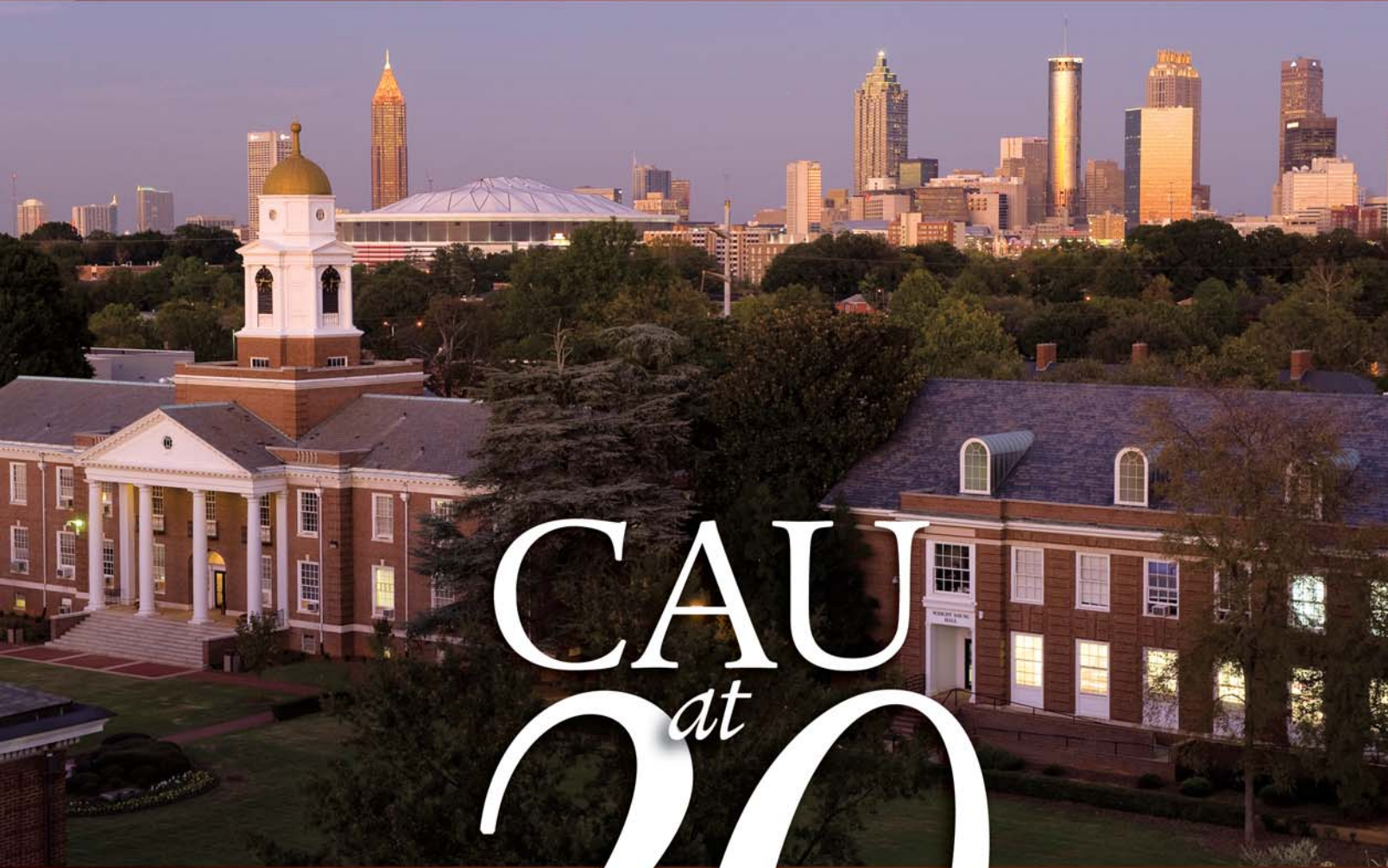


www.cau.edu

Fall 2008 / Winter 2009

Clark Atlanta

MAGAZINE



CAU *at* 20



John W. Daniels, Jr.

A Leader's Perspectives on Leadership

When John W. Daniels, Jr., joined Clark Atlanta University's Board of Trustees in 2007, CAU gained a trustee who has a long history of involvement and support of higher education institutions and is also one of the nation's most outstanding real estate lawyers and entrepreneurs.

A graduate of Harvard Law School and a partner in and chairman of Quarles & Brady LLP, Daniels has strategically built and sustained an extraordinary career in law and business. Trustee Daniels is the first African American in the United States to chair an AmLaw 200 firm. He is past national president of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers. Daniels has been recognized by numerous organizations for his ability to develop sophisticated solutions to complex problems. He was recently selected as one of the 50 most influential lawyers in the United States as part of the *National Law Journal's* survey of leading minority attorneys.

Daniels, who is also a successful entrepreneur, sits on several boards and has a passion for involvement with charitable causes that advance the interests of youth. He shares with *CAU Magazine* some of his views, perspectives and wisdom on leadership, professional development and what young people can do to prepare for success in a competitive, global marketplace.



"Every time I visit the campus, I am inspired by not only the commitment of the faculty, but the enormous promise that the student body provides for our society."

Serving on the Clark Atlanta University Board of Trustees

CAU Magazine: *What led to your decision to join CAU's Board of Trustees?*

JOHN W. DANIELS, JR.: Clark Atlanta University has a unique place in American history, having trained literally thousands of individuals who are having an impact in multitudes of communities. It is an environment that features the best talents of people and creates world-class leaders. I know the importance of such institutions in a global economy and I was proud to be associated with and to be part of one.

CAU Magazine: *What keeps you engaged in your role as a trustee?*

JWD: As a trustee of Clark Atlanta University, I have the unique opportunity to share a legal and business perspective that hopefully will enable continuing growth and success of the institution. The importance of education in terms of changing the life opportunities of the students at CAU is something that any trustee is excited about. Every time I visit the campus, I am inspired by not only the commitment of the faculty, but the enormous promise that the student body provides for our society.

Perspectives on Leadership

CAU Magazine: *You have garnered a number of accomplishments, honors, and awards, including the Distinguished Leadership Award by the Leader's Forum and the 2008 Leadership Award by the National Bar Association. What are three top principles of leadership that you believe contribute to your success and that new professionals can use as they begin their careers or pursue advanced degrees?*

JWD:

Vision — to identify what you really want from your work experience and to understand the importance of considering long-term success.

Courage — to reach beyond your comfort level when pursuing your goals.

Tenacity — to remain committed to your personal and professional goals.

How Students Can Prepare for Success in a Global Marketplace

CAU Magazine: *You have been able to build and sustain your success over the duration of your career. What do you attribute as the keys to your success?*

JWD: Being passionate about the work I do inside and outside of the office. Fully embracing the concept of teamwork. Commitment to excellence in all that I do.

CAU Magazine: *Share with us your perspectives on some key strategies that young men and women can implement now to prepare for a successful transition from the classroom to a career.*

JWD: I think the most important thing students can do to prepare for their career is to make sure they are applying themselves in the classroom now. The diligence that is practiced in their school work, such as being prepared for class each day, studying each lesson in preparation for major exams, and putting forth 100 percent now will translate how you move forward in your career.

Today's students also need to understand the importance of relationships and communication skills. Most students who leave college feel as though the work they did in college — the book knowledge — doesn't translate to real-life work experience. The truth is, you may not utilize everything you learned in the classroom, but throughout your life, you will use the communication skills you have honed during your college years.

CAU Magazine: *How should Clark Atlanta University best prepare students for leadership, given the realities of today's competitive marketplace?*

JWD: In my view, the University must continue to create opportunities for students to be exposed to the challenges of our competitive market. By providing access to information on new technologies, offering programs to introduce students to the ever-changing business models in the workforce, and creating mentoring opportunities to help students map out successful career tracks, the University will serve as a resource and model for success. □