

# THE Scholar

THIS TEACHER  
HAS HAD  
ENOUGH





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 The Columbus State  
University Saber

# COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

## EDITOR'S LETTER

**Pictured** CSU's One Arsenal building on RiverPark campus.

**NOTE:** Good luck during Hell week.

**Thanks, everyone**, for taking a couple minutes out of your day to pick up this issue of *The Saber*. As always, we appreciate your time and consideration. Allow me to ramble for a moment.

As a student, I vehemently despise this time of year—deadlines are looming and the weight of projects is piling up; it's starting to get hot, and the humidity is insufferable; there's pollen on everything, and I can't breathe; and summer is close, but not close enough. Nevertheless, the silver lining that is the summer break does tend to ease my worried conscience a little. As Columbus continues to grow, so does the focus on entertainment, and I find that I don't have to leave town for things to do. If you're looking for things to do around town, check out our new "Upcoming" section on page 5—it contains both local and CSU events to explore.

For those of you who have summer classes to attend, yours may be a different sentiment. Summer classes for me were bittersweet—they were rigorously challenging, but seemed to be over as soon as they began. I strongly recommend that you take them if you have a good work ethic and strong sense of organization. The workload may be gruesome, but the payoff is sweet.

Anyways, we have a nice spread of content for you to enjoy this month, so take your time to explore the issue. We composed a great feature about the March for Our Lives after a few of our reporters took to the streets in Atlanta to walk amongst the 70,000 or so protesters, we covered the Diversity Forum, the art department's faculty exhibition, and we even gathered student opinions on Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos in the wake of her brutal "60 Minutes" interview. There's plenty more in addition to that. Please remember to reach out to us if find something or someone deserving of attention. There's always a story out there, and perhaps the next one belongs to you.

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A teacher stands in protest hoping to see change in gun control legislation.

**These stories** and several others found within these 24 pages of content.

**Special thanks to** Garrett Lawrence for the March of Our Lives photography in Columbus.





# NEWS FLASH

## WAYNE W. VAN ELLIS RESIGNS AS REGISTRAR. WHO IS NEXT?

For two and a half years, Wayne Van Ellis served the CSU community as registrar by maintaining student records and class enrollment, but on March 2, Ellis resigned effective immediately with a brief parting statement that outlined the reason for his departure. A mass email was sent to a large portion of the faculty. “During the last six weeks, both CSU and I have concluded that our values and vision are no longer congruent,” Ellis wrote in March. “Therefore, I’ll no longer be serving Columbus State University as University Registrar.” Ellis, who was unavailable to comment on the conditions of his leave citing a need to seek counsel, thanked many at CSU for their commitment and hard work. “I cannot thank the Registrar, Data Entry, Admission, and other Enrollment Services staff enough for their hard work and commitment to the students of CSU,” said Ellis in his email. “I especially would like to thank the Deans, Assistant Deans, Department Chairs and Faculty.”



## RIVERPARK AREA TO POSSIBLY ADOPT OPEN CONTAINER LAW BY COLUMBUS LAWMAKERS

Columbus lawmakers have long-held that it should be unlawful to walk the streets with an open alcoholic beverage, but now, city councillors have drafted an ordinance to be voted on which would allow citizens to consume alcoholic beverages in special containers in the RiverPark area. The proposed ordinance was recommended by Uptown Columbus, Inc., a non-profit organization that hosts events downtown and helps vitalize the RiverPark area. If the ordinance passes this summer, open containers will be allowed in a designated area from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. The law would allow beverages to be consumed in shatterproof cups no larger than 16 ounces, and each cup would require a sticker provided by Uptown Columbus, Inc., which may be found at businesses that will sell the beverages. Individuals should note other stipulations in the proposed law before participating, as the drafted ordinance will be highly specific to the downtown area –as will be the consumption rules.



## 13TH STREET TO RECEIVE ROAD DIET AND POTENTIAL GROWTH

City Councillors recently passed a bill to allow the constriction of a four-lane road into a two-lane road near Lakebottom Park for the purpose of redeveloping, reinvesting, and regenerating the area in hopes that the change will spur economic development and revitalize the area. The project will take place on 13th Street near the bridge that connects Midtown to Uptown. CSU currently has a student bus stop in the same area near the Piggly Wiggly on 13th Street. When completed, the area could see a major resurgence of shops, restaurants, and other businesses. For more information, interested parties may visit [www.midtown.org](http://www.midtown.org).

## CSU STUDENT-ATHLETES TO HOST 3RD ANNUAL 5K BENEFITTING MAKE-A-WISH

The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee at Columbus State University will host a 5k race Saturday, April 14 that will benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The race is set to begin at 9 a.m. from Cougar Court between the Lumpkin Center and the softball field on CSU’s main campus. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organisation that arranges “wishes” for children with life-threatening medical condition through 62 chapters across the United States. Individuals may register online at [runsignup.com](http://runsignup.com), and awards will be presented to the top three male and top three female runners. Registration for the event is \$30.



## CSU CONDUCTS MULTI-AGENCY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EXERCISE ON RIVERPARK CAMPUS

On Thursday, April 5 at 10 a.m., Campus Police, in conjunction with other city, county, and state entities, conducted an emergency management exercise on the Riverpark Campus at the intersection of Broadway and 12th street in front of Frank Brown Hall. The simulation was designed to assess emergency response capabilities during a mass casualty event. The section of Broadway in front of Frank Brown Hall was temporarily closed for the event. “This exercise is part of CSU’s ongoing emergency management initiative and furthers our partnerships with other first responders when developing all-hazards emergency plants for our campuses,” says Police Chief Mark Lott. The simulation involved a scenario in which a fictitious car drove through a crowd at a concert and responders utilized Frank Brown Hall as an emergency medical facility. The event included nursing students both as actors and first responders, and students were make-up and simulated real-life medial injuries.



## EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCES RECEIVES MINI-GRANTS

Kim Shaw, Ph.D., a professor in physics, received a STEM mini-grant for \$2,850 to fund her proposal “Math Intervention Development to Promote Student Success in Physics Courses.” Online tutorials will be developed with help of a student assistant and will be topic specific to address those math concepts physics students find most challenging. Austin Caughey, Chance Seckinger, Coral Torres, and Jasmine Truitt--students from Earth and Space Sciences--also received mini grants of \$225, awarded by the Office of the Provost. The funds will be used to offset costs incurred for research projects.



SUMMARIES CONTINUED



# UPCOMING



## NO SHAME THEATRE

### SPRINGER OPERA HOUSE / EVERY FRIDAY, 10:30 P.M.

Every Friday evening, The Springer puts on No Shame Theatre – an uncensored evening of original performance that allows anyone to participate. Sign-up begins at 10 p.m., and fifteen five-minute performance slots are available each week. Admission costs \$5, and adult beverages area available

## SPRING AWAKENING: THE MUSICAL

### CSU’S RIVERSIDE THEATRE / APRIL 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 7:30 P.M.

A groundbreaking rock musical about adolescent love, this show captures the trials of beauty and the friendship that young people build in the face of an uncomprehending world. General admission is \$17 per adult.

## PADDLE SOUTH FREESTYLE KAYAK COMPETITION

### RIVERWALK ISLAND / APRIL 14 & 15, 1 P.M.

This celebration of the best paddling location in the south returns to Columbus at the Eagle & Phenix water tower. This two day event consists of the 2018 USA Freestyle Kayak National Championships, and the Omaha Brewing Paddle Party in the Power House overlooking the Chattahoochee River.

## CSU SAAC 5K

### LUMPKIN CENTER / APRIL 14, 9 A.M. - 11 A.M.

The CSU Student-Athlete Advisory Committee 5k will benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Admission costs \$35 on race day. Awards will be presented for male and female categories.

## SPECIAL EVENT: MUSIC UNDER THE DOME

### COCA-COLA SPACE SCIENCE CENTER / APRIL 17, 5 P.M.

The Schwob School of Music continues with its Music Under the Dome series with a concert on April 17. Wine and cheese will be served and admission is FREE.

## CARSON MCCULLERS LITERARY FESTIVAL

### BO BARTLETT CENTER / APRIL 20, 7:30 P.M. / APRIL 21, 12 P.M.

The Carson McCullers Literary Festival is designed primarily as a celebration of creative writing for all students. The event will feature public readings, master classes, and student workshops conducted by nationally known writers.

## RIVERFEST & WORLD PADDLEBOARD CHAMPIONSHIP

### UPTOWN AREA / MAY 4, 6:30 P.M. & MAY 5, 8 A.M.

To kick off the 2018 Columbus Whitewater season, Uptown Columbus, Inc. is hosting RiverFest weekend, which will include a concert evening with food & fun for all ages. Admission is FREE all weekend.

## POLITICAL FORUMS AND DEBATES

### UNIVERSITY HALL / MAY 1, 7 P.M.

Columbus State University is partnering with WRBL-TV and PMB Broadcasting to host, televise and, simulcast a series of political forums and debates in 2018. Up to six events are being scheduled to host candidates vying for the Governor’s office, as well as those taking part in the Columbus mayoral election.





# SPRING BREAK CAMPUS UPDATES

*University Support Services used the break to catch up on important projects*



STUDENTS USE THE NEW SOLAR POWERED UMBRELLAS

BY IVEY MILAM

While students and faculty were out for a week spending time with family, de-stressing, and catching up on assignments, CSU's Support Services took advantage of spring break by completing a myriad of projects spread over both campuses. The additional week provided staff with time to prepare both campuses for returning faculty and students. The projects they managed during the break were comprised of two types: recurring and non-recurring.

According to Stephen Morse, senior director of campus services, recurring projects are those that the University Support Services staff "track and repeat on a schedule." These projects can include carpet, elevator, and furniture cleaning, tile scrubbing and waxing, and slat dusting. "These are not the only recurring projects that we do during spring break," Morse said, "but because these can involve safety concerns, we like to let people know when the projects are being conducted." Additionally, recurring projects depend on the time of year. "For example, carpets in a certain building might be cleaned every break--spring, summer, and winter,"

Morse said, "but we might only pressure wash the sidewalk outside of a building during the summer break."

There are also various larger recurring projects that take place during the down time. "One of the big projects that we tackle each break is the realignment of the buildings," Morse said. "During each break, we go into each building, check all

## DESPITE THE HITCHES, THE STAFF OF UNIVERSITY SUPPORT SERVICES WERE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF WORK

common area furniture, reset classrooms to defaults, remove any items that don't belong, and generally make sure the building is ready for students, faculty, and staff to return. We also have recurring projects in several classrooms and labs to tighten feet and backs on chairs and stools. Grounds staff members also have recurring projects like cleaning and pressure washing the parking garage and

cleaning all tents and grills."

The second type of projects that Support Services is in charge of is non-recurring projects. These arise from campus walkthroughs that custodial, grounds, and logistics staff, as well as Morse, lead during which they survey the campuses to record and photograph areas or objects that require attention. They then address problems that demand immediate action or fill out work orders and set time aside for the less pressing concerns. "An example of such projects would be finding damaged furniture that we were unaware of or stains in carpets not already scheduled for routine cleaning," Morse said, "This enables us to add to our list of projects for breaks."

Spring break included a combination of both usual recurring projects and any non-recurring projects from previous walkthroughs. "As you can see, spring break is a crucial time for our department," Morse said. "Our department is definitely a hub of activity throughout Spring Break, and we take advantage of the time to complete maintenance so that the campus is fresh and organized when classes resume after the break." Even with that said, Support Services still encountered a few setbacks and obstacles.

There are a few complications that occur with Support Services' work, but the two main ones are having to postpone projects and working around any faculty, staff, or school events that are present on campus. Some tasks must be pushed to a later date for reasons such as weather conditions. One that had to be rescheduled to a later date in spring this year was a window cleaning project that would have taken place over the break. Both Morse and Director of Custodial Services Carolyn Rockeymore decided that it would be best to wait until the pollen lessened over spring. Also, events that must be worked around include Discovery Day, the Transition Fair for Students with Disabilities, and the Georgia First Robotics/Technology competition.

Despite the hitches, the staff of University Support Services were able to accomplish a considerable amount of work over the course of the break. "University Support Services takes pride in providing a clean, safe, and comfortable environment for students, faculty, and staff," Morse said. "Their needs are a priority, and our pursuit of quality in all that we do mirrors the Cougar pride evident across campus."

# RENOWNED ARTISTS VISIT FOR DIVERSITY FORUM

*Award-winning poet Carlos Andrés Gómez and Grammy winner Chrisette Michele open dialogue on tough topics*



CHRISSETTE MICHELE

BY SYDNEE WILLIAMS

Held at the Cunningham Center on Thursday, March 15, this year's Columbus State University Diversity Forum and Legacy Banquet was a part of the 2018 Legacy Celebration for the event's seventh anniversary and featured award-winning Latino poet, actor, and speaker Carlos Andrés Gómez, as well as Grammy winner, R&B singer and songwriter Chrisette Michele.

Created to engage the Columbus community in dialogue about difficult and serious subjects regarding diversity, inequality, and poverty, the first conference was held in 2012 as a partnership with the Mayor's Commission on Unity, Diversity, and Prosperity. Past speakers have included Bernice King, daughter of Martin Luther King Jr. (2012); journalist, filmmaker, and immigration rights activist Jose Vargas (2015), and TV personality Judge Glenda A. Hatchett (2017).

Gómez, who wrote his memoir "Man Up: Reimagining Modern Manhood," is also star of HBO's "Def Poetry Jam," TV One's "Verses and Flow," and director Spike Lee's movie "Inside Man" with Denzel Washington. He said that his biggest inspiration came from poet Martin Espada. He felt a cultural connection to him from reading his poetry.

Raised by a white, Southern, Protestant mother and Catholic Colombian immigrant father, the number one thing that stuck with him from his childhood is that it's healthy to question. Growing up in a country that wants to be "black and white" makes it difficult for self-identification.

"Don't wait for someone to stand up for you," said Gómez, "Challenge and define the world. If something feels wrong, get out and change it!" He did this with the title of his memoir "Man Up"--his way to reclaim the term and try to change society's perception of masculinity. He strongly believes that each generation should come up with their own definitions of things.

By taking this phrase and making it the title of his book, he is throwing the toxic masculinity back in society's face.

Gómez originally wanted to be a civil rights lawyer. He soon found that he likes to work in many different mediums. He doesn't want to prohibit curiosity. He wants students to know that the most revolutionary work is living your life on your own terms.

Michele spoke about curvy figures and natural hair. According to BET, Michele once said "The truth is an artist like me who doesn't get the type of promotion we see more commercial artists receive, and especially in this climate of the music business, you have to be creative about how you promote yourself."

She went on to speak about her truth during her breakout session, when she spoke about her upbringing and how she got started in music. She recounted having people question the legitimacy of her brother because he had "bright red hair and freckles."

During her first radio interview, the first question Wendy Williams asked was "Are those your real breasts?" As a young woman fresh out of college at the time, Michele didn't know how to respond. She wasn't trained by her team about how to answer such questions. She just wanted to talk about her talent, knowledge, and entrepreneurship. She also mentioned how this seemed to only be an American ideal. In other countries, her interviews would consist of questions about beats, hooks and melodies. She soon learned that curvy was a nice way to say fat.

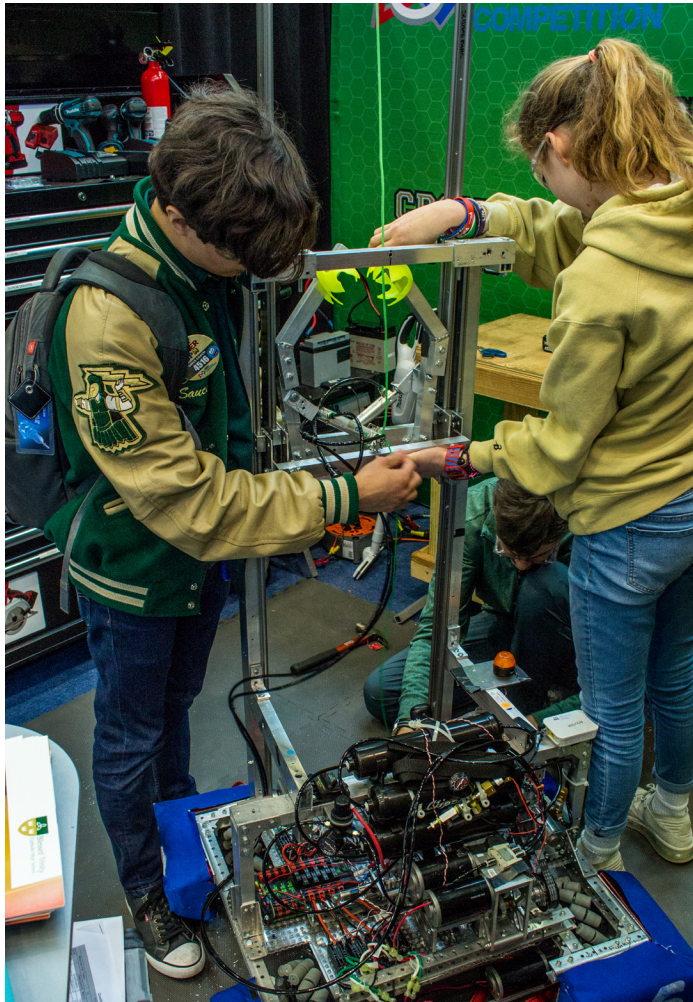
Throughout her session, Michele got a chance to have a dialogue with some people around the room about the treatment that they'd received in certain situations based on physical features. One woman spoke about how people are scared to ask or acknowledge her pregnancy because they are afraid that she just may be overweight. The talk went on with other issues coming up about how skin color and even age can hinder your growth in the workplace.

Speakers covered other topics, including staying engaged in society and not getting closed off in personal problems, and speaking your truth.



CARLOS GÓMEZ  
PHOTO: RAYLYN RAY



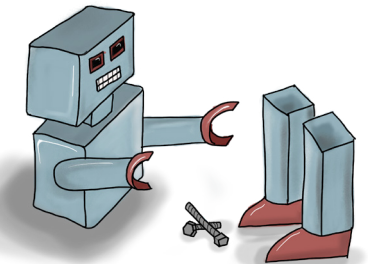
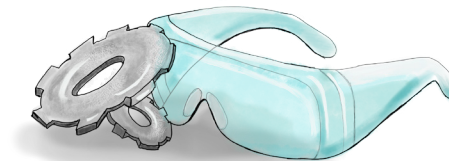
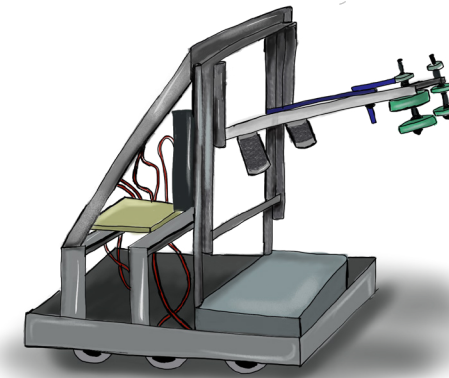


STUDENTS AND TEACHERS PARTICIPATING IN THE "FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION" HELD IN THE CSU LUMPKIN CENTER

# TEAM-BUILT ROBOTS TAKE OVER CSU

*High school students battle it out at CSU*

BY BRIANA WILLIAMS  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY DANI ALCIDE  
PHOTOS BY BO LEWIS



High school students and their team-built robots took over Columbus State University's Lumpkin Center March 23-24 for the Georgia FIRST Robotics competition. The event, created by the nonprofit Georgia FIRST organization, is designed to challenge students interested in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, programs by encouraging them to participate. All high school students and two teachers from schools in Harris County, Muscogee County, Fort Benning and Phenix City were invited to attend the Columbus FIRST Robotics District Competition.

Participating in the robotics competition is no easy task. All participants must form a group to raise funds for their team and robot. With one adult sponsor, the students design, build, program, and name their own robot. The robots are industrial-size, fully-programmed machines designed to perform basic operations. The robots are often remote-controlled and must carry out missions on an immense, packed playing field loaded with obstacles. Ramps, walls, and blocks are all present on the field, making the robot and students' job more difficult. One obstacle besides physical that teams

must face is one that is out of their hands—wireless technology. While the teams are competing, everyone in the building must have all bluetooth devices off, as they have been proven to interfere with the robots' programming and can cause them to stop working properly.

For two days, spectators gathered in the stands to watch students battle it out. On the floor around the course, students rushed around each other to and from their booths. Many of them quickly making repairs, testing their robots programming, and rolling their bots to the playing field. Besides winning, all of these motivated students have goals in mind that set them apart from their competitors.

**FOR TWO DAYS,  
SPECTATORS GATHERED  
IN THE STANDS TO WATCH  
STUDENTS BATTLE IT OUT**

A group of homeschooled students, sponsored by an afterschool program, said that their goal for participating in the FIRST Robotics Competition was to eliminate the stereotype around black

students not being interested in STEM programs. Chippy, the robot they built and programmed, took around nine weeks to finish. Although all of them were proud of how well the robot had been programmed, one student admitted that they were excited to show off "how pretty" the robot's design turned out in the end. The team collectively agreed that the challenges of building a robot were mainly "mechanical," as they had to reconfigure the bot's gear box after competing.

Students from Terrell County High in Dawson, Ga., were also puzzled in the beginning, stating that, "Coming up with the right design was difficult [at first]." Their robot, Shocky, took about six weeks to complete. The team hustled and added an extra piece to their robot before going out to compete again.

East Cobb Robotics and Walton Robotics from Marietta, and W.A.Robotics from College Park were named the District Event winners. The East Cobb Robotics team also won the Excellence in Engineering Award which is sponsored by Delphi Technologies, a major automotive emissions provider. CSU proudly hosted this competition and hopes to do so again in the future.





## “KITES IN A HURRICANE”

*Professors in the art department showcase their work*

STORY BY SCOTTIE DECLUE, PHOTOS BY RAYLYN RAY

Art students at CSU and visiting artists regularly exhibit their work in galleries across RiverPark campus, but this March, eight faculty members of the art department displayed their own artwork on the high, white walls of Illges Gallery inside the Corn Center.

The faculty art exhibition “Kites in a Hurricane” reception was held this March for a mixed group of students, faculty, staff, and art patrons from the Columbus community. More than thirty people attended the two-hour event catered by Aramark. The focus of the exhibition was to explore the distinctiveness of each artist according to the curators Tad Mike and Jonathan Frederick.

“Kites in a Hurricane brings together a disparate body of work by artists all struggling to maintain an honest voice in pursuing their respective work, uninterrupted by the commercial banter of the world,” Mike and Frederick wrote in their exhibition statement. “From poetic brushwork on paper to serene porcelain poems, from smart vinyl graphics to images of quiet urban realities: it is in these spaces ‘in between’ where one can discover a profound beauty.”

The range of artistic styles and mediums used in the exhibition was wide and included everything from small ceramic sculptures and oil on canvas to large photographic plates. The centerpiece of the exhibition was a gigantic metal sculpture composed of wood, metal, canvas, and various plastics suspended by wire near the middle of the gallery.

The untitled piece was a collaboration between the art students and the faculty.

Hannah Israel, an associate art professor and gallery director at CSU, had several pieces from her collection on display, and said that the exhibition was about more than just showcasing artwork.

“It is important for teachers to exhibit because it shows how we are teaching also—the methodology and the application,” said Israel. “We hope that this exhibition reflects rigor and understanding.”

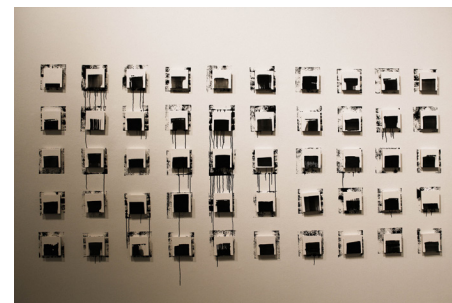
Some students attending the event expressed similar sentiments.

“I came because I wanted to see the works of my professors,” said John Richmond, a junior art major studying sculpture. “We only get to be taught, and this experience allowed us to see some of the methodology in teaching come to life. I feel closer to my teachers now because of this.”

In addition to art professors and students, other members of the CSU community were in attendance. Professor Carey Scott Wilkerson, an assistant professor of creative writing, was drawn to a abstract collection of oil paintings on panels by Professor Orion Wertz.

“There is something political about these works,” said Wilkerson. “I am drawn to the primal beauty of it. There is a rigorous tactility here.”

“Kites” will be on display in Illges Gallery from March 1 until April 14. A new exhibition titled “Senior Thesis” will replace “Kites” beginning April 24. The reception for the new exhibition will be held Saturday, May 1.



### ► PICTURED CLOCKWISE:

RYLAN STEELE, ORION WERTZ, JOE SANDERS, YUICHIRO KOMATSU, UNTITLED BY STUDENTS, HANNAH ISRAEL

FACULTY ARTISTS IN THE EXHIBITION INCLUDED HANNAH ISRAEL, YUICHIRO KOMATSU, ELIZABETH ROBERT MCFALLS, MICHAEL MCFALLS, NICHOLAS MCMILLAN, JOE SANDERS, RYLAN STEELE, AND ORION WERTZ.

## THE BEAUTIFICATION OF COLUMBUS REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

*New public artwork draws more appeal to Uptown Columbus*



CSU STUDENTS VISITING THE SCULPTURES AT FRANK BROWN HALL

STORY BY IVEY MILAM

PHOTOS BY RAYLYN RAY & JCOLE

Beautification is the act of improving the appearance of a community, and according to Useful Community Development, it “increases property values, attracts businesses, and improves the neighborhood’s image.” It can be anything from planting new shrubs, flowers, or trees to repainting signs and park benches.

As a constantly developing city, Columbus continues to adopt more initiatives for beautification, and several of these can be witnessed in downtown. One of the most eye-catching examples of Columbus’s beautification efforts is the public artwork--sculptures, statues, and murals that line the streets and buildings. Artistic pieces have been springing up all over Columbus, and people are taking notice of the visual improvements they bring. “The artwork scattered throughout downtown Columbus’s streets illuminates the city with creativity, artistry, and character,” said Gracie Metcalf, a freshman double majoring in dance and dance therapy. “Many aspiring artists and creators are given the chance to not only share their passions but also to effectively beautify Columbus with their talent.”

Several works of public art are located on the RiverPark campus, especially at buildings such as Frank Brown Hall. One of the more recent installations is that of the Fall Line sculptures Colorado artist Pard Morrison constructed and painted in October 2017. The assembly of pillar-like aluminum structures start in the northern courtyard outside of the building and continue inside until they reach the southern courtyard. Their title alludes to the geographical fall line that cuts through Georgia from Columbus to Augusta, and the vibrant geometric exteriors of the sculptures each have a solid blue line that spans the structure.

“The work replicates the natural course of the river from north to south as each of the six sculptural elements span from the northern courtyard, through the building and spill out into the southern courtyard,” says a plaque near the sculptures outside of the building. “While each of the elements will vary in scale, height and chromatic complexity, they are all unified by a single, horizontal blue band representing the flow of the water over the Fall Line.”

The impactful presence of artwork like the Fall Line sculptures is evidenced by the reactions of students who frequent the downtown area. “The artwork downtown has immensely contributed to its beautification and also helps to inspire myself and many other students,” said sophomore and art major Joshua

Richmond, “The new addition of the Fall Line sculptures at Frank Brown Hall is a wonderful addition to the art downtown and I’m excited for more to come!” Jordan Kent, a freshman majoring in art, also commented on the effects of the artwork. “Having art downtown is pretty great. It involves students in the community and shows the community the artists that reside here.

Also it makes the streets more interesting. I like the modern look [of the Fall Line sculptures].”

Another art project that has spurred the beautification of Columbus--and Phenix City--is titled “My River Valley” and was inspired by the poetry of Northside High School theater teacher Isiah M. Harper. “My River Valley” is a series of murals painted by local artists Garry Pound, Najee Dorsey, Butch Anthony, Sally Bradley, and R.C. Hagans. Although no specific locations have been named yet, the works of Bradley, Pound, and Dorsey can be found in Columbus, and the work by Anthony and Hagans can be found in Phenix City.







## PERSPECTIVE: MARCH FOR OUR LIVES

*From 300 to 70,000, a look at the Protest from Columbus to Atlanta*

BY TONI STAUFFER  
& SYDNEE WILLIAMS  
PHOTOS BY RAYLYN RAY

Columbus is not considered to be a hotbed of activism by most, but there have been times when citizens have taken to the streets. Saturday, March 24, became such a day when people across the nation participated in the “March for Our Lives” protest. Columbus, a little-big riverside city of about 200,000 residents, had somewhere around 300 in attendance at an uptown march and earned a blurb in The Washington Post to show how even small city residents were speaking out; Atlanta, an hour-and-half to the northeast, had approximately 70,000 protesters. The “March for Our Lives” movement began after the tragic shooting at a high school in Parkland, Florida that took the lives of 17 people-- 14 students and three teachers, one in what many consider to be an epidemic of gun violence. The survivors have come together with growing support from their community and many in the nation in an attempt to persuade the government to change and strengthen federal and state gun laws.

► **PICTURED RIGHT:**  
PROTESTERS  
RALLY AT  
LIBERTY  
PLAZA IN  
ATLANTA,  
GA.

### ► QUOTES:

**“I think the laws right now are way too lenient,”** gun owner and Florida resident Michael said. “You should not be able to buy an assault rifle at 18. Everything should be at least 21. I’m pro guns, but I’m also pro stricter gun laws.”

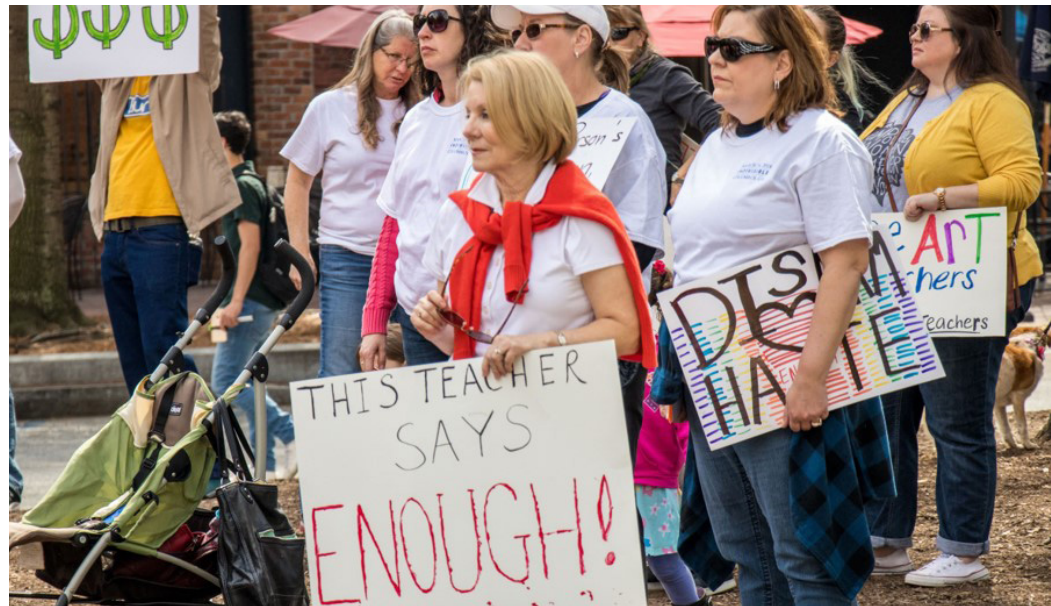
**“I’m a retired educator and I don’t want my fellow educators to have to carry guns,”** District 12 Senate candidate Lillian Burnaman said. “I think Georgia needs to improve the medical care, the infrastructure, and the water quality. We need some new people at the assembly.”

Prior to arriving at the March for Our Lives Protest, I was excited and slightly scared – I’d never been to a protest or a march before. The march in Atlanta started with speakers from the Parkland shooting and local government leaders. The most compelling speech for me was given by Congressman John Lewis. I had heard of his legacy in years past, and the fact that I was in the same vicinity as him was surreal. The march started in Centennial Olympic Parks and ended in front of the Atlanta Capital building in Liberty Plaza. There were chants going on during the March that included “Whose streets? Our streets! Whose schools? Our schools!” and “Vote them out!” Many students were calling for change in legislation and for their fellow 18 year-olds to register to vote and begin change now. While I was there, I took a voter registration card and got registered myself –real activism is when you hit the polls. Now I can truly say that I was part of something bigger than myself.

Sydnee Williams







# COLUMBUS, GA







ATLANTA, GA





RIVERA PRACTICING HIS FRENCH OBOE IN A SCHWOB STUDIO

## REEDS AND REWARDS

*How CSU inspired this music student to dream big*

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SCOTTIE DECLUE

Eder Rivera knew that his home country Honduras would not allow him to achieve his dreams of performing music professionally, but those dreams became reality when he discovered the Columbus State Schwob School of Music and an inspirational music professor who saw his potential.

Rivera, a senior and music performance major plays the oboe and was recently awarded the prestigious 2018 Yamaha Young Performing Artists award— one of several awards to add to his growing portfolio. Rivera's contest entry included compositions by Antonio Vivaldi and Gilles Silvestrini. He competed against musicians from some of the most well-established music schools in the country to include The Berklee College of Music, The Music Institute of Chicago Academy, and the Manhattan School of Music. Rivera attributes a major part of his success to professor Susan Tomkiewicz, his teacher and mentor from Schwob.

"Dr. Tomkiewicz has helped me greatly in this," Rivera said. "She has taught me to trust in myself and challenge myself, and I could not have done this without her help and guidance as well as the help I have received from the rest of the faculty." Tomkiewicz is an Associate Professor of Oboe and director of the RiverPark Honors program.

Rivera discovered Tomkiewicz by researching Schwob while he was still living in Honduras and attending high school. His brother Mario, who was studying viola at Schwob in 2014, encouraged him to research the school and try to enroll to pursue his dreams of playing professionally. Rivera would eventually see the journey to America through, but not before overcoming a major obstacle – Rivera could not speak English.

"I did not speak any English when I lived in Honduras, but I fell in love with Dr. Tomkiewicz's work, and I fell in love with CSU. I started dreaming about the possibility of coming to America, so I did," Rivera said. "In 2015, I came to Columbus and enrolled in the English Language Institute where I learned to speak English. I do love Honduras – the people are warm, and the country is

beautiful – but the political situation made things difficult, and it made it very hard to pursue music."

Honduras, according to the Central Intelligence Agency, is the second poorest country in Central America, and suffers from extraordinarily unequal distribution of income as well as high underemployment. The country is peppered with radical political factions that often initiate violent conflict and make it a difficult place to live and travel through.

"America is the place to pursue your dreams and make those dreams come true," Rivera said. "It is so hard to dream in Honduras. As soon as I came here, it made it easier to accomplish my aspirations."

While he attended high school in the mornings, Rivera attended night classes at the Escuela de Música Victoriano López in San Pedro, Honduras. It was in San Pedro where he fell in love with the oboe. "I originally wanted to play the cello, but my mother said it would be too expensive," Rivera said. "My music teacher saw me pick up the oboe and told me it looked natural. The rest is history."

Rivera, who also plays piano, guitar, saxophone, and bassoon, plans on obtaining his masters and, eventually, a doctorate in musical performance, and someday hopes to play in a major orchestra either in the US, or in a foreign country. "My dream job would be playing for the Chicago Symphony," Rivera said. "I think that playing in another country would also be an exciting opportunity."

In addition to the Yamaha Young Performing Artists award, Rivera has also won the 2016 Texas Young Artist Competition in the category for oboe, as well as other state and regional competitions he entered through Schwob. He will attend a symposium in Indiana this summer to receive his Yamaha award, where he will also perform his contest entries.

"To future students considering CSU: don't think twice about coming here," Rivera said. "This is the place where you can be yourself and be in a creative academic atmosphere. I would do it again in a heartbeat."



RIVERA MAKES HIS REEDS BY HAND

## FROM COLUMBUS TO ENGLAND: PROFESSOR GOES ON TOUR

*Michelle Folta prepares to take 60 chorus students abroad*

BY BRIANA WILLIAMS

This summer, Columbus's quickly growing chorus will be heading to Europe. The Voices of the Valley chorus will travel Europe to perform in cathedrals in Norwich and London over their 10-day tour. The director of the chorus is CSU's Michelle Herring-Folta, Ph.D.

When she's not teaching music education downtown at the Schwob School of Music, Herring-Folta directs the Voices of the Valley children's chorus. Folta helped mold the local chorus into what it is today. Compared to when she was first involved with the chorus in 2015, it has more than doubled in size and has more exposure. Voices of the Valley has performed with the Columbus Symphony, the West Georgia Choral Festival, and in a local production of The Nutcracker. Folta set out to give the chorus a mission, "How are we changing lives through music? How are we engaging with the community?"

The chorus ranges from ages 9 through 16 and is comprised of children from regional schools and homeschooling programs. As the artistic director of the thriving chorus, Folta relies on her experienced accompanist

Sam Brown and three student assistants. Columbus High School chorus student Julia Lester and junior Schwob students Katherine Holbrook and Olivia McWaters help Folta and her students on and off the stage when performing. Folta takes pride in all of her students and genuinely wants to help them in the world of music. She expresses that she wants to help her students "musically and as a person."

On July 16th, the chorus will travel to Norwich, England for ten days. They will perform in multiple concerts as well as view historic sites. The Voices of the Valley chorus will be world premiering a commissioned piece, meaning that the music was written specifically for this chorus. The group has never traveled abroad as a whole before. About taking this big of a group abroad for the first time, Folta states, "The most thrilling part is to provide a life changing experience for students." So far, the group has raised \$300.00 out of their \$200,000 goal. To learn more about the nonprofit organization and donate, visit their official website at <http://www.voicesofthevalleychorus.org>.



PROFESSOR HERRING-FOLTA CONDUCTING

## TOUR DE CHOW: WASABI

STORY BY VIVIAN DUNCAN



THE SUSHI ROLLS WERE PARTICULARLY GOOD

When you enter Wasabi Sushi and Thai restaurant, take a moment to appreciate the clean, modern decor, complete with neon, color-changing lighting. The dark-brown, almost black-stained, wooden tables, stylish stone walls, fancy bar, and modern light fixtures are countered by Japanese-style statues that sit above almost every table. The restaurant looks almost like a club, but the ambient lighting and soft music give it a comfortable, easy atmosphere. Located at 1639 Bradley Park Drive, Wasabi Sushi and Thai serves up Japanese and Thai cuisines and sushi for lunch from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and reopens for dinner from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. Takeout is available.

The lunch menu has prices ranging from \$7-\$10 and consists of choices from reliable pad Thai to squid curry. The dinner menu prices are a little higher, but with generous portion sizes. Hibachi ranges from \$13-\$30 depending on whether or not you want lobster and scallops or chicken. Entrees average around \$13.

The most impressively priced area of the menu, though, is the sushi menu. With over 56 rolls to choose from, you are sure to find something to suit your taste, even as a vegetarian. If you are just starting to branch out to sushi, try something classic and simple like the Alaskan roll, which has mild flavor, but a good mix of textures from the contrast of the creamy avocado with the crunchy cucumber.

If your sushi taste buds are a bit more refined, try the New York roll, which has crispy salmon skin topped with eel sauce, giving it a flavor almost like barbecued seafood and having a menagerie of texture. All sushi rolls are served with wasabi, your choice of regular or low-sodium soy sauce, and fresh, pickled ginger.

For a dish specific to Wasabi, the "Amazing Curry" is the restaurant's most notable meal. It consists of their famous peanut curry sauce and coconut milk poured with your choice of meat over a bed of spinach with steamed broccoli, and topped with chopped peanuts. All of the curry on the dinner menu also comes with a side of jasmine rice. The Amazing Curry definitely is worth ordering if you enjoy various curries, but watch out if you are not a fan of peanuts! The dish is loaded with the flavor of peanuts and curry.

Overall, Wasabi is definitely one of the best Japanese cuisine restaurants in Columbus to get more bang for your buck, making it an especially good choice for date night. The nice decor, polite and prompt service, and large serving sizes make it an excellent restaurant.



Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos has been criticized from the very beginning of her appointment due to her lack of a background and experience in education among other reasons. Recently, DeVos came under fire on social media for her shocking responses on a “60 Minutes” interview with host Lesley Stahl. When asked if she had seen the “really bad schools” in her home state of Michigan to try to figure out what they are doing, DeVos admitted she had not, but said that maybe she should. Several CSU students were shown a short clip from the interview and asked their opinion. A link to the full video can be found at [cbsnews.com](https://www.cbsnews.com).

JANELLE WILLIAMS

JUNIOR  
MAJOR : BIOLOGY

“I have family in Michigan, and I think it’s crazy, because the public schools are not doing well....the violence there and the gangs, the public schools need the help. She just thinks that private schools are better than public schools.”

TED FRYAR, IV

“SUPER” SENIOR  
MAJOR : EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCES ENVS

“I don’t think that you should break it all down in such a segmented view point to where you can’t focus on what the issue is. So, taking funding away from [public] schools and giving [funding] toward private schools, and saying that it’s going to help the public schools...I don’t understand what the thought process behind take ‘money away- they’ll get better,’ like it seems really counterintuitive and I don’t think she knows what she’s doing.”

Reaction to 60 Minutes interview  
with Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos

STORY BY RAYLYN RAY



IM



JASMINE WALLACE

DUAL-ENROLLMENT, HARRIS COUNTY  
MAJOR : NURSING

“It just makes no sense... like you don’t take money from a public school because that’s where all the kids go that can’t afford a private school. So, why would you make it harder for kids to get an education? I went to private school until like third grade, and I mean I didn’t really like it because they had fundraisers and stuff, but me and my brother, one time we didn’t raise enough money in our fundraiser so my parents had to pay extra to get in. I mean like if you had the money as a child to get that it would be okay, but I feel like there is no difference in a public and private school other than you have to pay for one.”



PARIS WARNER

SOPHMORE  
MAJOR : NURSING

“I don’t really agree that you should take funding away from schools that are doing [bad] because from what I believe, The schools that aren’t doing well probably consist of kids that are probably struggling financially in their families, or minorities. I don’t think taking the money from the school would necessarily make it better. I think they probably wouldn’t [do better]. I don’t really agree though. I feel like taking funding away would [not] make [the struggling schools] improve.”



AT



► VERBATIM SUBJECT: BETSY DEVOS  
Betsy DeVos, Secretary of Education appointed by President Trump, is the subject of heavy debate and was interviewed on “60 Minutes” this March.



ANDRE BURKS

SENIOR  
MAJOR : CRIMINAL JUSTICE

“It’s obvious that she’s lying. She doesn’t know what in the world she’s talking about. She was appointed by President Donald Trump; she was definitely unqualified to take that position, and she just needs to do a lot more research because she knows nothing. She doesn’t have any knowledge about the school system, what works and what doesn’t work, [or] the institutions of higher learning. Taking away funding from regular general public schools and putting [the funding] in private schools is a bad idea. There are a lot of students that still go here; we need the funding for a million and one different reasons: computers, books, more buildings, better teachers, food, and housing--you know, everything. But she wants to take [the funding] and send it to private schools. Why?... She was appointed by the President, and God bless him--he is our commander in chief, but he made a bad move by appointing her [as the Secretary of Education].”

VERBATIM



► **Chokers** came back in style around 2016, and now we can buy shirts with a built-in choker. Model Ariel Larson pairs a “**choker-shirt**” with light denim shorts.



**VISUAL**  
MERCHANDISING  
MANAGER FROM  
FOREVER 21, ELLE  
MORGAN, AND  
SENIOR SUPERVISOR  
AT CHARLOTTE RUSSE,  
SHABREKA OWENS, SAID  
THIS SPRING’S FASHION  
TRENDS INCLUDE FLORAL  
PATTERNS, DRESSES  
AND BRIGHT COLORS.  
HERE ARE SOME OTHER  
TRENDS FOR THE  
SEASON.



► **Off-the-shoulder** shirts are a necessity. DeValle is pictured in a dark blue off-the-shoulder shirt with white designs.

## HOW’S YOUR *Fashion* GAME?

*Stay in style this  
spring with some  
helpful fashion tips*



BY MARIAH JACKSON  
PHOTOS BY AMBRIA  
MORRIS

► **Rompers** are always a great choice for a go-to spring outfit. Owens says that **chunky heels** are coming back this season. Our model, Jasmine DeValle pairs her chunky heels with her romper with **floral print belt** around.



► Morgan and Owens agree that **maxi-dresses** make the cut for spring trends. DeValle has a floral maxi-dress on with a large **v-cut**, and she pairs it with a pair of **black heels**.





# OUT OF THE CLOSET AND INTO THE WORLD

*Why Tyler Parks collects 'coming out' stories*

**S**enior Tyler Parks is a Diversity Peer Educator with the Columbus State University Diversity Office. Pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre with a focus on design/tech, Parks began his training to be a Diversity Peer Educator his freshman year and joined the diversity team his sophomore year. Parks began collecting and printing "coming out" stories from the CSU community during his first year with the office.

BY SYDNEE WILLIAMS  
ILLUSTRATION BY  
ASHLEY PETERSON

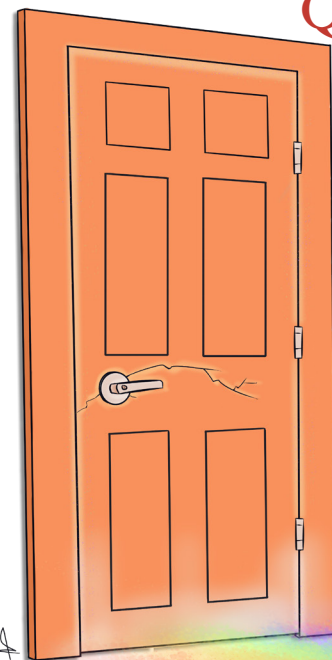
their story to someone else who is now reading their story. That person reading may need to hear that story in order to give them courage or whatever they may need. I just want to provide that opportunity for attendants of Columbus State to feel not so alone in a world that can get very lonely at times for LGBTQIA+ individuals.

**Q** *How do you identify and what pronouns do you use?* I am a black, queer, cis-male. The pronouns that I identify with are he/him.

**Q** *Why do you want coming out stories?* I am asking for coming out stories from my campus in order to make a community feel accepted. I want to use their stories to make others feel like they are not alone.

**Q** *What are you going to do with the stories?* Every year since I started as a Diversity Peer Educator I have asked the community of Columbus State for their coming out stories and a smiling photo of themselves. I take those two elements, connect them together and then print them. Once they are printed on the first day of Pride Week every year the amazing people that felt so inclined to share their powerful stories are revealed.

I do this to prove that even though someone's coming out story may not be the best or most uplifting, they still made it through. They can smile today and be able to tell



**Q** *What else does Diversity Services have planned for the LGBTQIA+ community this school year?* Be on the look for our upcoming pride week events. The week starts on April 23 and will be featuring many events highlighting the LGBTQIA+ community. On the 24th, we will have "Behind the Drag," where we will be teaching everyone how to beat a mean mug (Columbus Room 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.). On the 26th, come out and Tie-Dye "with a twist" with your Diversity Peer Educators (11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Main Campus on the front lawn / 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the Rankin Livery). April 27 from 12 p.m. - 2 p.m., stop by the Caf to learn about Day of Silence!

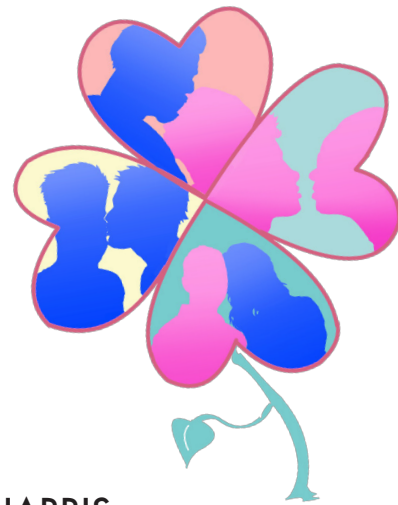


# SCHOLASTIC HONORS CONVOCATION



**University Hall Auditorium**  
**April 27, 2018 - 2:00 pm**





*The evolution of dating and relationships in college*

APRIL 12, 2018 | *The Saber* | 27



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