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Laker Spotlight

The Annual Faculty/Staff Fund Drive at Clayton State University is underway. The Fund Drive, tagged “Give a Little, Get a Latte,” has just one goal – 100 percent participation among all full-time Clayton State faculty and staff members. Since a 75 percent faculty/staff participation rate at most colleges and university is considered an overwhelming success, the question might be asked... is this not just an ambitious goal, but an impossible one? Not really. Over the past nine years, an average of 98 percent of the faculty and staff have contributed to the Fund Drive for the Clayton State University Foundation, supporting scholarships, awards and the various schools and departments on campus. In two of those nine years, the faculty and staff have indeed achieved 100 percent participation. This year’s campaign, which will award all contributors with a gift certificate for a latte at Jazzman’s Café in the Baker Center (hence the tag line), will run for one month, from Sept. 10 to Oct. 9, and will be highlighted on Sept. 30 – the 40th anniversary of the day the University first opened its doors to students – with the Annual Hot Dog Rally from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the University Quad.

Meet Dr. Mario Norman



As a 2010 Faculty/Staff Fund Drive Co-Chair, Dr. Mario Norman will be engaging his campus colleagues

much as he engages students in learning. He is an Associate Professor of Psychology and has been employed at Clayton State University for four years. He serves as the campus advisor to Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and the Collegiate 100. He also serves on various committees, such as the executive committee to CSU's African American Male Initiative. Dr. Norman expresses obvious enthusiasm for his various roles: "In teaching, I perceive professorship in a multicultural context, which is important in my research interests and my style of teaching. In this sense, I view education in its personal, social, historical, and political framework. I also believe that active learning is a valuable component to teaching. I often tell stories and use humor to open doors of establishing good communication, as students are less likely to feel intimidated; rather they view me as approachable. I encourage students to become an asker of questions as part of active learning. I attempt to create an open atmosphere that I believed is conducive to learning. This environment often leads to great discussions that often follows students home... and the critical thinking and learning continues outside of the classroom. I believe that it is difficult to learn if one is not involved. My ultimate goal in professorship is to raise the achievement of all students, thus providing them with the critical thinking skills needed in a diverse society."

In two words, Dr. Norman states unequivocally what he likes best about Clayton State: "The students!!" He has a great passion for teaching and mentoring: "I enjoy the moments that I spend with students inside and outside of the classroom. Many of the students are eager to learn. I find an enormous amount of joy when students are able to connect the subject material to real life events." In addition, he appreciates the support that the faculty of the psychology department provides to one another.

His spare time is spent with his family. When there is free time, they are likely to hop in the car and drive.... to wherever. Outside of traveling, they also enjoy theatrical entertainment, the amusement parks, the zoo and sports. He is a native of Chicago, so he is a fan of the Bears, Cubs, and Bulls – sorry, Falcons, Hawks and Braves fans. Dr. Norman and his family also really like the Lakers -- Clayton State University's athletic teams – sorry, Los Angeles fans!

Meet Roxanne Dilbeck



After completing a certificate program in Office Assisting at Clayton State, Roxanne Dilbeck started working part-time on campus and has now been a full-time employee for twelve years. During her first

two years, the Information Technology Program (ITP) was implemented, and change has been a constant at the University over recent years. Roxanne originally worked in career services, which then merged with counseling services, and eventually the two areas separated again. She has been with counseling for about five years. As the Administrative Assistant for Counseling and Psychological Services, Roxanne provides customer service to students, faculty, and staff. She manages running the front office with student workers and always has a ready smile and helpful attitude. Her duties also include maintaining the departmental budget, updating the Counseling website as needed, coordinating career testing, and assisting staff members with special projects. She has served on University's Staff Council for two years. This year she has graciously agreed to be a 2010 Faculty/Staff Fund Drive Co-Chair.

Roxanne truly enjoys working with students, and she sees her daily interactions in support of them and her co-workers in Counseling and Psychological Services as very rewarding. She cites the friendliness of everyone at Clayton State University as one of the best features of being here. Her favorite time on campus is spring with all the trees and flowers blooming.

In addition to being a dedicated member of the Clayton State family, Roxanne loves spending time with her three grandchildren; they go riding on the four-wheeler. Her son served in the Marines and was stationed in Hawaii. He was deployed to Iraq twice. Although Roxanne made nine trips to Hawaii to visit, she is glad that stressful time has passed, and he has returned home. Her son and his wife are anticipating the birth of their second child in February. She likes reading historical Civil War era novels and does some crocheting in her spare time. She also gives lots of attention to her Chihuahua, Rusty, and brand new Poodle puppy, Cody.

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