

CLARION

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

FALL 2021





"From its very beginning to the present, Clarion University–Venango has been a product of community and university working together to advance the needs of our region. The history of Venango Campus is an inspiring story of the dedicated efforts of many people who raised funds for land, buildings and scholarships, and cut through miles of bureaucratic and legal red tape to build the first regional campus in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education," said Hope Lineman, dean of career and workforce development.

**Click or follow the link
to read more!**

**[https://www.clarion.edu/news/2021/august/
venango-diamond-anniversary.html](https://www.clarion.edu/news/2021/august/venango-diamond-anniversary.html)**



FEATURES

12 **PASSHE Board approves integration plan**

Integration of Clarion, Cal U and Edinboro universities will create more opportunities for students while ensuring a healthier bottom line. Each school will retain its own identity and sports teams.

16 **Dogged determination**

Cecelia Harmon has always wanted to be a veterinarian. Prepared through Clarion's pre-professional program in veterinary medicine, she's well on her way to achieving the lifelong dream.

20 **Volunteers to the rescue**

When a local animal rescue needed help with its social media platforms, they knew where to turn. Now, three CU students are helping the rescue meet its mission of caring for animals.

24 **Pet friendly**

Clarion University launched pet-friendly student housing in 2019, bringing that age-old bond between people and animals to campus.

ON THE COVER

Pet-friendly dorms help students transition to college life.

DEPARTMENTS

4 **Clarion Digest**

Six respiratory care graduates celebrate with a traditional pinning ceremony; student nurses continue training at Somerset site; fun and learning intersect at Kids in College; two alumni authors release new titles; State System's KEEP program helps students in financial crisis.

10 **Spirits are bright despite a rainy return**

28 **Sports Roundup**

In his second trip to the Olympics, alumnus Bekzod Abdurakhmonov takes the bronze; multiple athletics teams are recognized for their excellence in academics; softball, track & field athletes earn All-Region honors

36 **Class Notes**

40 **#Wings Up**

Clarion's student resource room can help more students thanks to donations of unused items by students moving off campus last spring.

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

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Clarion Family,

As I write this, we are in the first weeks of the fall 2021 semester, and I am thrilled to say that we have returned fully to in-person operations. Our students are enjoying the traditional on-campus living and learning experiences that were limited by the pandemic. We continue to exercise caution: We require face masks in all of the campus buildings, we encourage physical distancing and hand washing, and we strongly recommend that students and employees be vaccinated against COVID-19.

As many of you know, in July, the Board of Governors for Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education unanimously approved the plan to integrate Clarion, California and Edinboro universities. You probably wonder what that will mean for your alma mater and future students who choose Clarion. Clarion will retain its historic identity. We will continue to have our own sports teams, and we will continue to be the Golden Eagles. The main differences will be expanded opportunities for our students and a healthier bottom line that will enable us to keep education affordable.

One of ways we're reducing overall costs is by sharing one president. Right now, that is yours truly. Last spring, I was appointed interim president of Edinboro, and this summer, I became interim president of Cal U. The State System will follow its usual process of choosing a permanent president to oversee all three universities. In the meantime, I am dividing my time between the three universities with the support of excellent executive teams on each campus. Please read pages 12-15 in this issue and visit clarion.edu/integration to learn more.

Although "home" is in three different towns, it is comforting to walk through the door at the end of the day and enjoy time with my husband, Dr. Bob. Home truly is where the heart is. Speaking of home, Clarion's homecoming tradition continues Oct. 8 and 9. I hope you'll join us for fun, friends and football with the Autumn Leaf Festival as the backdrop.

WINGS UP!

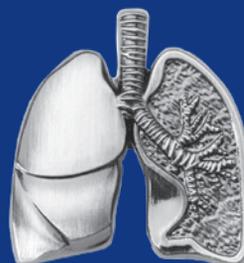
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Dale". The signature is stylized and includes a large flourish at the end.

Dr. Dale



VENANGO GRADUATES SIX IN RESPIRATORY CARE

Six graduates of the respiratory care program at Clarion University - Venango celebrate their accomplishment with a traditional pinning ceremony – a symbolic welcoming to the profession and acknowledgment that the individual is prepared to serve society as a healthcare professional. During the pinning ceremony, a person of significance to the graduate attaches the pin to the graduate’s uniform. From left are: Krista Hutchinson, Kalsey Denk, Amber Rawson, faculty Greg Sambor, faculty Chris Harancher, Ally See and Sydney Kirkwood. Program graduate Jessica Hricsina is not pictured.





STUDENT NURSES CONTINUE TRAINING AT SOMERSET SITE

Second-year Associate of Science in Nursing students began classes in August at Clarion University's Somerset County Education Center site. The curriculum offers hands-on clinical patient care experiences in the first semester. Clarion University offers core nursing classes and general education, while Penn Highlands Community College, also located Somerset County Education Center, offers additional general education and support courses. Somerset Hospital serves as the primary clinical training site and offers diverse clinical/hospital experiences that cover a variety of nursing specialties including emergency room, operating room, home health, medical-surgical and pediatrics.



FUN AND LEARNING INTERSECT AT VENANGO'S KIDS IN COLLEGE

Kids in College was held July 12-16 at the Venango campus for students going into grades K-8. Monday through Thursday, students divided into age groups to participate in a variety of themed activities and experiments. The week concluded Friday with Adventure Day at Keystone Safari, Grove City.

Jen Stevenson, instructor for grades K-2, led sessions about: The Body and Five Senses, Zoo and Aquarium Day, Weather, and Water Activities.

Students in grades 3-5 worked with instructor Stephanie Staub to learn about: Motor Monday, Terrible Tuesday! You are stuck on a deserted island, Out of this World Wednesday and Beach Town Thursday.

Sarah Seaton led grades 6-8 in sessions focused on extremes and incorporating STEM activities: Extreme Weather, Extreme Sports, Extreme Animals and Extreme Travel.



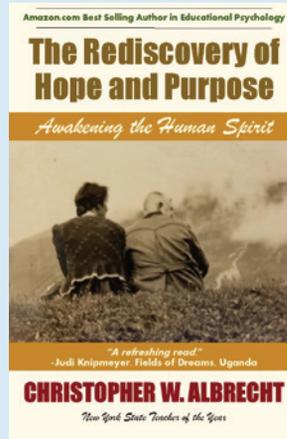
ALUMNI AUTHORS RELEASE NEW TITLES

“The Rediscovery of Hope and Purpose”

Christopher Albrecht G '95, 2018 New York State Teacher of the Year and 2019 inductee to the National Teachers Hall of Fame in Kansas, has released his second book, “The Rediscovery of Hope and Purpose.” With its publication, Albrecht created a new genre of writing, coining investigative social philosophy. His hope is that the book will provide readers with stability, joy and clarity as we emerge from uncertain times.

The book focuses on 10 interviews which ranged from the final homesteader who resides in Alaska to Harvard president Dr. Lawrence Bacow. Most noteworthy is Albrecht's interview with iconic children's author Beverly Cleary. At the time, she was 104 years old, and Albrecht's work with her would prove to be her last before her death. Her interview, in its entirety, is included in the book.

Albrecht's first book is titled “Unconventionally Successful.” Both books can be ordered through christopheralbrecht.com, nfbpublishing.com and Amazon.com.

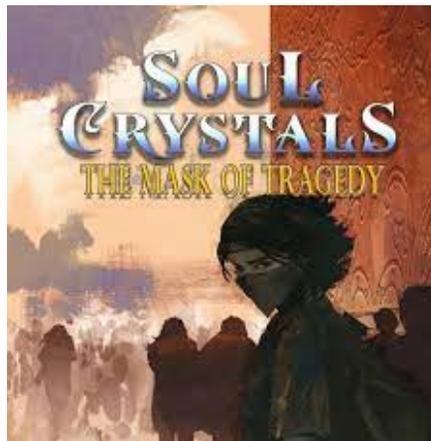


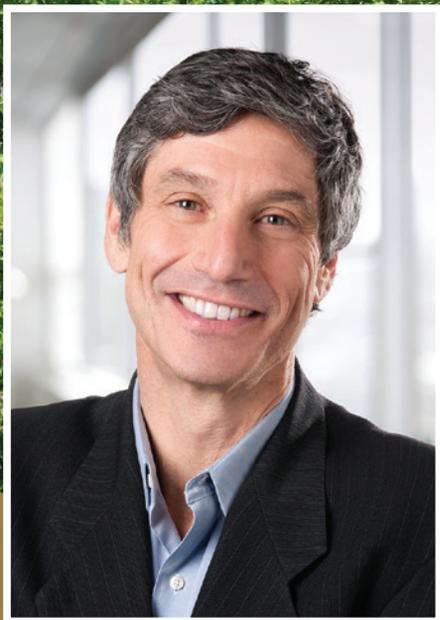
“Soul Crystals: The Mask of Tragedy”

LaTrobe Barnitz '17, '19G has released his second book, “Soul Crystals: The Mask of Tragedy,” a sequel to his debut novel, “Soul Crystals: Arc of the Amuli.”

The book continues the story of Paul Engel, a 17-year-old superhuman soldier who has already been through the wringer. In his first few months as an Amuli, he has encountered hardships, torture, and death. Now part of a prestigious strike force, he continues to battle for the safety of his friends and family. As a key operative in the superhuman organization A.R.C., he begins to uncover corruption, not only in competing organizations, but in his own. His powers are growing faster than he can learn to control them, making Paul worry that the person he should fear the most is himself. Amid the constant stress of his cross-country missions, will he be swallowed by the shady A.R.C., the evil A.I.M., or by his own, high-risk powers?

Barnitz is director of Foxburg Free Library. Both books are available through Amazon, and the first book is available at Barnes & Noble. For more information about the book, visit www.private-dragon.com.





NEW STATE SYSTEM EFFORT WILL HELP STUDENTS FACING FINANCIAL CRISES

Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education, working with the State System Foundation, has taken a major step to help prevent dropout among at-risk students by launching the Keystone Extraordinary Emergency Program.

KEEP will provide immediate grants to struggling university students facing the difficult choice of dropping out due to unexpected financial need. The student success program will be available as a pilot this fall to students at California, Clarion and Edinboro universities, with the expectation of refining and scaling the program to the rest of the State System at a later date.

Although the reasons students drop out of college are multi-dimensional, the barriers to completion often are related to financial pressures rather than academic ability.

“A key to the success of public higher education is ensuring students who start on a path toward a degree can have the support they need to finish their journey,” Chancellor Dan Greenstein said. “Too many of our students cannot

finish because they face costs, often unexpectedly and beyond their control. Successfully implementing this pilot program at California, Clarion and Edinboro will provide a template for us to scale across our system.”

Providing grants to overcome an extraordinary emergency supports the State System’s mission to educate the citizens of Pennsylvania and help transform students’ lives. KEEP will not only improve student success, it will also help struggling students cross the finish line with a relevant degree and meet Pennsylvania’s workforce demand.

KEEP will be overseen by the State System Foundation, which worked to secure startup funding for the new program from an anonymous private foundation in Pennsylvania. A majority of the funding during the next two years will go directly to students for emergency aid, with some going to support the necessary infrastructure development to manage the program and ensure the quick distribution of funds.



The State System Foundation plans to secure additional grants to continue the program and expand it across the entire system.

“Our System Redesign efforts focus on programs and initiatives that support student success, and KEEP will further those efforts so students can continue to enroll at the university of their choice,” said Cynthia Shapira, chair of the State System’s Board of Governors. “No student should have to stop pursuing their degree because of unexpected bills or other financial challenges.”

More information about how students can access KEEP will be available at a later date.

Assessment and evaluation will be instrumental in understanding the overall impact of the KEEP grant program. This will include specific metrics related to diversity, equity and inclusion,

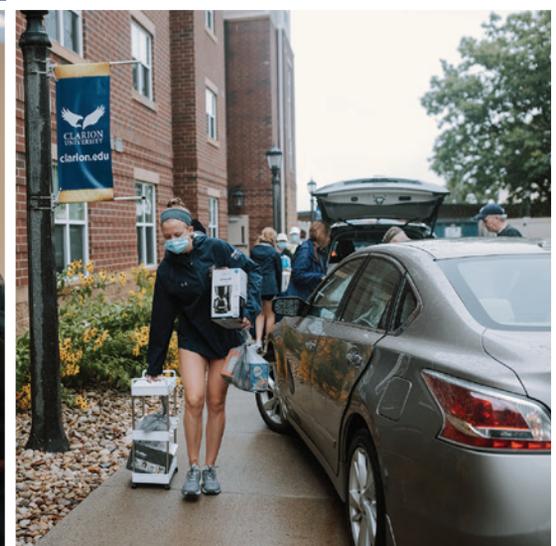
student year-to-year persistence and graduation rates.

“Challenges extend beyond tuition, room, board, fees and loans,” said System Foundation President Cynthia Pritchard. “They include costs related to unexpected life circumstances as well as food and housing insecurity. We’re grateful to the anonymous funder of this program for their trust and support as we try to reach every student who is struggling to stay enrolled due to financial reasons.”

The State System Foundation is an affiliated entity of Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education with a mission to amplify the impacts of the State System and ensure the success of its students.



Despite a day-long soaking rain, spirits were sunny as freshmen moved into residence halls Aug. 18 on the Clarion campus. The weather was more cooperative for the Aug. 21 move-in on Venango campus.





CAL U

CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY
OF PENNSYLVANIA



CLARION UNIVERSITY



EDINBORO UNIVERSITY

STATE SYSTEM *APPROVES* PLANS TO INTEGRATE UNIVERSITIES

Clarion University is in the process of integrating with California and Edinboro universities following a July 14 vote by the Board of Governors for Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education. The unanimous 18-0 vote to approve the integration plan is the latest action in a multi-year system redesign effort to bolster student success and institutional stability.

Each university will maintain its historical name and identity as the three come together to form a single university with partner campuses. The integration will ensure robust residential educational experiences while expanding academic program opportunities, enhancing supports that improve outcomes for all students, and reaching communities that are underserved.

"These universities have been part of the cultural and economic fabric of their communities for well over a century, and they will continue to be so for years to come. Additionally, the degrees they offer to new graduates, as well as those held by alumni, will maintain the highest value," said State System Chancellor Dan Greenstein.

While the vote represents the culmination of a year's worth of work by more than 1,000 students, staff, faculty, trustees and others, the efforts to complete the integration will take years. Among the most important tasks are developing the curriculum that supports the new academic program array, fleshing out organizational charts, and finalizing work with the NCAA to ensure athletics will continue at each campus.

Greenstein said the work will engage all stakeholders, be conducted transparently through routine quarterly reporting to the Board of Governors and the General Assembly, and be subjected to constant review and refinement to accomplish the best possible result for our students and their communities. The board also appointed Dr. Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson as interim president of California; she assumed those duties Aug. 1. She divides her time among California, Edinboro and Clarion. Pehrsson was appointed interim president of Edinboro

University in December 2020, and she continues as president of Clarion University. She was the presidential lead for the preliminary integration work.

The appointment of Pehrsson will help to ensure a smooth leadership transition while the first phase of integrations implementation gets underway. She will serve in these roles until a permanent president is selected for the integrated universities. That selection will follow the board's policy for presidential appointments, which requires the involvement of students, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees and others in the process.

“The vote represents the most profound reimagining of public higher education in the commonwealth since the State System began in 1983,” said Cindy Shapira, chair of the Board of Governors. “This effort has proven we can fulfill what we set out to do — ensuring student and institutional success while providing the highest quality education at the lowest possible price.”

A second integration of Bloomsburg, Lock Haven and

Mansfield universities was also approved.

Key to supporting this effort is the commonwealth's recent commitment of \$200 million over four years that will be used to invest in student success initiatives, reduce current debt loads, and support faculty and staff training and transition.

The first cohort of students will begin at an integrated university in August 2022, with the integrated curriculum being finalized by August of 2024. More information about the integration plans is available at www.clarion.edu/integration and www.pashe.edu/integrations.

Integrations are made possible by Act 50 of 2020, which received near-unanimous support in the state legislature and governor's office. It lays out a process, including ongoing, quarterly consultation with elected officials, by which the State System can restructure itself for the benefit of students, to improve financial sustainability, and to continue to serve their regions with educational opportunities and as major employers.

ACADEMIC STRUCTURE

As California, Clarion and Edinboro move toward a summer 2022 transition from three universities to one, academic leadership and faculty on the three campuses have developed a structure for the new university's colleges and academic departments.

COLLEGE OF ARTS & HUMANITIES

Art
English
History, Philosophy, and Modern Languages
Performing Arts

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS, COMMUNICATION, & INFORMATION SCIENCES

Communication & Journalism
Computer Science & Information Systems
Finance, Accounting, & Economics
Library & Information Sciences
Management & Marketing

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Educational Leadership & School Psychology
Early Childhood & Elementary Education
Middle & Secondary Education
Special Education

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Allied Health
Communication Sciences & Disorders
Exercise and Sports Science
Nursing

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Biology
Chemistry
Geosciences
Mathematics
Applied Engineering, Technology, & Physics

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMAN SERVICES

Counseling
Criminal Justice
Military Science – ROTC
Psychology
Social Work
Sociology, Political Science, & Law

ADDITIONAL DEPARTMENTS/AREAS

Library
Student Services

CLARION, EDINBORO AND CAL U ADMISSIONS TEAMS *UNIFY* DURING ROAD TRIP

The admissions teams from California, Clarion and Edinboro joined for a three-day midsummer road trip, their first action as integrated universities. The group, consisting of eight Edinboro, 11 Cal U and seven Clarion admissions counselors, spent one day on each campus.

“The primary purpose of the trip was for the admissions counselors/recruiters to come together as one university and start to bond as a cohesive team,” said Tracey Sheetz, dean of admissions at Cal U. “With many of our counselors embedded in our campuses for decades, several of them know each other from recruiting on the road but have

always seen each other as competition. The shift of mindset begins with teambuilding and everyone becoming familiar with each campus in order to recruit for all campuses and one university.”

The group spent July 20 at Edinboro, July 21 at Clarion and July 22 at California. Each day consisted of morning travel to each campus, a team building/professional development session, tour of campus, lunch, academic program highlights with faculty, a Slate (communication-fostering platform) training session, then evening dinner out. Each campus provided the others with t-shirts and materials.



“WE ARE, INDEED, SISTER INSTITUTIONS, UNITED AS ONE FAMILY, YET INDIVIDUAL IN PERSONALITY AND STYLE. WHAT MATTERS MOST IS WHAT WE HAVE IN COMMON: STRENGTH, RESILIENCE AND A COMMITMENT TO EMPOWERING OUR STUDENTS TO ENRICH THEIR COMMUNITIES BY BUILDING GREAT CAREERS AND FULFILLING LIVES.”

- DR. DALE





CECELIA HARMON

Wagner
Therapy Dog

Dogged Determination





50%
VETERINARIAN

CELIA HARMON

- EMERGENCY PRO...
- Muller & Kirk's SMALL ANIMAL DERMATOLOGY
- SMALL ANIMAL CLINICAL ONCOLOGY
- DISSECTION OF THE DOG
- VETERINARY IMMUNOLOGY
- VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY
- DIAGNOSTIC MICROBIOLOGY
- LEHNINGER PRINCIPLES OF BIOCHEMISTRY
- THE FELINE PATIENT
- SMALL ANIMAL SURGERY
- Hagan and Bruner's Microbiology and Infectious Diseases of Domestic Animals

Cecelia Harmon poses with a stack of vet school textbooks. Harmon was a dedicated student while at Clarion with the hope of getting into veterinary school. Her dreams came true as she is in her third year at Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine.

Cecelia Harmon wanted to be a veterinarian before she ever stepped foot inside a kindergarten classroom.

When it was time for college, Harmon discovered that as a biology major in the pre-professional health program for pre-veterinary medicine, she would be on track to accomplishing her goal.

Now in her third year at Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, Harmon is convinced her time at Clarion helped to prepare her for veterinary school.

“Biology and chemistry are the foundation of medicine, and my studies at Clarion gave me the framework to understand the pathogenesis of diseases and mechanisms of action of medicines that I am learning now,” Harmon said. “Overall, my goals have not changed. I am now confirmed to be in the mixed animal track. After graduation, I still plan on returning to western Pennsylvania to work in a mixed animal general practice.”

Harmon credits Clarion’s faculty, whom she describes as incredible and supportive, for giving her a solid foundation in the sciences.

“We are extremely proud of Cecelia and her achievements, both at Clarion and beyond,” said Dr. Helen Hampikian, associate professor of biology. “Cecelia was an exceptional student who was always highly focused and an excellent role model for others interested in professional school. Cecelia made sure to take advantage of all of the support programs and extracurricular activities that are available at Clarion for our pre-professional students, such as undergraduate research, leadership opportunities in student clubs, and job shadowing.”

Preparation for professional school begins in the student’s freshman year. Clarion encourages incoming students to express their career aspirations to their academic advisor during orientation, as course selection requires careful planning in order to meet the requirements of their chosen professional schools.

Other pre-professional health programs are available in medicine, chiropractic, dentistry, optometry, pharmacy, physician assistant and physical therapy. The programs provide a rigorous course of study under the mentorship of the Pre-Professional Committee for the Healing Arts.

Since professional schools require a variety of pre-requisite courses in the sciences to be considered for admission, many pre-professional students major in biology or chemistry. However, professional schools do not require a subject-specific bachelor’s degree from applicants, and students from majors such as athletic training, nursing, psychology and sociology can be successful applicants by excelling in both their major and in science courses.

At Clarion, Harmon also was involved in Translational Research Medicine Club and the Pre-Veterinary Club, which supported her endeavors.

“I know first-hand how daunting being a pre-vet student can be; the application process to veterinary school is extremely stressful. I would like to encourage current pre-vet students to not lose sight of their goals and, if they feel overwhelmed, to remember why they wanted to pursue a career in veterinary medicine in the first place,” Harmon said.

She has already enjoyed many important firsts of vet school, including her first surgery.



Volunteers to the rescue

Jackie Griebel began volunteering in 2017 as a member of the dog team at Tri-County Animal Rescue Center, a no-kill facility in Shippenville, where the mission is rescuing dogs and cats in need and providing them with quality care until they are placed in their forever homes. Since it opened in 2011, Tri-County has facilitated 1,635 adoptions.

Last March, Jackie accepted the position of volunteer coordinator at Tri-County. As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization which receives no funding, volunteers are essential in caring for the animals, staffing the facility, coordinating low-cost spay/neuter programs, educating the public and conducting fundraisers. When the rescue center has a need, volunteers, with support of the community, fill the need.

Although Tri-County has a Facebook page, Jackie knew that other social media platforms exist and are effective ways to reach people, but she wasn't familiar with how to use them to maximize their potential.

"When I realized we needed help with social media, my first thought was that there have to be marketing/public relations students at Clarion University that know how to do this stuff," she said. "We have always had student volunteers from the university, and they are a vital part of our team, so I knew that we could find help from them," Griebel said.

She located the social media/digital content program on the university website and reached out to Dr. Sonia Hur in the department of management and marketing. Hur spread the word to students.

Vicki Shannon, Avari Schwabenbauer and Shannon Brady responded eagerly to the volunteer opportunity.

Vicki, a junior biology major and Spanish minor from Lucinda, already was familiar with Tri-County. She was hired as a kennel attendant in September 2019. After a year and a half, she began a new job outside of the facility, but she stayed on as a volunteer. She had been volunteering for a year before the call came for help with social media.

Vicki had, in fact, started a TikTok account for Tri-County,



but responsibilities with school and work didn't leave much time for her to focus on the platform.

Avari, a senior from Lucinda with double majors in corporate finance and business economics and a minor in marketing, immediately was interested. Having heard Vicki talk about her experiences as a volunteer at Tri-County, and having interacted with her boyfriend's Tri-County-adoptee dogs and adopting her own Shih-Poo puppy from the facility, had introduced Avari to the rescue center and its mission.

"I had been looking for an opportunity to become involved with the shelter, so I immediately jumped at the chance," Avari said.

Shannon Brady is a senior communication major with



Volunteer Sherry Cobler, Avari, board president Wendy Turnipseed '74, Shannon and Vicki with bonded pair Cinnamon and Sugar

concentration in digital media and minors in social media and speech communications. Originally from Delmont, she came to Clarion as a pre-vet biology major; she's always had a passion for helping animals. Her academic advisor told her about Tri-County's request for social media help.

"I used to volunteer with an animal shelter called Animal Friends of Westmoreland near my hometown," Shannon said. "These pets come from all over with different backgrounds: rescues, strays, surrenders, etc. After spending time with the animals, whether it is taking them for a walk or just showing them some love, their personalities come out, and they start to shine. It is truly rewarding to be a part of the process to help the animals find happy and safe homes."

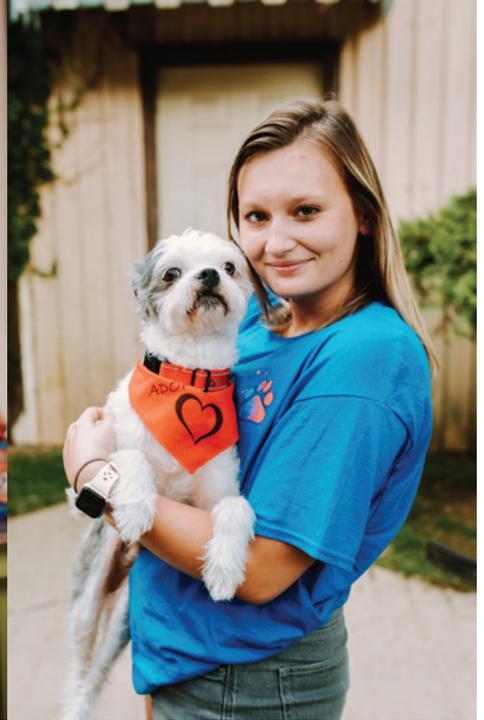
"Once Jackie contacted the university and found two

more people to help with social media, I was able to get my TikToks out to more people through Facebook, Instagram and TikTok itself," Vicki said.

"When I came on board in March, Vicki had already been doing an amazing job of managing the TikTok page," Avari said. "From there, we tried to build upon the content she was creating to tie it in with Instagram and Twitter."

IT'S WORKING.

"I know that we are making a positive impact, because we are getting much more engagement on our social media platforms," Vicki said. "Even if people who see our social media content are unable to adopt, they can share that content through their own social media accounts to spread the word about Tri-County and our adoptable animals."



The stories of the animals that come to Tri-County are many.

There was Leon, a shepherd mix that the team believed was feral. His background and temperament made him unadoptable, but he couldn't have been more loved. He remained safe and was cared for with tenderness and reverence as he lived out his life.

There were Blanca and Zeke. "They were with us for about six months. They were hard to place because they're older and needed a home together," Jackie said. "I wrote an article, 'Senior Couple Looking for a Home,' and sent it to local media. They published the letter, and Blanca and Zeke found a home."

Right now there's Giovanni. He came to the rescue in January when his owner passed away. Just a young kitten, he had abscesses and required extensive veterinary care including dental surgery and removal of many teeth. He could require more surgery in the future, which the team tells anyone considering adopting him. Finding the right home for him could take a while.

And there's Odie. Odie was brought to Tri-County after his owner passed away. Volunteer coordinator Jackie Griebel knew that Odie – a pit bull terrier mix that needed a home without kids or other pets – would be challenging to place.

She started writing "Odie's Diary," detailing his days at the shelter and highlighting his sweet personality. Vicki created videos to show Odie interacting with Tri-County volunteers, and she, Avari and Shannon made sure the entries were shared widely on the available social media platforms.



Click to follow Odie's story!

Odie's Diary Day 85 - "today marks 85 days I've been at Tri-County. I had a pretty good day! My aunt Jackie brought me a piece of something called bacon this morning. I'm not really sure how bacon tastes cause I ate it so fast, hoping she brings me some more! My aunt Nancy was here this morning too which means I got extra time to play outside."

"Whenever we have a dog that's with us for a while and is hard to place, we try to help them. In 2019 we had a beagle named Roscoe that was struggling to find a home, so I wrote a letter to Santa from Roscoe; the local newspapers printed it, and he found a home," Jackie said.

"With Odie, I realized I needed a way to get long-term exposure for him until the right family saw him. I decided to start writing little stories every day about what he did that day. His diary generated a lot of interest, which I didn't realize until the final post. He had built a large following in a short amount of time."

After 118 days at the rescue center, Odie found his



Odie gets quadruple love from Avari, Vicki, Shannon and Jackie.

“forever” home. Key in matching Odie with the right person was social media.

Friends of a couple living in the Dubois area saw the posts about Odie. Knowing the couple was looking for a pit/boxer mix, their friends told them about Odie. They met him and applied to adopt him.

ODIE'S FINAL DIARY ENTRY WAS JULY 18.



ODIE'S UPDATE



As Avari, Shannon and Vicki have worked to help Tri-County and its animals, they're putting into practice what they've learned in their Clarion University classes. The work has expanded their understanding of marketing and communication through social media.

“This spring when I began volunteering, I was in the middle of my first marketing class, from which I learned a lot about social media marketing and, more specifically, the marketing of non-profit organizations such as Tri-County,” Avari said.

Although she intends to work in the field of finance, she has developed a passion for marketing and community service, and volunteering at Tri-County allows her to do both.

“Since starting college and becoming the student director of the Honors Program, a student worker for undergraduate admissions and, more recently, an intern at a financial advising firm, I found myself with very little time, but a persistent desire to continue community service,” Avari said. “When I became aware of the need for a social media specialist at

Tri-County, I was elated. The flexible schedule provides the opportunity for me to continue volunteering.

Shannon, whose volunteer work includes creating website content and graphics for the animal advocate organization Foundation for Them for the past three years, said that experience, coupled with her communication major and social media minor, have helped her develop the skill set that she'll take with her when she graduates in May 2022.

“My classes have prepared me for everything I have been doing for these non-profit organizations,” she said. “My social media minor has enabled me to track the algorithms and trends of what the viewers would like to see.”

Vicki's demanding academic course work has helped her become adept at managing her time and staying organized. Those skills have enabled her to continue volunteering at Tri-County. In addition to working with Shannon and Avari on social media, she works directly with the animals, mainly dogs.

“I have learned a lot about caring for and handling dogs of all kinds. Sometimes we take in neglected animals at Tri-County, and it's heartbreaking, but it's amazing to see them come out of their shells and transform into completely different animals,” she said. “Through my social media work, I've learned how helpful a simple social media post can be. They really allow us to show the personalities of different dogs and cats that need homes.”

“Animals are such agreeable friends — they ask no questions; they pass no criticisms.”

—George Eliot



The symbiotic relationship between human beings and their pets dates back many thousands of years. “When humans were predominantly hunters, dogs were of great use, and thus were domesticated long before cats,” according to Smithsonian Magazine. “Cats ... became useful to people when we began to settle down, till the earth and – crucially – store surplus crops.”

While humans like to think we domesticated the animals, it may be more accurate that they domesticated themselves.

Dogs, according to Brian Hare’s book “The Genius of Dogs,” evolved from wolves over time, when the more docile of the species were more apt to approach areas where humans lived, and, in doing so, were rewarded with scraps of food.

Cats, the Smithsonian Magazine says, were attracted to the abundance of prey, i.e. mice, that congregated near storehouses filled with grain. People favored the cats with more amiable traits, and they evolved into the house cats known today.

“One small cat changes coming home to an empty house to coming home.” –Pam Brown

While the human-pet relationship may have begun for utilitarian reasons, it didn’t take long for people to begin to cherish animals for the companionship they provide and to form emotional attachments to them. As the human existence has moved more indoors, our pets have moved indoors, too, and increasingly they have become an integral part of our daily lives.

Science has shown that having pet ownership has health benefits, providing much of what our indoor lifestyles lack – increased opportunities to exercise, get outside and socialize. Regular walking or playing with pets can decrease blood pressure, cholesterol levels, and triglyceride levels. Pets can help manage loneliness and depression by giving us companionship. Most households in the United States have at least one pet.



Former President Diane Reinhard with Maggie



At Clarion University, one of the best known pets was Maggie, the beloved cocker spaniel of President Diane Reinhard. Other presidents have had pets, but Maggie was almost as much a part of the presidency as Reinhard herself. She was a fixture in the president's office, was popular with the university community and always received plenty of attention when she was out and about on campus.

In 2000, during Reinhard's tenure, Clarion University adopted the Pets in University Facilities policy, which notes that in maintaining a welcoming and friendly atmosphere, employees and students may, at times, bring pets on campus.

In fall 2019, the university went a step further in welcoming pets by establishing pet-friendly student housing in – appropriately – Reinhard Villages.

“An animal’s eyes have the power to speak a great language.”

–Martin Buber

There, upperclassmen can bring cats, dogs (weighing less than 40 pounds when fully grown), birds, fish, chinchillas or small reptiles, to name a few. “We hope this will provide the opportunity for our residents to bring their pets to school and assist with their college transitions,” said Jennifer Graham, director of residence life services, when the pet-friendly housing was announced.

It certainly has done that. Todd Spaulding, assistant director of residence life services, has seen it firsthand.

“I see students out walking their dogs and meeting new people regularly,” he said. “Our students get very excited seeing a dog outside. They often run up and ask if they can pet him or her. You can genuinely see how happy it makes them.”

It happens with his own dog, Winnie, when he brings her to campus. It allows him to get better acquainted with students.

“I ask them if they have pets at home, and they launch into a story about all of their pets. They tell me how much they mean to them and that they miss them,” Spaulding

said. “Most times of the day, you will see people out walking their dogs throughout the property. You can see that the students and the dogs are very happy to be together.”

While dogs are more visible, they’re outnumbered by cats in the pet-friendly housing.

Petting, scratching and cuddling a dog could be as soothing to the mind and heart as deep meditation and almost as good for the soul as prayer.

-Dean Koontz

“We have 50 students assigned to that village,” said Melanie Lahr, associate director of residence life. “Typically we have mainly cats and dogs. It is looking like it will be mostly cats this year.”

This fall, the pets also include a chameleon, a gecko and two ferrets.

“The types of pets we have at Reinhard Villages change from year to year,” Spaulding said. Previously, rabbits and guinea pigs have been part of the menagerie.

“I would say reptiles and amphibians are our least common requests,” Lahr said. “Ferrets and bunnies we receive occasionally, but they would be the least common mammals. Nobody has requested to bring a bird yet, though they are permitted.”

Spaulding said the pets help students deal with daily stressors and help them relax.

“The pets remind them of home, and it always helps to have a friend from home when you are away from your loved ones,” he said. “It gives them a sense of companionship and a connection to home.”

He said problems with the pets have been minimal, citing an occasional noise complaint or someone bringing a pet without going through the approval process.

Graham said the policy has worked out well. As part of the approval process, students must provide veterinary paperwork showing the animal is up to date on vaccinations and that cats and dogs have been spayed or neutered. A \$200 fee is required per academic year.





BRONZE IS THE MIRROR OF THE FORM

Five years ago, we told you a story about Bekzod Abdurakhmonov, the Clarion grad and 2012 Division I All-American wrestler who was soon to compete in the 2016 Olympics. Representing his home nation of Uzbekistan, Abdurakhmonov enjoyed a measure of success in Rio, defeating reigning gold medalist Jordan Burroughs of the United States in the repechage and earning a spot in the bronze medal match before falling to Azerbaijan's Jabrayil Hasanov.

"It stinks to come that close and miss it by so little," Abdurakhmonov said in an interview with Jonathan Selvaraj of ESPN.com in January 2018.

The story did not end there, as Abdurakhmonov began his preparation to return to the world's largest stage. He

worked on improving his weight training in the intervening years, telling reporters in April 2021 that "Before Rio, I was a regular 70 kilogram guy and 74 kilograms was big for me." With a revamped training emphasis and the sting of just missing out on a medal five years before, Abdurakhmonov clinched his second trip to the Olympics. He took down Kyrgyzstan's Elaman Dogdurbek Uulu in the final minute of their semifinal bout at the Asian Olympic Qualifying tournament to secure his spot in Tokyo, all the while keeping his eyes on the podium.

"I was so close to a medal in Rio, so I think I can medal now," Abdurakhmonov told reporters after his win. "Hopefully I train harder, smarter, because that's how I will medal in Tokyo."

The quest to making that statement reality started in earnest Aug. 5, when Abdurakhmonov squared off against Puerto Rico's Franklin Gomez in the opening round of the 74kg men's freestyle bracket. The 31-year-old Tashkent native defeated the former NCAA Division I champion from Michigan State by a 10-0 score, but was knocked out in the quarterfinal round by eventual gold medalist Zaurbek Sidakov of the Russian Olympic Committee.

Resolved to overcome the defeat, Abdurakhmonov dominated his way through the repechage, starting with a 10-0 technical fall over Guinea Bissau's Augusto Midana. He followed that up with another double-digit victory in the bronze medal round, defeating Kazakhstan's Daniyar Kaisanov 13-2 to finally lock up a spot on the podium. In doing so, he became the first former Golden Eagle athlete to win a medal since Kurt Angle won gold as a wrestler in 1996, and is one of just a handful of Clarion athletes to compete in the Olympic games.

As the well-wishes poured in via social media – some from fellow wrestlers, others from former classmates in the United States, and more still from his fellow proud Uzbek fans – the words from Abdurakhmonov were simple and straight to the point.

"It's been a long journey to get to this point!" he said in a social media post Aug. 7.

A journey well worth it in the end.



GOLDEN EAGLE STUDENT-ATHLETES

are known not just for their accomplishments in competition, but also for their dedication and diligence in the classroom. That fact was once again on display this past school year, as Clarion student-athletes and coaches celebrated another year of academic success.

The Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC)

announced that a record 164 Golden Eagles earned PSAC Scholar-Athlete honors in 2020-21. To qualify, a student-athlete must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or greater at the conclusion of the academic year.

Eleven Golden Eagle athletic programs posted a cumulative grade-point average of 3.20 or better during the Spring 2021 semester. In addition, 71 student-athletes recorded perfect 4.0 GPAs that semester.

The United States Marine Corps (USMC) and American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) named the Golden Eagle volleyball team one of the recipients of the USMC-AVCA Team Academic Award in 2020-21. Teams must maintain a 3.30 GPA over the course of the academic year to earn a spot on the list. Clarion blew away that mark with a cumulative GPA of 3.70 during the 2020-21 school year.



The conference also recognized one student-athlete and one team as ranking above all others in the league in academic success. The Golden Eagle women's tennis team boasted the highest team GPA in the PSAC with a cumulative 3.78 GPA for the year. Individually, Devon Lonergan of the Golden Eagle men's swimming & diving team was named the PSAC Champion Scholar, as he held the highest individual GPA at the conference championship meet.

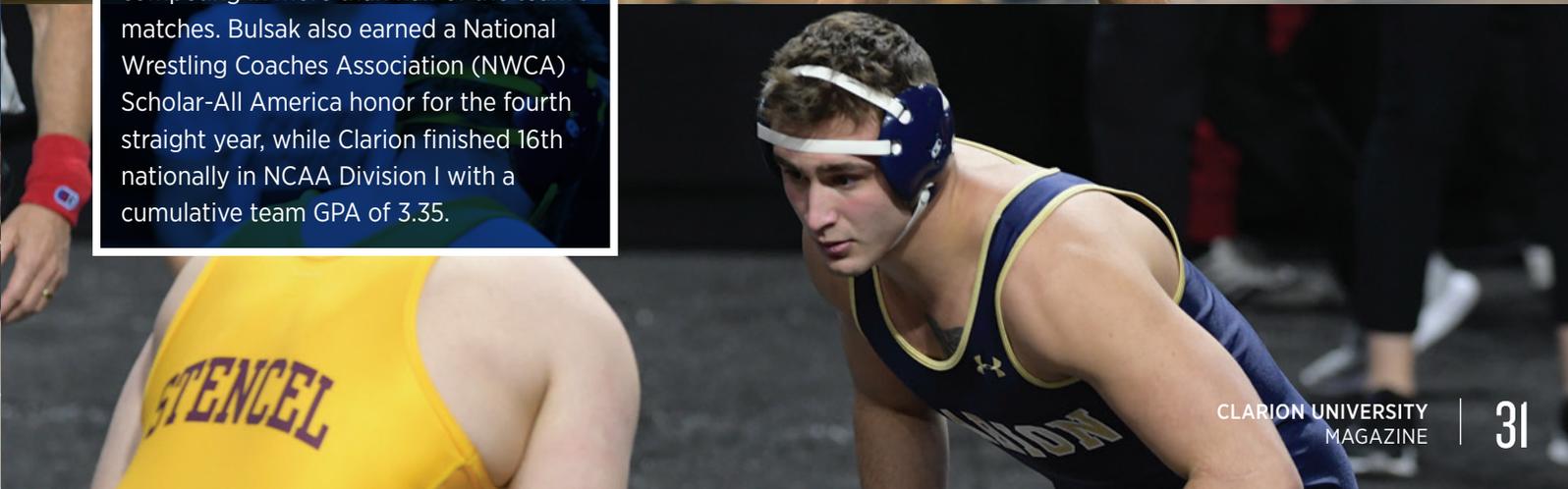




The women's swimming & diving team finished the Spring 2021 semester with a 3.60 cumulative GPA, netting them a College Swimming Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) Scholar All-America honor. Seventeen of the team's 23 rostered athletes recorded a GPA of 3.50 or better, and five Golden Eagles posted 4.0 GPAs in the spring.



The Mid-American Conference (MAC) announced that six Golden Eagles – Ty Bagoly, Greg Bulsak, Cam Butler, Trevor Elfvin, Seth Koleno and Luke Funck – earned Academic All-MAC honors by recording a 3.20 GPA or better and competing in more than half of the team's matches. Bulsak also earned a National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) Scholar-All America honor for the fourth straight year, while Clarion finished 16th nationally in NCAA Division I with a cumulative team GPA of 3.35.





The United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) named the Golden Eagle track & field team one of their All-Academic Teams in 2020-21. Clarion student-athletes finished the academic year with a cumulative GPA of 3.48, bolstered by three student-athletes that posted a 4.0 GPA for the full year: Mackenzie Carver, Sadie Leisinger and Haley Schaller.



SOFTBALL'S CLINE SNAGS ALL-REGION HONOR

The Division 2 Conference Commissioners Association announced the 2021 Softball All-Region selections earlier this summer, with Clarion's Brooke Cline earning Second Team All-Atlantic Region at the Utility position.

Cline was one of the primary drivers for a Golden Eagle offense that posted one of the best seasons in program history in 2021. The junior ranked third on the team with a .327 batting average and was one of three Clarion players to tie or surpass the previous single-season RBI record with 24 runs driven in. Batting primarily in the top three spots in the order, Cline recorded four doubles and three triples and also ranked second on the team with eight stolen bases.

She did all this while also making herself available at a number of different infield positions. Cline saw significant playing time at shortstop, third base and second base over the course of the 2021 season. She finished her year with a .936 field percentage, committing just nine errors out of 140 chances, while also helping to turn five double plays.



SCHALLER AND SULLIVAN LEAD TRACK & FIELD PACK

The United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association announced its outdoor track & field All-Region honors for 2021 in May, with two members of the Clarion track & field team – Haley Schaller and Abby Sullivan – earning All-Atlantic Region honors in the 3000m Steeplechase. The top five individuals in each event from each region earned All-Region honors, in addition to each of the members of a top-three ranked relay team.

Schaller and Sullivan ranked fourth and fifth in the region in the 3000m Steeplechase, respectively, with both scoring at the 2021 Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Outdoor Championships. Schaller ranked fourth in the region, with her best performance coming at the PSAC Championships. There she ran a 11:39.51 to take fourth in the conference field. Sullivan's best time was at the same event, and she finished just seven seconds behind Schaller to take fifth at the conference meet. Sullivan completed the run in 11:46.76.



STUDENTS DIG UP THE PAST

Dr. Susan C. Prezzano led students in an archaeological field school in June in Allegheny National Forest.

“The field school teaches students to acknowledge the lives of people from the past, especially Native Americans who lived along a stretch of the Allegheny near Tionesta on Allegheny National Forest land,” Prezzano said.

The 2021 field school recovered evidence of Native American activity including a hearth (campfire) and a collection of stone tools dating to about 1,500 years ago.

Students obtain skills in archaeological excavation techniques, and rely heavily on critical thinking, because each situation that students encounter is unique and requires problem solving. Students taking the field school recover remnants of past activities not previously encountered.





A look back...



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.

IN MEMORIAM

1950s

L. Dolores McGregor '51, June 25, 2021
Gerald E. Beary '53, May 10, 2021
Patricia Ann Manny Molsky '54, July 17, 2021
Trueman W. Mills '55, May 27, 2021
John M. Mogle '56, Aug. 28, 2021
Priscilla B. Burns Moore '59, June 28, 2021

1960s

Joseph J. Master '62, June 17, 2021
Leonard S. Walkowiak '62, Aug. 14, 2021
David R. Bonsall '63, May 7, 2021
Juanita W. Debevec Peterson '64, July 26, 2021
Ellen Jean Cicman Amsler '66, May 10, 2021
James Arthur Hazlett '66, Aug. 23, 2021
Margaret J. Schwartz '68, Aug. 14, 2021
Ronald F. Reed '69, March 10, 2021

1970s

Patricia R. Backus '70, May 7, 2021
Peggy A. Britton Burkett '70, June 29, 2021
Marcia A. Mitchell Hill '70, Aug. 21, 2021
Carole Engelbach Day '75, July 12, 2021
Michael A. Slater '75, June 2, 2021
Janice D. Hepburn Bloom '76, July 19, 2021
Donald Kevin Crouse '78, May 5, 2021
Roxanne Culp '78, Aug. 29, 2021
Dennis P. Noble '78, June 10, 2021

1980s

David C. Conaway '80, July 4, 2021
Judy P. Phenicie Ray '81, Aug. 13, 2021
Robert A. Everett '83, June 13, 2021
Lucille M. Luccarelli Christianson '84, Aug. 12, 2021
Karen Sloan Wilshire '86, May 25, 2021
Ronald M. Slanina '87, June 26, 2021
David P. Zilafro '87, June 1, 2021
Richard N. Beightol '89, May 11, 2021

1990s

Darwin Shane Koch '93, May 14, 2021
Tammy Marie Pawlak '94, June 17, 2021
Shannon Lynn Kelly Vargo '97, Aug. 19, 2021

2000s

Christine Renee Henderson '07, May 28, 2021
Sarah Elizabeth Woodford '08, May 3, 2021
Diane E. Simpson '08, Aug. 31, 2021
Kathryn E. Proud Long '09, May 4, 2021

2010s

Brian C. DiFonzo '15, April 27, 2021
Jay Thomas Strzeszewski '15, May 14, 2021
Christopher Glenn Weyandt '20, June 29, 2021

Friends

Debra J. Shoup Summerville (retired staff), May 10, 2021
Donald English (retired staff), May 26, 2021
Jacob Charles Minnick (student), June 17, 2021
Betty McKisson (retired staff), June 20, 2021
Richelle B. Haines Aaron (foundation staff), June 20, 2021

CLARION UNIVERSITY BABY EAGLES

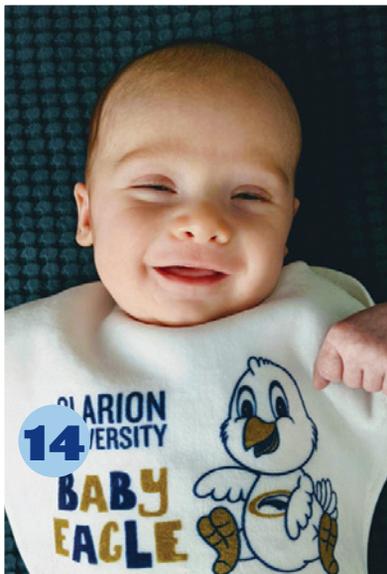
OUR GIFT TO BABY EAGLES OF CLARION ALUMNI IS A DASHING NEW BIB!

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 Robert Emerson Franquet Jr.**,
son of Bob and Kaitlyn Hill '16 Franquet,
born Feb. 6, 2020
- 2 Lillian Kristine Davis**,
daughter of Bryce and Lisa Buck '10 Davis,
born April 29, 2020
- 3 Kylan Craig Boyles**,
son of Charles and Kelsi Wilcox '07, '11G Boyles,
born May 27, 2020
- 4 Morgan Marina Hammer**,
daughter of Mark '09 and Paola Letizia '09 Hammer,
born Oct. 6, 2020
- 5 Josephine Ann Rock**,
daughter of Justin '10 and Joanna Catalano '12 Rock,
born June 22, 2020
- 6 Madeline Corinne Lesnick**,
daughter of Edward '12 and
Ashley Longstreth '13 Lesnick,
born June 4, 2020
- 7 Elijah Todd Kennedy**,
son of Taylor Eastlick '16, '18G Kennedy,
born Aug. 13, 2020
- 8 Bear William Postlewait**,
son of Bryan '04, and
Amanda Utzinger '14 Postlewait,
born Aug. 13, 2020
- 9 Charles Matthew Little**,
son of Philip and Tara Roberts '06 Little,
born Aug. 21, 2020
- 10 Job Delgado**,
son of Gretchen Carr '19,
born Sept. 7, 2020
- 11 Lucas Anthony Kuszaj**,
son of Joseph '08 and Bridget Dunigan '07 Kuszaj,
born Oct. 14, 2020
- 12 Wesley Russell Revitsky**,
son of Joshua and Evelyn Allan '04 Revitsky,
born Dec. 14, 2020
- 13 Robert William Snelick**,
son of Casey and Austin '15 Snelick,
born Feb. 2, 2021
- 14 Jack Earl Kuykendall**,
son of Zach and Devon Watson '09 Kuykendall,
born March 22, 2021
- 15 Reese Harper Dolby**,
daughter of Chad '10 and
Breanne Biernesser '10 Dolby,
born May 3, 2021
- 16 Kameron Dean Monroe**,
son of Kelsey Monroe '18, '20,
born May 3, 2021





#WINGSUP

GOLDEN EAGLES MEET NEEDS OF PEERS

When Clarion students moved out of campus housing last spring, they were invited to donate unwanted, unopened nonperishable food items, hygiene products and household/cleaning products to the university's Resource Room.

Students responded generously, donating 780 items. The Resource Room provides necessities such as food, deodorant, soap, school supplies, toilet paper and cold weather accessories to students upon request.

"We were blown away by the generosity of our students," said Meredith Karg, student support assistant.

The fully stocked Resource Room is open this fall for students living in campus housing or in the Clarion area. Students can order supplies by filling out the form at www.clarion.edu/hungry.

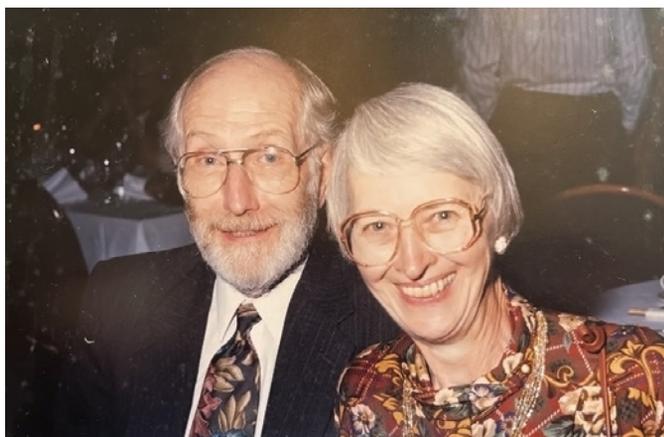
There are two ways you can help keep the Student Resource Room stocked. Check out the **Amazon Wishlist** https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3VZ1T3HYFESRZ?ref_=wl_share or make a **monetary donation** at <https://alumniandfriends.cuf-inc.org/studentresourceroom>.





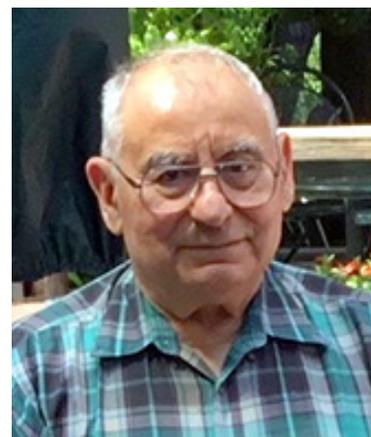
“It takes a noble person to plant a seed for a tree that will one day provide shade to those whom he may never meet.”

~D. Elton Trueblood



DR. HAROLD V. HARTLEY AND CAROLYN J. HARTLEY SCHOLARSHIP

The Hartleys were lifelong supporters of Clarion University. Dr. Hartley was recruited to Clarion in 1963 to teach speech pathology and audiology. He was founding chair and established the graduate program for the Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders. Dr. Hartley was active in faculty governance and in establishment of the faculty union. Mrs. Hartley taught in the College of Education. Both were active in the community. This scholarship is a memorial to them and to the many students they impacted.



DR. NICHOLAS J. BEZAK SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. Bezak was a professor of mathematics at Clarion from 1968 until his retirement in 2001. The oldest of six children, he grew up on a farm in eastern Ohio. He worked at a grocery store to pay for his Bachelor of Arts degree and continued to work on the family farm. He stayed true to living among the working class. Two of his brothers created this scholarship to advance the education of future scientists and to pay tribute to him and the students he taught.

Larry W. Jamison '87 | Director of Planned Giving
814-393-1926 | ljamison@clarion.edu



Clarion University Foundation, Inc.

A copy of the latest financial report, registration filed by the organization, and a description of our programs and activities may be obtained by contacting us at: Clarion University Foundation, Inc. 840 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16224. 814-393-1926. Clarion University Foundation, Inc. was formed in Pennsylvania. If you are a resident of one of the following states, you may obtain financial information directly from the state agency: Florida: A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, WITHIN THE STATE, 1-800-435-7352 (800-HELP-FLA), OR VISITING www.floridaconsumershelp.com. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. Georgia: A full and fair description of our programs and our financial statement summary is available upon request at our office and phone number indicated above. Maryland: For the cost of copies and postage, from the Office of the Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401. Mississippi: The official registration and financial information of Clarion University Foundation, Inc. may be obtained from the Mississippi Secretary of State's office by calling 1-800-735-6922. Registration by the Secretary of State does not imply endorsement. Nevada: Contributions may be tax deductible pursuant to the provisions of snc. 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. §170(c). New Jersey: INFORMATION FILED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CONCERNING THIS CHARITABLE SOLICITATION AND THE PERCENTAGE OF CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHARITY DURING THE LAST REPORTING PERIOD THAT WERE DEDICATED TO THE CHARITABLE PURPOSE OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY BY CALLING 973-504-6205 AND IS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT: <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/charities/>. REGISTRATION WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT. New York: Upon request, from the Attorney General Charities Bureau, 28 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10005. North Carolina: Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 1-800-618-5400. The license is not an endorsement by the state. Pennsylvania: The official registration and financial information of Clarion University Foundation, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. Virginia: From the State Division of Consumer Affairs, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services, PO Box 1863, Richmond, VA 23218. Washington: From the Secretary of State at 1-800-332-4483 or <http://www.wa.gov/charities/>. West Virginia: West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. Registration does not imply endorsement. Wisconsin: A financial statement of the charitable organization disclosing assets, liabilities, fund balances, revenue and expenses for the preceding fiscal year will be provided to any person upon request. REGISTRATION WITH A STATE AGENCY DOES NOT CONSTITUTE OR IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THAT STATE.



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