

Outstanding Leaders Under

40 UNDER 40



PROFILE
BOOK

Greetings,

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I welcome you to the 3rd annual *Outstanding Leaders Under 40 Awards* & Recognition Ceremony, an extraordinary celebration of Clafin University's brightest stars. Tonight, we honor alumni who exemplify bold leadership, tireless commitment, and an unwavering dedication to excellence in their professions and communities.

Each honoree embodies the very essence of Clafin's mission: to develop visionary leaders with global perspectives. These individuals, shaped by the knowledge and experiences gained "on the hilltop high," have not only excelled in their chosen fields but have also uplifted and inspired others through their compassion, ingenuity, and service. Their remarkable achievements reflect the core values of our beloved university and serve as a testament to the power of a Clafin education.

As we recognize these dynamic leaders, let us also be reminded of the collective responsibility we share to support future generations of Clafin alumni. By investing in student scholarships and creating pathways to success, we ensure that the legacy of excellence continues for years to come.

Congratulations to our Outstanding Leaders Under 40 honorees. Your accomplishments make us proud, and your impact inspires us all to dream bigger and do better.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dwaun Warmack
Dr. Dwaun Warmack
President



Dear Guests and Honorees,

Welcome to Clafin University's **Outstanding Leaders Under 40 Awards**! On behalf of the Young Alumni Council (YAC) Executive Board, it is an honor and privilege to join you in celebrating the exceptional achievements of our honorees this evening.

Tonight is a momentous occasion where we recognize the brilliance, dedication, and impact of Clafin's young alumni who are excelling in their respective fields. Each honoree represents the embodiment of Panther Pride—committed to excellence, service, and leadership.

The Young Alumni Council is proud to partner with the Office of the President and the Office of Institutional Advancement to host this prestigious event. This collaboration reflects our shared commitment to honoring the legacy and promise of Clafin University. By celebrating these outstanding leaders, we not only highlight their achievements but also reaffirm the importance of supporting and investing in young alumni as they forge paths of success and innovation.

To our esteemed guests, we thank you for joining us in recognizing and uplifting these dynamic individuals. Your presence is a reminder of the incredible network of support that sustains Clafin University and its alumni.

To our honorees, congratulations on this remarkable achievement. You inspire us all with your hard work and passion, and we hope this recognition serves as a catalyst for continued excellence in the years to come.

Enjoy this evening of celebration, reflection, and community. Together, let us continue to honor and uplift the legacy of Clafin University.

With Panther Pride,





**DANIELLE
ROBINSON**



Danielle Robinson, from Columbia, SC, holds a Bachelor's in Accounting from Clafin University, a Master's in Finance from Strayer University (2018), and is currently a Finance Doctoral Candidate at Liberty University. She works as an Accountant at Breakthru Beverage and coaches women's volleyball at Allen University, blending her passion for numbers and mentoring.

Danielle is deeply involved in community service, volunteering with United Way, Transitions, and Harvest Hope. She organizes volleyball clinics with the YMCA and Bluff Road Park, partnering with Nike for youth camps in Columbia. She actively promotes financial literacy and mentors young women.

A Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. member, Danielle aims to unite her professional and volunteer work to benefit her community. She enjoys family time, hiking, and traveling.



PRESTON
JOHNSON



Preston Johnson is a dedicated public service professional with a strong background in public policy and administration. Born and raised in Denmark, South Carolina, his journey began with a Bachelor's in Business Marketing from Claflin University and a Master's in Public Administration with a focus on Public Policy from the University of Baltimore. His career started at the Social Security Administration (SSA) as a Disability Examiner, where he spent six years working closely with vulnerable populations to provide essential support through disability determinations.

With 14 years of experience at SSA, Preston now serves as a Supervisory Insurance Specialist (Program Manager). In this role, he leads a technical team, oversees administrative activities, and implements policies under Title II and Title XVI of the Social Security Act. His work involves analyzing workflow, enhancing efficiency, and delivering leadership training for hybrid and virtual environments, driven by a commitment to public service and making a positive impact.

Outside of work, Preston is committed to environmental preservation and supporting his community through volunteer work with Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and teaching Bible lessons at his church. Believing resilience and compassion are essential to personal growth, he views challenges as opportunities for transformation. In his free time, Preston enjoys playing basketball, spending time in nature, and being with loved ones, always looking forward to new adventures and opportunities ahead.



TRAVIS
BARNES-ROBERSON



Travis, a Lancaster, SC native, is co-founder of The Mimosa Way and is highly driven by a love for innovation, arts, and education. His academic journey began at Clafin University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communications and a Master's from Queens University. A U.S. Air Force veteran, Travis is now pursuing a Doctorate in Communications, specifically focusing on the media's impact on the LGBTQIA+ community. At Central Piedmont Community College, he is a professor in the Communications Department. Travis also leads communication efforts for several small businesses, helping them engage with their audiences authentically and meaningfully. Beyond his professional pursuits, Travis is a passionate curator of events that uplift the arts community. He resides in Charlotte, NC, with his husband and their cherished dog, Myra.



**JESSICA M.
CORBIN**
VICE PRESIDENT FOR
EDUCATION



Jessica Corbin, a 2013 Claffin University graduate with a bachelor's degree in English and a minor in elementary education, is the founder of the MISS women's organization. During her time at Claffin, she served as an orientation leader and English tutor, laying the groundwork for her passion for mentorship and support.

Starting her career at Colonial Life Insurance in 2014, Jessica has held roles in the Contact Center, Underwriting, and now works as a Senior Communications Specialist in the Marketing department. She was recently awarded the top performer accolade for her department, which included attending a conference at Walt Disney World in May 2024. At Colonial Life, Jessica has been an active participant in committees, serving as campus lead for the Race & Ethnicity employee resource group and as Vice President Education for the company's Toastmasters club.

Outside of her professional role, Jessica supports women in business through her copywriting company, RecreatingHerCopy Agency, where she provides website and email copy. A devoted mother to her energetic toddler, Jay, Jessica enjoys reading, traveling, and writing poetry in her spare time.



**DR. KIERRA
A. CARTER**
LPCA, LCMHCA, NCC



Dr. Kierra Alexis Carter, a Florence, South Carolina native, is a multifaceted professional with a passion for the arts, travel, and community service. An alumna of Wilson High School, Claflin University, South Carolina State University, and North Carolina A&T State University, she excelled during her time at Claflin as Miss Freshman, Miss Claflin University 2016-2017, and was the first African American Miss Florence in 2015. She founded the organization Helping Everyone Avoid Loneliness, was a member of the Honors College, cheerleading team, and several honor societies.

Dr. Carter graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.A. in Psychology, minoring in Mass Communications and Theatre, pursued an M.A. in Rehabilitation Counseling, and later earned a Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision, all debt-free. She has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Girls Rock Award and the Trailblazer Award, and has recorded commercials for BET. Her published works include *It Had to Happen*, *Life Happens*, and *Make It Happen*, and she serves as a licensed therapist in NC and SC, motivational speaker, CEO of Karter Water, and a model for HBCU Times Magazine.

A devoted member of her church, Dr. Carter finds strength in her favorite scripture, 2 Corinthians 12:9. She continues to inspire others through her dedication to her community and her professional achievements.



**TIFFANY
JOHNSON**
MSW



Tiffany C. Johnson, MSW, is a native of Camden, South Carolina. She is a proud graduate of Camden High School. She has over a decade of experience in human services. She obtained her B. A. degree from Claflin University in Sociology with a minor in Gerontology and her M. A. degree from the University of South Carolina in Social Work. In addition to these degrees, she has also obtained a certification in Project Management from Central Piedmont Community College, Postpartum Doula training from DONA International Inc., and Equitable Community Change from Cornell University.

Tiffany has worked with many diverse populations and is passionate about serving those whose voices are not heard. She is always looking for ways to enhance her education to ensure she gives her current clientele the most effective and updated version of herself.

She loves to train on childhood trauma using Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). She understands the importance of resilience and how ACEs can affect children when they become adults. Tiffany strives daily to be a change in her community to ensure underserved communities are educated and knowledgeable about many resources within and around their communities.

Motto: Why shoot for A star when I'm already ONE?



**KHANEISHA
PAGAN**



Khaneisha Pagan's passion for helping others and understanding the transformative power of homeownership inspire her to connect with buyers and sellers, consistently exceeding their expectations. Her commitment to exceptional customer service shines in every step of the process. She approaches each transaction with honesty, negotiates as if it were her own investment, and handles every detail meticulously to ensure her clients achieve their real estate goals.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Khaneisha moved to Atlanta with her family before eventually settling in the DC Metro area. She is a proud graduate of Clafin University, where she earned her Bachelor's degree, and the University of Texas, where she completed her Master's degree. Her career foundation is built on delivering outstanding service. Before pursuing real estate, Khaneisha worked as a Healthcare Executive in Dallas, Texas, and as a Presidential Management Fellow for the Federal Government, where she honed her relationship-building skills and commitment to client care.

Outside of real estate, Khaneisha enjoys spending time with family, friends, and her dog, Kobe. She loves traveling, baking, and staying connected with her Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. sisters.

Khaneisha's dedication and grace have established her as one of the DC Metro area's leading real estate professionals.



**KENDALL
GIVENS-LITTLE**



Kendall Givens-Little is a dedicated leader and communicator. He is the son of Dr. Aurelio D. Givens and a native of Marion, SC. A Camden High School graduate, Kendall began his college journey at Livingstone College before transferring to the Alice Carson Tisdale Honors College at Clafin University, where he graduated with honors in 2007. He attended Howard University on a full fellowship, earning a Master of Fine Arts in Film Production while serving as a student teacher.

Kendall's career began at Discovery Communications, followed by roles at GVI Productions and Keppler Speakers. He transitioned to higher education as the Director of Public Relations at Tougaloo College and later became the Executive Director of Marketing and Communications at Presbyterian College. Kendall then served as Director of Strategic Communications at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville. He currently serves as a Portfolio Director at the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC).

Beyond his career, Kendall co-founded Project MEN and serves as Co-Chair of the Board of Trustees for AMIkids Wings Piedmont. He is married to Clafin graduate Cortney Givens-Little, with whom he shares two sons, Kendall and Caiden. Kendall believes, "We are greater than we perceive and charged to lead by example."



JASMINE
DESTINY SCOTT



Jasmine Destiny Scott merges New York's vibrancy with Southern grace, beginning her notable career after earning a BA in Digital Media from Clafin University in 2014. There, she made history by creating the university's first sitcom, highlighting her exceptional storytelling skills. Her creative journey has taken her through Los Angeles, Atlanta, and Charlotte, where she engaged deeply with film studies and diverse artistic communities.

As a published author of two fiction books and a wellness workbook, Jasmine is committed to empowering women to achieve balance and success. She founded Women Of Our Word, a global Christian ministry dedicated to cultivating leadership and fostering meaningful connections among women. Through her ministry, she advocates for teen girls in foster care, providing mentorship, support, and raising awareness to help them pursue their dreams and thrive.

Currently pursuing a Master's in Organizational Leadership, Jasmine applies her commitment to excellence and unique perspective to enhance her professional and community efforts. As Chaplain for the Clafin University Young Alumni Council, she continues her dedication to promote positive changes within her communities.

Jasmine's mission is to lead and collaborate with professionals who share her dedication to empowerment and social justice, with the goal of making a global impact one day at a time.



MARQUITA D.
MOSS-STAMPS



Marquita Moss is a dedicated board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner and Doctoral Student, committed to enhancing community health and wellness. A proud alumna of Claffin University, she earned both her undergraduate and graduate nursing degrees from the institution.

Throughout her journey, Marquita has made significant contributions to the community, emphasizing accessible care and patient education. She is an active member of several professional organizations, including the National Black Nurse Practitioners Association, American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, American Nurses' Association, The National Society of Leadership and Success, and Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society. Her involvement reflects her commitment to advancing the nursing profession, fostering leadership, and advocating for health equity.

In addition to her professional pursuits, Marquita has demonstrated exceptional dedication to service by volunteering as an intake specialist for a local homeless shelter and as a hospice companion, supporting some of the community's most vulnerable individuals. Her passion for underserved populations drives her ambition to establish a primary care practice aimed at providing comprehensive, compassionate healthcare to those most in need. With a steadfast commitment to excellence and a heart for service, Marquita Moss is poised to make a lasting impact on the healthcare landscape.



ARTERIA
LINGARD



Arteria Lingard, a Walterboro, South Carolina native, joined Teach For America in 2021 to help address educational inequities in Title 1 schools. A Cum Laude graduate from Claflin University with a degree in Sports Management, she earned her MBA in 2022. She began teaching at Legacy Early College Elementary Charter School in Greenville and now teaches at Mellichamp Elementary in Orangeburg County, where she was named Teacher of the Year for 2024-2025.

Passionate about diversity, equity, and inclusion, Arteria fosters a classroom where every student feels valued and respected, focusing on individual needs to support their academic and personal growth. An advocate for anti-racism, she actively challenges systemic inequalities and empowers her students to do the same.

Believing in education as a tool for social change, Arteria is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Educational Leadership, aiming to create a more equitable future in education.



KRYSTAL
JOHNSON-MURPHY



Krystal, an Orangeburg, SC native and 2007 graduate, is a licensed attorney in North and South Carolina, currently serving as the Assistant Clerk of Court for Cabarrus County. Her commitment to child advocacy began with a volunteer experience at a Nairobi orphanage and was further inspired by internships at the Council for Children's Rights and the Children's Defense Fund. Today, she supervises the Juvenile Division and has made history as Cabarrus County's first African-American Assistant Clerk of Court.

Beyond her legal career, Krystal is active in her community. Alongside her twins, Amora and Ahmod, she helps combat food insecurity by stocking a local Blessing Box. She is also a member of The Links, Incorporated, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.'s Concord Alumnae Chapter. Supported by her family, especially her parents Herbert and Loretta Johnson, Krystal balances her professional and community commitments with her love for cooking, reading, and international travel with her partner, Ahmad Murphy, and her children.



BRIANA
BERRY



Briana R. Berry is a native of Bowman, South Carolina. She graduated from Bethune-Bowman Middle/High School in June 2013. After graduating high school, she matriculated to the illustrious Clafin University where she majored in English with a minor in Education. She received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in May 2018. She furthered her education at South Carolina State University, and received a Master of Arts Degree in Teaching, in December 2022. Briana is a 3rd grade teacher at Edisto Elementary School, in Orangeburg County School District, and is also currently pursuing an Educational Specialist Degree at South Carolina State University with the expectations to graduate in December 2025. During the 2021-2022 school year, she was recognized as Orangeburg County School District's Support Staff Person of the Year, and during the 2022-2023, she was recognized as Orangeburg County School District's Rookie Teacher of the Year. She is a proud member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Briana is a member of Perfecting Zion Institutional Church, where Bishop Darren Clinton is pastor. Her hobbies include spending time with family and friends, playing sports, shopping, and reading. Briana's favorite quote is, "With God, all things are possible."



CHELSEA
HILLIARD



Chelsea Hilliard has aspired to be a social worker since childhood, inspired by her mother's life and books by David Pelzer. Now fulfilling that dream, she works as a licensed social worker for the Department of Veterans Affairs, bringing 15 years of experience across various fields, including the Department of Corrections, Claffin University, and the Department of Mental Health. Chelsea provides compassionate therapy to diverse populations, helping clients manage a wide range of situations and diagnoses.

Chelsea earned her Bachelor's in Sociology from Claffin University and her Master's in Social Work from the University of Georgia. Currently pursuing a Doctor of Social Work, she holds certifications in TF-CBT, ASSIST, and Leadership Development. Originally from Connecticut, Chelsea now lives in Orangeburg, South Carolina, with her husband, Montez, and son, Taylor. Her guiding motto is, "I'm here to leave the world better than I found it."



DR. NYRE
D. TAYLOR



Dr. NyRe D. Taylor is a Certified Human Resource Professional with 17+ years of nonprofit and human resources experience. She holds a Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership and is committed to advancing the rights of youth, families, and employees. Dr. Taylor is dedicated to building successful teams and driving positive change.

As the founder of Necessary Actions Consulting, she provides expert guidance to both for-profit and nonprofit organizations, helping them navigate human resources and nonprofit management.

In her current role as Director of People and Culture for an international nonprofit, Dr. Taylor shapes the workforce, promotes skill development, and fosters a strong, inclusive organizational culture. She also serves as a human resources facilitator at Cornell University.

Dr. Taylor's community involvement includes serving on the board of Charleston County First Steps, where she works to improve the well-being of children and families. She is also an active member of the Nu Alpha Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

Outside of her professional life, Dr. Taylor enjoys spending time with her husband and children, as well as exploring her love of food and music. Her dedication to family, career, and community marks her as a visionary leader and champion for others.



**DR. JORDAN
JEFFERSON**



Dr. Jordan Jefferson is the Director of Bands and Choirs at Manning High School and a 2013 graduate of Claffin University with a BA in Music Education. He began his career teaching band, choir, and drama at Spaulding Middle School and earned his Master's in Education from Concordia University in 2017, followed by a Doctorate in Instructional Leadership from the American College of Education in 2024.

Since joining Manning High School in 2018, Dr. Jefferson has revitalized its music program. Under his leadership, the Golden Pride Marching Band, MHS Symphonic Band, and Monarch Connection Jazz Band have received top ratings in state and regional competitions, with the marching band recently performing in the 2024 National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, DC. Dr. Jefferson has also served as assistant principal and holds roles as Music Director and ordained Elder for The Assembly Church of Florence.

In addition to his school responsibilities, he has directed for the Florence Little Theater, served as a clinician for concert bands, and performs with jazz ensembles across the state. Dr. Jefferson is actively involved with the South Carolina Band Directors Association and other professional organizations.



STACIE D.
HAMILTON



Stacie Davis Hamilton, a Marion native and 2011 Clafin University graduate in Communications, began her career in television news before transitioning to film production. In 2019, she founded Stacie Davis Films to create engaging, diverse content for a global audience. Her productions have appeared on networks like Aspire, Bounce, and Roku, with notable titles such as *A Christmas Blessing*, *Christmas in Carolina*, and the award-winning documentary *More than a Coach: The Taft Watson Story*.

Stacie partners with Clafin University's Mass Communications department, offering internships for hands-on film production experience. She has been featured in media outlets like *Entertainment Tonight* and *Formidable Woman*. Stacie is married to Kevin Hamilton, with whom she shares two children, Wesley and Kyla, and a bonus daughter. Inspired by her parents, Harris and Christine Davis, Stacie's passion for storytelling drives her to produce films that captivate and inspire.



INDIA
MIDDLETON



India Middleton, a Charleston, South Carolina native, earned her Bachelor's in Sociology from Claffin University in 2007 and a Master's in Social Work from the University of South Carolina in 2013. Currently serving as a Mental Health & Wellness Coach with Charleston County School District, she has over a decade of experience in roles such as School Mental Health Counselor, Family Preservation Case Manager, and Behavioral Health Counselor.

Middleton specializes in supporting children, adolescents, and families with school-based therapy, crisis intervention, and empowerment programs, addressing emotional, behavioral, and mental health challenges. She is passionate about promoting well-being for students and families in the public school system, creating a safe and supportive environment.

Residing in Summerville, SC, Middleton is a member of the Gamma Zeta Graduate Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., and a proud mother to her daughter, Aniya. She enjoys quality time with family and friends.



DR. CHRISTIANN
GAINES



Dr. Christiann Gaines, originally from Trinidad and Tobago, moved to the U.S. in 2010 and earned a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from Claffin University, where she developed a passion for STEM and research. She later joined a research program at Novartis and Harvard and completed a PhD in Neuroscience at UNC Chapel Hill, co-founding Global Perspectives in BioMedicine (GPB) to support international students.

As a post-doctoral research associate, Dr. Gaines focused on mentoring and graduate student wellness. She now serves as Assistant Director of Doctoral Success and UNC's IMSD program, Interim Director of PREP, and Director of Pre-Baccalaureate Summer Initiatives at UNC's School of Medicine, supporting students and interns. Outside work, she enjoys exploring new restaurants, swimming, and spending time with her husband, son, and cat.



JARRELL
ROGERS



Jarrell C. Rogers is the Economic Services Team Leader for the Lee County Department of Social Services, where he has worked since 2014. He oversees staff supporting TANF, SNAP, and ABAWD clients, ensuring compliance with state and federal regulations. A 2013 Clafin University graduate in Mass Communications, Jarrell also earned his Master's in Education from Clafin in 2017 as part of the first M.Ed. graduating class.

Committed to strengthening his community, Jarrell uses his skills to educate and inspire. He enjoys family time, traveling, and reading. His favorite quote is, "We must let go of the life we have planned, so as to accept one that is waiting for us" by Joseph Campbell.



**DR. KHYLA
OSARETIN**



Dr. Khyla Osaretin, a Charleston, SC native, earned her Bachelor's in Biology from Claflin University in 2004 and completed her Optometry degree in 2008. After a residency in Ocular Disease at Salus University, she practiced in Ohio before joining D'Ambrosio Eye Care in Massachusetts, where she provides advanced care for conditions like glaucoma and diabetic eye disease.

Actively involved in her community, Dr. Osaretin conducts vision screenings at schools and senior centers and was awarded the 2012 D'Ambrosio Community Service Award. She enjoys snowboarding, biking, gardening, and traveling with her husband, Dr. Idahosa Osaretin, and their three sons: Nosa, Aken, and Eben.



CANDICE
MACK COHEN



Candice Mack Cohen is a Charleston-based entrepreneur, breast cancer survivor, and digital marketing expert known for her resilience and leadership. As the Founder and CEO of CēSuite Digital Agency, she provides innovative digital marketing solutions, specializing in SEO, web development, and geofencing. Her excellence has earned her numerous accolades, including the BBB Torch Award and recognition by the YWCA as a tech leader.

Candice also founded Girl Go Hustle, an initiative helping women start businesses without tech challenges, with programs aimed at closing the gender gap in tech by teaching young girls and women essential skills. Internationally recognized, her program has even been featured in a Volvo commercial on coding.

A Claffin University alumna and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. member, Candice is a dedicated community volunteer and Junior Achievement mentor, sharing her expertise on business and career development. A mother of three, she enjoys traveling across North America to serve clients and build partnerships.



ORVILLE
HARMON



Orville Harmon Jr., a 2012 graduate of Claffin University from Newberry, SC, is a standout leader in risk management, currently serving as a Manager in Ernst & Young’s (EY) Financial Services Advisory Risk Practice. With over a decade of consulting experience, Orville has led complex audits, redesigned audit functions, and managed large-scale engagements across the banking, insurance, and fintech industries. His expertise has been instrumental in delivering regulatory assessments and transformational strategies for internal audit functions ranging in size.

Beyond his professional success, Orville is deeply committed to diversity and inclusion. He has led EY’s Advancing Black Executive Coaching Circle, creating training programs to support African Americans in Corporate America. As a former board member of the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA), he has helped college students secure scholarships and internships, while also supporting EY’s minority recruitment efforts.

Orville’s community impact extends to his fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and his contributions to the American Heart Association, where he helped raise over \$20,000 for three consecutive years. A dedicated family man, Orville enjoys traveling and making memories with his son, Orville “Hunter” Harmon III. His leadership and commitment make him a dynamic force in his field.



**TERRANCE
MILES**



Terrence Miles, born and raised in the Pee Dee region of South Carolina, has dedicated his career to supporting marginalized communities. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Sociology with a minor in Education from Claflin University and a Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology from William James College. Terrence's professional journey began as a career counselor, guiding unemployed and underemployed youth and adults, and later as a GED instructor for adult and juvenile offenders. As a mental health professional, he has specialized in psychotherapy and behavior modification.

In 2011, Terrence joined the U.S. Armed Forces as a 56M: Chaplain Assistant, now known as a Religious Affairs Specialist, serving until 2017. Following his military service, he transitioned to federal work with the Department of Defense. His roles have included Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Coordinator, Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator, and currently, Army Substance Abuse Program Manager for the 377th Theater Sustainment Command, the largest command in the Army with 34,000 soldiers. Through his work, Terrence has found deep purpose in helping others and fostering positive change in the lives of those he serves.



SHAN
FRAZER



Shan, a Columbia, South Carolina native, discovered her entrepreneurial spirit early, launching her first business at 14 with guidance from her mother. A 2013 graduate of Claffin University, Shan began her career with a Fortune 500 company through Claffin's career center.

Now based in Cupertino, California, Shan is a Senior People Business Partner at Apple, where she leads organizational development, manages Inclusion and Diversity initiatives, and advocates for pay equity for women and minorities in tech.

Passionate about mentoring, Shan supports women, minorities, and students in career development, fair pay advocacy, and professional growth, staying true to her commitment to creating equal opportunities and driving change.



**AVERY
LEDWELL**



Avery Ledwell, a Lugoff, South Carolina native, is the Multimedia Coordinator for the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs. A 2013 graduate of Claffin University in Mass Communications, Avery has held various roles, from directing news broadcasts at WLTX News 19 to coordinating programs for the Kershaw County Family Resource Center and producing video content for the Columbia Fireflies. His coverage includes pivotal events like the Charleston Shooting and the 2015 South Carolina floods.

As the first Multimedia Coordinator for the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Avery supports South Carolina's veterans, service members, and their families. A proud husband, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. member, and now a 2024 Claffin 40 Under 40 honoree, Avery is dedicated to uplifting his community through storytelling and service.



LEIGHANN
ALEXIS BLACK
MD



Leighann Alexis Black, MD, is an Obstetrician and Gynecologist currently serving at the Brian D. Allgood Army Community Hospital in South Korea. With a focus on delivering exceptional care, Dr. Black empowers her patients by educating them to make informed medical decisions. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from Claffin University and her medical degree from The University of South Carolina School of Medicine in Greenville. In addition to her role as a Captain in the U.S., Dr. Black is known for her authentic, compassionate approach to women's health, blending professional expertise with humor. From addressing maternal morbidity to discussing mental health issues like depression and anxiety, Dr. Black is committed to improving lives and making a lasting impact on the world.



AMANDA
BLACK



Amanda Black, a 2007 Claflin University graduate, has dedicated her 16-year career to education, specializing in middle-level teaching. Currently, she serves as an 8th Grade Language Arts and Gifted & Talented teacher at Lake Marion Middle School. Known for her commitment to student growth, she has contributed to district curriculum development and supported teachers nationwide as a Fellow for Great Minds.

With a Master's in Arts from South Carolina State University, Amanda has been honored as a top 10 teacher in her district and recognized by the South Carolina Association of Middle Level Educators as an Educator to Watch. Her most cherished roles are as wife to Detective Albert Black and mother to their son, Austin.



KEYONA
JONES



With over 15 years in leadership, human resources, and training, Keyona Jones is a respected thought leader who applies empathetic leadership to address real-world challenges. A champion of DEI initiatives, she believes in representing everyone's unique perspectives and coaches professionals and entrepreneurs toward success through humor and storytelling.

A proud Clafin University alumna with a Bachelor's in Management and an MBA from the University of Saint Mary, Keyona is known for her talent in connecting with others. Married to Mark and mom to Chloe and Ava, she also co-hosts a podcast, leads the James T. Madry, Jr. Foundation, and is writing a self-help book. Her mantra: "We are all planting seeds for trees we may never sit under."



MONTEZ
HAYNES



Montez P.V. Haynes, an Orangeburg, SC native, is a Claflin University graduate and the first in his family to earn a college degree. Torn between medical school and mortuary science, he pursued studies in both fields, ultimately earning a Master's in Chaplaincy from Columbia International University. He co-founded Greater Orangeburg Funeral Home and Dignity Mortuary, and manages B&B Brothers LLC.

An active community member, Montez serves as a minister at Life Cathedral Church, is a Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. member, and sits on the board of STEAM. He also holds roles as a notary, burial insurance agent, Certified Crematory Operator, and Deputy Coroner for Bamberg County. Montez and his wife Shakia have two children, Bryson and Braxton, and two dogs, Jade Ethel and Brantley Bouknight.



PATRICE M.
COOPER



Patrice M. Cooper, a Hemingway, SC native, is a 2011 Claffin University graduate and holds a master's in Education Policy with a focus on diversity and equity from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Nearing 12 years in higher education, she has worked in student success, as an instructor, and as an editor at Morris College and Benedict College. Patrice has also served as an advisor for female-led and faith-based student groups, passionately supporting academic and personal development.

A dedicated mentor and educator, Patrice also teaches adult Sunday school at her church, where her mother is pastor. In her free time, she enjoys beach visits and spending time with family.



TIARA
MILES



With over eight years of experience in education, Tiara Miles has made significant contributions as a model teacher for the Children’s Literacy Initiative and as a mentor for aspiring educators from Florida Atlantic University. In 2021, Tiara earned a Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership from Florida Atlantic University, underscoring her commitment to literacy and educational advancement.

In November 2020, Tiara published the Causie Can children’s book series, inspired by her love for reading and motherhood. This series, featuring a read-aloud book and an interactive workbook, promotes diversity in children’s literature and provides comprehension tools for educators and parents. Through partnerships, such as a 2022 collaboration with Barnes & Noble and an ambassadorship with MetaMetrics, her Causie Can books are now Lexile-measured and included in MetaMetrics’ “Find A Book” resource, reaching a global audience.

As a thought leader, Tiara presents with MetaMetrics, educating communities on Lexile and Quantile measures to enhance literacy. Her speaking engagements, book signings, and community events—such as holiday book giveaways and literacy workshops—reflect her dedication to closing the literacy gap and cultivating literacy-rich communities.



NATHAN
GAMBLE III



Nathan Gamble is a Supervisory Contracting Officer for the Defense Logistics Agency: Land & Maritime in Columbus, Ohio. He oversees post-award functions for Aviation's Nuclear Enterprise Support Office (NESO) and leads a team of 11 administrators, managing over \$5 million in contracts since September 2021 to support the "Warfighter First" mission.

A 2017 Clafin University graduate in Business Management, Nate began his civil service career in 2018 through the Pathways to Career Excellence (PaCE) program. He also gives back to his community as a high school wrestling coach and a member of Hope City House of Prayer's security team. Nate is a devoted husband to Clafin alum Kimya Gamble and a proud father to their daughters, Meila and Mazuri.



DANA
HARRELL



Dana Harrell, a 2014 Clafin University alumna, co-founded the M.I.S.S. organization and was an active member of NAACP and Young Democrats of America during her time at Clafin. With a lifelong passion for helping others, Dana returned to her hometown of Richmond, Virginia, and built a 10-year teaching career, finding her “sweet spot” in Kindergarten at Good Shepherd Episcopal School—a close-knit community that reflects Clafin’s values.

In addition to teaching, Dana launched a travel business aimed at making travel accessible for brown families. She is also a dedicated community volunteer, Girl Scout troop leader, and nonprofit advocate for teenage girls. Honored as one of Clafin’s 40 Under 40, Dana is committed to carrying forward the Clafin Confidence and inspiring others.



ALEXIS
ALLEN



Alexis Allen is a Senior HR Shared Services Manager at Gilead Sciences, leading the Employee Support team for the Americas. With six years in HR Shared Services, she enhances the employee experience and optimizes HR processes to align with organizational needs.

A proud alumna of Clafin University and Georgia Southern University, Alexis is passionate about personal growth, well-being, and enjoys Zumba, travel, and time with loved ones. Guided by Eleanor Roosevelt's words, "With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts," Alexis is a dedicated leader making a significant impact in her field.



CHARLES
WILSON III



Charles K. Wilson II is a seasoned Senior Recruiter with over a decade of experience in talent acquisition across industries including sales, government, education, financial services, IT, and healthcare. With expertise in leadership, strategic sourcing, and decision-making, he has driven recruitment success for organizations such as Amazon, JP Morgan, Navient/Sallie Mae, and Eastern Research Group (ERG).

As Senior Corporate Recruiter Manager at ERG, Charles established the recruitment department, implemented the Applicant Tracking System (Lever), and set hiring objectives. He excels in building recruitment teams, conducting workshops, and partnering with hiring managers to meet talent needs, all while promoting diversity, inclusion, and an exceptional candidate experience.

Beyond his professional role, Charles is an active member of the Alexandria-Fairfax Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., serves on the Gamma Nu Alumni Association board, and volunteers as an assistant middle school volleyball coach, reflecting his passion for mentorship and leadership.

Motto: "I find it extremely rewarding to place top-tier talent in the proper position to obtain a brighter future through a successful opportunity match. Building Teams, Empowering Talent, Driving Success!"



REV. TRADD
CORINTHIAN
WILLIAMS



Reverend Williams, 27, hails from Estill, South Carolina. A gifted preacher, he began singing and playing instruments, including the keyboard, drums, and guitar, by age six.

A 2015 graduate of Estill High School, he ranked in the top five of his class and served as Student Body President, Choir Director, and Drum Major. He earned a Bachelor's in English with a minor in Religion and Philosophy from Claflin University in 2018 and later became the youngest Loan Officer at South State Bank. In 2024, he completed a Master of Divinity at Dickerson Green Seminary and is now pursuing a Doctorate in Ministry at United Theological Seminary.

Reverend Williams has served as Youth Pastor at Grace Chapel AME Church, Senior Pastor at Mt. Pisgah AME Church, and is currently the Pastor of Mt. Zion AME Church in Round O, SC. He is also Director of Loved Ones In Homecare in Okatie, SC.

A member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., he serves on the AMI Kids Beaufort Board of Trustees, the National Insurance Agent Association, and as Chaplain for Chisholm Galloway Homes for Funerals. Reverend Williams is running for Beaufort County School Board District 1.

Proverbs 28:20: "A faithful man shall abound with blessing, but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent."



DEVON
CORBIN



Devon Corbin is a dedicated bridge-builder with a passion for education, equity, and entrepreneurship. A Claffin University graduate, he has worked across industries including sales, tech, nonprofit, workforce development, higher education, and startups, showcasing his commitment to serving others.

For over a decade, Devon has supported young professionals entering Corporate America, first through Year Up and now by leading the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the United Negro College Fund. As a natural risk-taker, he founded E-Suite, inspiring others who share his background to persevere and create something extraordinary.

Devon's work is deeply rooted in his values of integrity, compassion, and service—principles he shares as a husband, father, and mentor. From Chester, PA, to Claffin University, and the University of Pennsylvania, Devon continues to pave his own path while uplifting others.

Motto: “The dream deferred does not die; it evolves into something greater.”



TEREION
DAWSON



Tereion Dawson, widely known as Tere Tatiana, hails from South Georgia and now resides in Atlanta, Georgia. A Claffin University alumna, she earned her degree in Public Relations with a minor in Business Administration in just three years with high honors.

At 23, she began her career as a government contractor in Afghanistan, working with NATO forces. Starting as a Food Service worker, her dedication propelled her to the role of HR Generalist, managing over 20 subordinates and 5,000 contractors. This experience equipped her with the skills to pursue entrepreneurship upon returning to the U.S. in 2020.

Tereion has founded several ventures over the years, including Labeled Blu Transportation, Labeled Blu Collection, and Labeled Blu Realty. Through her ventures, she discovered a talent for digital marketing, growing her personal brand and business presence to a combined social media following of over 150K.

Now a professional digital marketer, Tereion is dedicated to helping entrepreneurs establish and expand their digital footprint. She provides guidance on budgeting and strategy, leveraging her expertise to uplift others while continuing to grow her own dynamic brand.



**MEESHA
WITHERSPOON**



Meesha Witherspoon, a 2008 graduate of Claflin University, is a trailblazer and dedicated advocate for preserving history and fostering community growth. As the first Black archivist in Clarendon County, she has spent nearly 15 years documenting and safeguarding the community's heritage with unparalleled expertise and passion. Beyond her pivotal role with the Clarendon County Government, Meesha has collaborated with film directors and producers, ensuring historical accuracy and representation in cinema, bridging the gap between local history and global storytelling.

Deeply committed to her community, Meesha serves on the Clarendon County First Steps Board, focusing on early childhood education, and the SC State Fire Heritage Advisory Board, preserving the legacy of firefighting. She also contributes to the University of South Carolina's College of Education Engagement Center Advisory Board, emphasizing the importance of education. As a South Carolina notary public, Meesha upholds legal integrity, and her decade-long service on the Clarendon County School District School Improvement Council highlights her dedication to educational advancement.

Meesha's work exemplifies her commitment to inclusivity and diversity in archival professions while making meaningful contributions to local, educational, and cinematic history. Her multifaceted roles reflect a relentless drive to enrich Clarendon County and beyond.



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