

Outstanding Alumni: Mrs. Anna Moore Clifton, '96



A Conversation with Anna Moore Clifton - September 21, 2016

Q: Tell us what you do now. What does your typical day entail?

A: As our family is currently in that busy season of life, my day consists of various activities associated with being a wife, a mom, an educator, and a student. The day begins early as we work to ensure that our three children are ready to meet the challenges ahead of them. Serving as Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning at Carrollton City Schools, I facilitate strategic and school improvement planning, implementation, and monitoring; advance the curriculum and instructional design; oversee the system's \$45.5 million budget; and lead the identification, recruitment and training of our exceptionally, talented human resources. In the evenings, our family shuttles begin as we transport children to and from cheer, karate, golf, and lacrosse practices. The day typically concludes by completing coursework and analyzing research in pursuit of a Doctorate in Educational Administration and Leadership.

Q: How has your life journey been influenced by your time at Donoho?

A: C.S Lewis once wrote, "The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles, but to irrigate deserts." Before becoming a Donoho Falcon, my educational experiences occurred in several places. I attended schools in Anniston, AL, Jacksonville, FL, Indianola, MS and Maple Grove, MN. It was at The Donoho School, however, where the essence of Lewis' quote took root. The teachers here opened our minds to not only what is, but encouraged us to explore the insanely impossible. Our minds were fertilized daily with the challenge to think beyond what's possible. The weeds of idleness were plucked away as we were taught to challenge ourselves academically, socially and athletically. It was here where I learned about the whole me. The teachers at Donoho inspired me and my classmates to learn and work collaboratively. This approach to education not only prepared me for the academic challenges that awaited but created an environment where class acquaintances evolved into impenetrable lifelong friendships. For this, I am eternally grateful.

Q: What are some words of advice you'd like to share with current Donoho students?

A: Donoho students, enjoy this time! As you are preparing for the future, glean from the wisdom of others. Several key reminders have served me well over the years, and they are associated with attitude, priorities, vision, and integrity. Life is all about choices. We cannot always control our circumstances, but we do get to choose how we respond to them. Seek out the good in every situation and keep your mind focused on those things. Know what is important; these are your priorities and pay close attention to them. Have a vision for your life; see what is not there yet and pursue it with all you have. Above all, always, always, do what is right even when no one is looking.