21 season, hosting Navy in a Saturday matinee, and things certainly looked different from normal. The match drew thousands of viewers online, but inside the gym there were only friends and families of the participants, event staff, and just shy of 100 cardboard cutout fans in the stands. Plexiglass dividers were ubiquitous, masks mandatory, and disinfectant foggers hummed as precautions taken to create a safe environment.

For head wrestling coach Keith Ferraro, getting to match day was a challenge in and of itself. The dual against Navy was not actually the first event planned, as the team was forced to adjust its schedule almost immediately. And navigating a world with extensive COVID-19 testing, distancing protocols and other changes immediately proved to be different from the normal task at hand.

"The rate of change is mind-boggling," Ferraro said.

It was the start of what has been a successful return to action for Golden Eagle athletics. Men's and women's basketball, as well as the men's and women's swimming and diving teams, kicked off competition in January, and a couple of displaced fall sports – volleyball and cross country – began competition in February. In several instances, events were postponed, canceled or substituted a new opponent, but at least the games were back on.

"It's been worth the effort for all of us," Ferraro said. "Student-athletes only have a limited window when they get to do this. When you spend this much time with them, you don't want to see them cheated. You continue to do it because we know the value of it is worthwhile."

For swimming and diving, cross country, and men's and women's golf programs, it was an opportunity to compete for PSAC titles, albeit at a time of year different from normal.

"We're so happy to have this opportunity to be one of the few sports to have a conference championship to look forward to," head swimming and diving coach Bree Kelley

said. "Not long ago it seemed almost impossible that we would ever get things to where they are, but I'm so excited to get this season off the ground."

"We were beyond excited to have the opportunity to compete for a PSAC championship this spring," said head cross country coach Eric Laughlin. "For most of these girls it had been more than a year since they last competed."

For sports such as the Golden Eagle volleyball program, the return to play was a chance to look across the net at an unfamiliar opponent for the first time in nearly 500 days. It did not take long for the competitive fires to reignite, as Clarion started the spring with familiar PSAC opponents Gannon and Slippery Rock.

"Excitement would be the best way to describe the emotion going into the beginning of our spring season," said head volleyball coach Jennifer Herron. "This team hasn't competed against another opponent in well over a year, and our freshman class hasn't had the opportunity to participate in a collegiate match, yet. We're extremely fortunate that we have a department and administration that has worked toward finding solutions and created opportunities for our student-athletes."

The biggest announcement came Feb. 26 when the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference officially announced return to play guidelines for the spring season, paving the way for full conference competition for spring sports.

"Everyone at our member institutions has done an exceptional job getting us to this point, and we are all excited to make it happen," PSAC commissioner Steve Murray said in an official statement. "We will remain vigilant to the circumstances of COVID-19 across our league and make changes as necessary, but for now we are very positive about returning to competition."

The spring season began in earnest during the first week of March, when the baseball and softball programs kicked off their regularly-scheduled conference seasons, with track and field, tennis and men's and women's golf not far behind. With each swing of the racket and ping of the aluminum bat making contact with a ball, things started to settle into a familiar pace. Victories soon followed, with baseball defeating Millersville – the 10th-ranked team in the nation – in non-conference action, and softball claiming big home sweeps of Lake Erie and Pitt-Johnstown in the early going.



A look back...



ALUMNI NOTES *spring* 2021

1966

John Acklin is a retired athletic director. John and his wife Jeanne will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary July 17. They have two children, Jordyn Acklin Bibiloni '01 and Jarrett Acklin.

1971

Rev. Loye Startzell is a retired pastor. Loye and his wife Joyce reside in Brookville.

1972

Kent and Cindy Facciolo '71 Hart reside in Prescott, Arizona. They have two children, Benjamin and Alison. Kent is retired.

1980

Robert Hall recently retired from the Barber National Institute in Erie. He resides in Garland.

1983

Chris Jirak O'Donnell is a humane police officer for Armstrong County. In her new role, she will enforce Pennsylvania's animal cruelty/neglect laws. Chris resides in Ford City with her husband Kevin.

Laura Watanabe is a partner with international law firm Withers in its New York office. Laura is admitted to practice in New York, California and Connecticut, which are the three states in which Withers' seven U.S. offices are located. She joins the firm from her own practice, The Watanabe Law Firm LLC, and has previously worked with Morrison & Foerster in California and as deputy bureau chief at the Kings County

District Attorney's Office in Brooklyn. Laura received her juris doctorate from the New England School of Law.

1984

Kenneth Reddinger is a project manager for North Tide, Falls Church, Virginia. He resides in Falls Church with his wife Tiffany. They have four children: Kenneth Jr., Rhianna, David and the late Alexander.

1987

Greg Salser is director of national sales for JetPro Pilots, Fort Wayne, Indiana. He resides in Fort Wayne and has two children, Derric and Elizabeth.

1996

Bridget Yusavage Adams is a care navigator for the Area Agency on Aging for Greater Erie Community Action Committee, Erie. She resides in Edinboro with her daughter Sarah.

Alex Joseph is a chief technology officer for Siren Marine, Newport, Rhode Island. He resides in Portsmouth.

1997

Shauna Kush Tucker is a billing specialist for Empire Distributors, Charlotte, North Carolina.

1999

Michelle Adams and Michael Lis reside in Gainesville, Virginia, with their daughter Made-

lyn. Michelle received the 2020 Outstanding Nonschool-based Leader for Fairfax County Public Schools, Falls Church, Virginia. She is a coordinator of instructional coaching for Fairfax County Schools.

2002

Mark Despotakis is director of public and government affairs for Pennsylvania Music Educators Association, Hamburg. He resides in White Oak.

2005

Diane Rylander Baranski is a manager of talent acquisition and development for Bechtel Plant Machinery Inc., Monroeville. She resides in Apollo with her husband Chris and their sons, Andrew and Derek.

2012

Lance and Vicky Lucas **As-torino** reside in Inwood, West Virginia, with their children, Adelyn and Aubrey. Lance is a principal for Jefferson County Schools, Ranson.

2015

Rory Lockhart is a business operations analyst for Dish Network Corporate, Denver. Rory resides in Colorado Springs.

WE WANT TO *know about* YOU!

Clarion University Magazine's fall issue will be delivered electronically.

Make sure you don't miss it by updating your email address at www.clarion.edu/alumni-update.

If you prefer to receive all future issues electronically, please indicate that in the comments section.

2016

Michael and **Molly Schultz '17 Callas** reside in Pittsburgh. Michael is a financial advisor for Janney Montgomery Scott, Sewickley. Molly is a corporate underwriter for PNC.

2017

Stephanie Russell is a data analyst for AllianceRX Walgreens Prime, Pittsburgh. She resides in Carnegie.

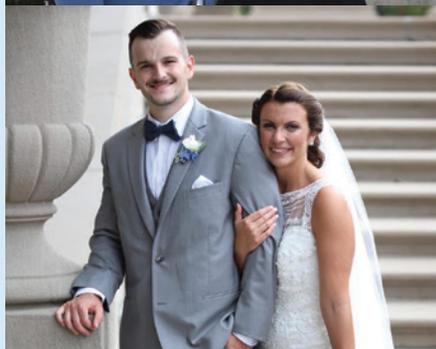
Mary Delucia is an IP specialist for Reed Smith LLP, Pittsburgh. She resides in Pittsburgh.

2018

Gwen Gatto is a children's librarian for Belmont Hills Library, Lower Merion Library System, Bala Cynwyd. She resides in Norristown and has a daughter Camellia.

2020

Kelsey Chizmar is a private practice therapist for The Counseling Initiative. She resides in Aliquippa with her daughter Leanna.



COMMUNICATION: THE KEY TO LOVE?

Traditionally, the Office of Marketing and Communication employs student writers. Their work is not only an enormous help to the university, but an excellent opportunity for the students to apply in a professional setting what they've learned in their degree programs.

Former student writers Sam Nolan, Lauren Welsh Worek and Katie Hillman Sparks have graduated and embarked on their careers, all in the Pittsburgh area. Another thing they have in common – all three were married during 2020.

Sam Nolan '14 and Lauren Weeks were married Dec. 19 in a small, self-uniting ceremony in Mellon Park, Pittsburgh. Best man was **Tyler Geiser '14**, and maid of honor was Kate Schloss. Sam is an associate attorney at Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, and Lauren is a horticulturist at Bedner's Farm and Greenhouse. They live in the Highland Park neighborhood of Pittsburgh.

Lauren Welsh '15 and **Ben Worek '17** were married Aug. 1. **Kayla Hayden Fleming '13**, **Laura Domena Sauers '14** and **Katie Hammond '18** were bridesmaids, and **Mitch Harancher '17** and **Taylor Phillips '17** were groomsmen. Lauren works in the events and trade show industry, and Ben is employed in tech services by Krystal Biotech. They live outside of Pittsburgh with their dog, Wally.

Katie Hillman '17 and **Mike Sparks '17** were married Aug. 1 by **Brendan Cook '16**. The bridal party included man of honor **Sam Richardson '17**, **Becca Podrosky '18**, **Anna Pyne '19** and **Melissa Totin '18**. Standing with the groom were best man **Cody Smith '16**, Jeff Fetterman, Nick Tyler, Chaz Sparks and Jeff Till. Katie and Mike recently relocated from Erie to Pittsburgh for Katie's work as marketing programs coordinator at Thermo Fisher Scientific. In Erie, Mike worked for local radio stations doing board operating and promotional events; he is looking for similar work in the Pittsburgh area.

IN MEMORIAM

1940s

Joyce Rosanna Simpson Lignelli '48, Jan. 9, 2021
William E. Lafranchi '49, Dec. 2, 2020
Howard Fesenmyer '49, Feb. 3, 2021

1950s

Joseph F. McElhattan '50, April 19, 2021
Joan G. Gifford Smith '52, Feb. 5, 2021
Harold V. Kirscht '56, Nov. 13, 2020
Lawrence C. Chiodo '56, March 21, 2021
R. James Smathers '57, Dec. 16, 2020
Joseph Elmer Summerville '58, Jan. 28, 2021
Faye L. Dryden Raisley '59, April 18, 2021

1960s

Victor R. Weidner '60, Feb. 21, 2021
Nancy C. James Brubaker '61, Nov. 6, 2020
Ronald E. Stewart '61, Jan. 1, 2021
John T. McCabe '61, Feb. 8, 2021
Daniel M. Topolski '61, March 19, 2021
James R. Matalik '62, Nov. 8, 2020
Neva C. Copeland Ward '62, Nov. 13, 2020
Lee Roy Grosch '62, Jan. 11, 2021
Jo-Ann Smail Ross '63, March 16, 2021
David R. Harbison '64, March 3, 2021
Marsha Marion Carruthers '65, Jan. 8, 2021
Jerrie Lee Richey Guldin '65, Jan. 19, 2021
Robert Thomas Buriak '65, Feb. 16, 2021
Lois Jean Fagley Eisenhuth '65, April 21, 2021
George E. Tobias '66, Dec. 1, 2020
Joanne A. Axelson Taylor '66, Dec. 21, 2020
Jerry L. Spangler '66, Jan. 13, 2021
John D. Day '66, March 29, 2021
Alex J. Arth '66, April 19, 2021
James M. Alcorn '68, Jan. 13, 2021
Robert J. Cisek '68, March 6, 2021
Doris V. Shever '68, March 29, 2021
Barbara J. Hodgson Husband '69, Nov. 24, 2020
Paul David Stark '69, Dec. 7, 2020
Lawrence G. Holly '69, Dec. 12, 2020

1970s

Carol S. Shugarts Niznik '71, Nov. 6, 2020
Robert M. McBurney '71, Nov. 11, 2020
James E. Husband '71, Dec. 1, 2020
Michael C. Bozick '71, Dec. 3, 2020
Carl W. Rosenswie '71, Dec. 15, 2020
Sandra K. Rhoads '71, Jan. 20, 2021
Harry W. Neuhard '71, Jan. 23, 2021
Gasper D. Ozella '71, April 17, 2021
Michael Lee O'Neill '72, Jan. 17, 2021
Ray A. Zimmerman '72, March 27, 2021
Roger A. Kelly '72, March 28, 2021
Hiram M. Boggs '73, Nov. 29, 2020
Deborah S. Paup '74, Nov. 15, 2020
Linda J. Hoover Musser '74, Dec. 19, 2020
Thomas E. Greenawalt '74, April 6, 2021
Daniel Bruce Hovis '75, March 29, 2021
Chris R. Davis '76, Jan. 23, 2021
Christina King Marshall '78, Feb. 5, 2021
Danny L. Fultz '79, Jan. 30, 2021

1980s

Karla N. Milford '80, Feb. 8, 2021
Orville Harford Lerch '81, Dec. 24, 2020
Susan Ellen Camp Brown '81, March 17, 2021
Kenneth D. Hritz '82, Jan. 15, 2021
Nancy J. Nicks '82, Jan. 27, 2021
John L. Flickinger '83, Nov. 15, 2020
Barbara J. Gardill Bright '83, Jan. 28, 2021
Mary Eleanor Neil Kirkpatrick '83, Feb. 20, 2021
Rebecca A. Billings '85, Feb. 9, 2021
Timothy M. Gerstbrein '87, Nov. 6, 2020
Melba J. Tomeo '88, Nov. 13, 2020
Janet D. Coryell '88, Feb. 16, 2021
Shirley J. McCord '88, March 8, 2021
Mary B. Hutchison '89, Nov. 9, 2020

1990s

Robert Edward Clowes '90, Feb. 23, 2021
Martha E. Livermore '92, March 5, 2021
Rosemary A. Harton '93, Dec. 12, 2020
Rita Clare Schmader '95, Dec. 4, 2020
Jane Louise McDonough Johnson '95, March 8, 2021
Bradley Rudell Harriger '97, Jan. 5, 2021
Emily Rebecca Reynolds Bostwick '98, Jan. 15, 2021

2000s

Donald L. Airgood '04, Dec. 29, 2020
Alicia Denise Bradford '05, Jan. 29, 2021
Frank Dee Rodgers '09, Jan. 31, 2021

2010s

Rhonda McKinney '10, Dec. 3, 2020
Shannen Leeann Patton '14, Feb. 3, 2021
Caitlyn Marie Kaufman '16, Dec. 3, 2020
Lori L. King '18, Jan. 30, 2021

Student

James Solano Whitman, Feb. 20, 2021

Friends

Gary Defibaugh, Dec. 4, 2020, retired staff
Francis C. Baptist, Jan. 25, 2021, retired faculty
Michel G. Ossesia, March 30, 2021, retired faculty
David R. Marchand, April 10, 2021, retired faculty



CLARION UNIVERSITY BABY EAGLES

OUR GIFT TO BABY EAGLES OF CLARION ALUMNI
IS A DASHING NEW BIB!

To receive a bib, visit www.clarion.edu/babybib and complete the online form. Once you receive your bib, take a picture of your Eaglet putting the bib to use, and email a high-resolution photo to us for inclusion in Clarion University Magazine.

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

- 1 Caleb Michael Doyle**, son of **Brian '06, '07G** and **Deanna Weaver '09 Doyle**, born Nov. 4, 2019
- 2 Eva Katherine Mish**, daughter of **Kyle** and **Laine Mendelson '04 Mish**, born Nov. 27, 2019
- 3 Maria Kay McKinney**, daughter of **Alex '05** and **Valorie Rankin '08 McKinney**, born Jan. 20, 2020
- 4 Allison Jade Buttlar**, daughter of **Jason** and **Dana Connors '13 Buttlar**, born May 3, 2020
- 5 Ruby Lynn Russick**, daughter of **Brooke** and **Jonathan '06 Russick**, born May 25, 2020
- 6 Autumn Rae Kohnitsky**, daughter of **Dylan** and **Samantha Stupak '13 Kohnitsky**, born June 4, 2020
- 7 Charlotte Jean Haberkam**, daughter of **Katie Vitori '08 Haberkam**, born July 11, 2020
- 8 Aubrey Rae Eidnier**, daughter of **Andrew** and **Kelly Krisnosky '10, '12G Eidnier**, born July 26, 2020
- 9 Luna Frances Hueramo**, daughter of **Aldo** and **Nicolena DeSantis '10 Hueramo**, born Aug. 7, 2020
- 10 Maddox Lee Buchanan**, son of **Trevor** and **Shawna Sinclair '17 Buchanan**, born Aug. 30, 2020
- 11 Quinn Annette Snell**, daughter of **Nick '09** and **Sara Pratt '10 Snell**, born Sept. 16, 2020
- 12 Thomas Ray Petry IV**, son of **Thomas** and **Courtney Sanders '07 Petry**, born Sept. 19, 2020
- 13 Raelyn Mae Miles**, daughter of **Theron '12** and **Alexandra Lippert '14, '15 Miles**, born Sept. 24, 2020
- 14 Luca Matthew Mussori**, son of **Matthew** and **Emily Swanson '06 Mussori**, born Sept. 25, 2020
- 15 Addyson Marie Bruce**, daughter of **Jared '12** and **Ashley Hollis '12 Bruce**, born Oct. 23, 2020
- 16 Russ Xavier Cornman**, son of **Brad '10** and **Melissa Hinkle '11 Cornman**, born Nov. 18, 2020
- 17 Bowen William Rice**, son of **James** and **Kati Baughman '07 Rice**, born Nov. 20, 2020
- 18 Angelo Roman Ferrell**, son of **Adam** and **Ashley Sanders '07 Ferrell**, born Dec. 10, 2020
- 19 Rae Carmella Toborowski**, daughter of **Thomas '17** and **Karlina Price '16 Toborowski**, born March 10, 2021
- 20 Arya Lynn Williams-McMaster**, daughter of **Elizabeth Murr '15**, born Jan. 24, 2020
- 21 Gabriel Thomas Lehman**, son of **Bill '05** and **Kate Lutz '05 Lehman**, born Sept. 10, 2020



FOCUS ON RETENTION



IS NETTING RESULTS



Clarion University is seeing results from strategies put in place to support students and retain them through graduating with a degree in four years.

Eight years ago, the four-year degree completion rate was just under 30 percent, putting Clarion in 11th place among the 14 universities in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education. Now, after employing practices that address students' reasons for leaving school or taking longer to complete a bachelor's degree, 44 percent of students are graduating in four years, moving Clarion to fourth place among State System schools.

Dr. Dave Hartley, interim associate provost, outlined common reasons students leave school and Clarion's efforts to keep them there.

"The overwhelming response to our exit survey is that students are stopping out due to financial reasons," Hartley said. "If we can find ways to reduce the cost, that allows them to stay in college."

One way of reducing the cost of a degree is to help students stay on track to complete their degrees in four years. A wide range of circumstances can slow a student's progress toward graduation.

"From the academic support side, students must feel that they're being well cared for and getting good advisement so they're not jumping into courses for which they're academically not prepared," Hartley said. "The university has put a lot of effort into the First Year Experience, a part of which is helping them develop study skills so they'll succeed."

Several years ago, a group of faculty examined the student curriculum and course sequencing to look for red flags. Many of the courses on which students stumbled were foundational courses; if the student earned a C or lower in those courses, there was a good chance they wouldn't be retained. Separately, course sequencing addressed the number of difficult courses a student has in a semester.

"From the student support side, we help students to feel that they are part of the campus community. By getting involved in clubs and developing a social network, students stay connected," Hartley said. "When a student is surrounded by other motivated students, they are motivated. It's easy for students who don't make social connections to drift off and not come back."

Hartley said the university requires faculty to report student attendance. The information goes to success coaches, and they reach out to students to find out what kind of support they need.



#WINGSUP

JADA SMITH

Jada Smith has been speaking up when she sees injustice since she was a young child. She was in 8th grade, however, when she took action to right a wrong.

“This all began because of being treated differently because I was a female. When all of the athletic awards were specified for males during my 8th grade graduation, I felt that was a form of discrimination,” said Smith, a member of the Golden Eagles women’s basketball team. “I knew that I was a more accomplished, decorated athlete, and I could not be considered for any recognition because I was female. I, in turn, said no other girl would experience this.”

In addition to speaking with school administrators, Smith initiated her own scholarship.

“I originally founded it with just my birthday money,” she said. “My birthday is in March so I would take that money and give scholarships in June.”

Since then, she started a non-profit organization called Scholars with Athletic/Academic/Artistic Goals, or SWAG.



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PARKER SPRENGER, MAY 2022 | INDIANA, PA

Communications: Digital Media

with minors in Sports Media and History

*Your gift to Clarion University
creates opportunities
for students like Parker.*

What brought me to Clarion

I'm from a small college town, and I didn't want to go to the same school as everyone from my high school. My dad is a professor at the university, so I thought I would take a tour. I immediately fell in love with the campus and the staff, and thought that I could definitely call Clarion my home for the next four years.

What I love about Clarion

Besides my love for the Clarion community and the small-town vibe, I love all the professors and staff members at Clarion. They truly want me and other students at the university to succeed in our fields. Everyone at Clarion goes out of his or her way to help others, and I have never experienced such a supportive environment in my life.

Future aspirations

After graduation, I hope to work in professional sports media as a sports broadcasting director or be involved in sports video production in some way.

Scholarship opportunities

Clarion has so many different scholarship opportunities for students. I have received an academic scholarship every year I've been at Clarion, and I have received Honors College scholarships for university housing.

Why are you grateful for Clarion?

I am insanely grateful for all the professional opportunities that Clarion has given me, especially within my field of study. At Clarion, I had the chance to get involved with media production in my very first semester, such as sports reporting for CU-TV News, hosting my own sports talk show, creating videos for the university, and directing the livestreams for Clarion University Athletics. Through directing livestreams at Tippin Gymnasium, I have the ability to use professional equipment that is utilized in the media industry.

How has the university helped you maneuver through the pandemic and continue reaching your academic goals?

The university has been able to move most of its classes online, and allowed me to continue pursuing my educational goals in a safe environment. They have also provided both face-to-face Zoom classes and traditional online learning courses, so I have the choice to pick which class fits my needs best.

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