

Inside THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY

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NEWSLETTER
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MBA Program One of Best Values in Region

Clayton State University's MBA program has attracted a diverse group of quality students to the Clayton Cohort and Fayette Cohort in Peachtree City, GA. The students chose to attend Clayton State's MBA program for several reasons including the first-class faculty, superior accreditation credentials, cutting-edge curriculum, and convenient location. But overwhelmingly the graduate students say they

selected the MBA at Clayton State because it is an excellent value.

Eva Durham, Vice President of Inflight Services for Atlantic Southeast Airlines is re-



Eva Durham

sponsible for the direction and management of ASA's 1,000 flight attendants. Durham found that Clayton State's program is an, "Unbelievable value! And I started using my degree the second I started taking classes. The courses are fabulous. You meet every other Saturday, and I find I'm putting things to use on Monday that I learned on Saturday. You just start thinking differently once you attend the MBA program."

Doug McElhane is taking advantage of the MBA's unique emphasis on Logistics and Supply Chain Management. McElhane is the National Director of recruiting for Forward Air, a *Forbes* Top 200 Company that runs deferred air-freight and has terminals at or near every major airport in the United States. McElhane, who serves as an industry analyst for Open Road on channel 171, XM radio and writes articles for three



Doug McElhane

different trade publications in the trucking industry, is a self proclaimed "logistics and supply chain management geek, so Clayton fits right in. It's about 10 minutes from where I work, it's the best value in the South, the accreditation is a huge plus, and the professors are from the top universities in the nation. Clayton is a perfect fit." After McElhane has completed his degree, he plans to look into teaching and consulting. He feels that, "the ultimate goal is to be able to give back to an industry that's been good to you."

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School of Business Launches Knowledge Assets Website

Did you miss a recent Speakers Series or Business Conference event? If so, you can now catch these presentations via streaming video on the new Knowledge Assets section of The School of Business' website.

The Knowledge Assets page is a fully functional, interactive space developed by Dr. Michael Tidwell, Interim Director of Marketing and Brand Management for the School of Business, to offer students and other University stakeholders access to knowledge not necessarily provided by professors in the classrooms. On the site, you can find information about the School of Business' Speaker Series and



Michael V. Tidwell, Ph.D.

Business Conference, two programs that offer industry information about broad business issues and their implications for corporations and society at large. The Media Center

component offers streaming video of Series and Conference guest speakers. Knowledge Assets also provides access to news about Clayton State's Executives in Residence, a program where retired executives spend six months to a year on

the Clayton State Campus serving as a guest lecturers and School Ambassadors.

According to Dr. Tidwell, Knowledge Assets will help the School disseminate knowledge and information beyond schoolbooks and the classroom. "One criticism of universities is that they are closed environments. Unless you are a tuition-paying student, you don't have access. We are trying to provide an information source that anyone can visit to develop a better understanding of the business environment. It's a great way to connect to the business community."

Business.clayton.edu/knowledgeassets.htm

March Faculty Research Profile

At Clayton State University, School of Business intellectual contributions, including research, publishing, conference presentations, and consulting,



Judith Stiliz Ogden, J.D.

ensure the faculty members are current in their fields and are able to provide students with cutting-edge information. This month, the newsletter's Faculty Profile interviews Judith Stiliz Ogden, J.D., LL.M., MS. Ogden is an Associate Professor of Accounting at Clayton State University.

Q: Dr. Ogden, can you please describe your research program?

A: My research involves three main areas, or combinations of these three: conflict resolution, labor and employment law, and education law. I just submitted an article with Dr. Margaret Thompson, Assistant Professor of Management, dealing with the use of communication skills when developing

a workplace conflict management program. Some of my research in progress involves an article with Dr. Lawrence Menter, a School of Business Visiting Assistant Professor of Law, in which we are examining the legal issues raised when school web pages are not accessible to people with disabilities. I am also working on articles that examine the incidence of conflict resolution classes being offered by small to medium AACSB Schools of Business, the use of mediation and arbitration by the Internal Revenue Service, and potential liability for schools offering conflict resolution services.

Q: Can you tell the readers about one of your latest publications?

A: One of my more recent articles was published by the Association for Conflict Resolution in *ACResolution*. It dealt with liability and immunity for arbitrators who are guilty of misconduct. I have also presented a paper, along with Judge Michael Baird, at the South Eastern Academy of Legal Studies in Business that examined state statutes providing immunity for arbitrators and mediators.

Q: How do you apply your research in the classroom?

A: My research compliments my teaching because I teach classes in Labor Law/Labor Relations and in Negotiation and Dispute Resolution in Business. I try to incorporate what I have learned through my research into both of these classes, and I am also in the process of training student mediators as part of a peer mediation program that will address disputes involving students at Clayton State University.

Q: What are the implications of your research for society?

A: Since much of my research involves the use of conflict management skills in the workplace and an understanding of employment law, my hope is that my research will make the workplace more efficient, more peaceful, and more respectful. Along those lines, I would like to work on the creation of a Center for Conflict Management in Business here at Clayton State that would support research and serve as a resource for employers and employees in the Southern Crescent of Atlanta.

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Artrice Love-Collins is a Clayton University alum who returned for the MBA program. A Clinical Implementation Specialist for PharMerica, Artrice's busy life includes her full-time job, home schooling her 16 year-old daughter, and attending classes every other Saturday on the Clayton State Campus. As a former student, she finds that the campus environment, with socializing and networking opportunities, is very attractive and classes every other weekend fit with her hectic schedule. Love-Collins, who says the program is "worth every penny," plans to use her degree as a stepping-



Ernie Coward

stone into an executive position at PharMerica. At 73, Ernest "Ernie" Coward refers to himself as the "senior citizen of the group." Coward was in manufacturing for 38 years, retired, and returned to school to earn a degree in accounting. Later, when Dr. Michael Deis, MBA Director, approached Coward about graduate school, Coward says, "I

jumped at the chance to come back. I truly love Clayton and preach Clayton to everyone I can. The ratio of Ph.D. professors to students is great. You don't get that at most universities, particularly in the business schools. You get a lot for your money at Clayton." Coward is an accountant for Oddo Brothers CPA in Fayetteville, GA, and plans to one day teach at the college level. Whether it is another step in the life-long learning process or move up the corporate ladder, the Clayton State University MBA program is a great value for working professionals.