A DREAMER AMONG US

A NURSING STUDENT SHARES HER STORY AND PERSPECTIVE ON DACA
EDITOR’S LETTER

BY SCOTTIE A. DECLUE

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For October, I’m not surprised that I sometimes break a sweat when walking between my classes, as the heat index seems to hover around 80 degrees fahrenheit most days during the first part of fall. For those of you that are new to Columbus, that’s normal around here. For me, like many others, I have class every day of the week, so I’m on campus pretty much all the time. That means I do a lot of walking. Strolling around campus is pretty neat though, because I get to see a lot of interesting things.

I see organizations taking action by promoting their groups at various events and functions at the clocktower; I see students huddled around tables outside of the library between classes, collaborating on projects while trying to get in a quick lunch; I watch administrators survey the campus, most likely discussing growth and change; I hear the rebar saws and jackhammers cracking and cutting the ground to make way for the new addition to the LeNoir science wing; and I notice the new roof on the library slowly make progress. And, that’s just on Main Campus.

As a source of news for the CSU community, we find it important to report on as many aspects of this University as we can in order to help you stay informed and entertained. To better acquire this breadth of coverage, we have transitioned to a beat system that allows us to focus on more specific topics. In this issue, we cover art, music, entertainment, academics, athletics, teacher and student profiles, lifestyle, study abroad, and even politics—those are just the features.

Even with all this great coverage, there is still plenty of room to do better, and you can play a part in that improvement. If you think you have information that is newsworthy, please reach out to us: write us a press release, write us a letter, send us your pictures or videos, or just drop by and let us know what is on your mind.
EDITOR’S LETTER

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PICTURED ABOVE: On exhibit from Aug. 22 to Sept. 23 in the CSU Art Lab was Ceramicist Courtney Ryan’s “Domestic Consumption.” This multi-piece ceramic sculpture collection explored the nature of domestic spaces overrun by decay and the complex relationships people have with materials.

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THESE FEATURES AND MORE TO BE FOUND IN THIS PUBLICATION

COVER PICTURE: A depiction of the anonymous DACA DREAMer, a nursing student at CSU.
Beginning Oct. 19, students and members of the public will be able to learn more about the ancient history of the surrounding geographical areas of Fort Benning. Danielle Cook, part-time lecturer in Columbus State University’s Anthropology Department, has helped in the creation of an excavation site.

For the last six months, Cook has been hard at work constructing an excavation site that is not only immersive but also extremely educational. This dig site will be part of a science tour for Fort Benning’s centennial celebration, which will take visitors from the Natural Resource Education Center on Fort Benning, to a trip down the Riverwalk, and will conclude at Oxbow Meadows (fee applies).

The tour will begin with a mini-lecture and after visitors will be guided out to the site where center labels and holes will be available for the public to see what an actual archaeological excavation site looks like and how the site operates.

Many schools around Columbus are looking to set a field trip for their students as this site will be a limited-time experience, ending in October 2018. Cook encourages everyone to come. Visitors will be able to participate in free activities from inspecting and manipulation artifacts to actually digging themselves; for kids, there will be a sand table to explore.

Cook’s main goal will be to give CSU students who are interested in archaeology a way to learn from an actual site and not just from a classroom. Cook explains that she will offer a course during the January term called Discovering Archaeology, which will take full advantage of the new excavation site.

Those students who are not intending to take Cook’s class in January but still want a way to get involved are welcome to volunteer by contacting Cook. Volunteering tasks could range from helping guide tours to transporting visitors. And for students who want a more in-depth experience, the history department is in the early stages of setting up internships.
Music was my refuge. I could crawl into the space between the notes and curl my back to loneliness.

-Maya Angelou

The Angelou String Quartet—made up of Columbus State University sophomores Aisha Saif, Nikko White, Rae Baker, and junior Maalik Germany-Glover—is a student-organized group that exists through the Schwob School of Music. Saif and Germany-Glover play the violin, White plays the viola, and Baker plays the cello. The quartet formed in fall of 2016 and intend to remain together after they graduate from CSU. The four students have been playing their instruments between nine and eleven years. The quartet named their group after Maya Angelou “because of her artistry and background,” said Maalik Germany Glover, “and because of her case of reaching audiences as a role model.”

“Music was my refuge. I could crawl into the space between the notes and curl my back to loneliness.”

-Maya Angelou

While the students formed the group on their own, they rehearse and perform through Schwob. They have lessons with the string faculty every week and perform at convocation, chamber recitals, and outreach concerts. The quartet believes what they do is important. “There are not many black quartets,” said Saif. The Angelou String Quartet loves having the opportunity to show others the diversity and opportunity music provides.

The group agrees that diversity, both among the faculty and the students at Schwob, is one of the best aspects of the music school. Most of the faculty is not from the southeast, and the different perspectives in addition to the small class sizes create “an intimate environment,” said Germany-Glover. “We aren’t seen as a number like in other large schools,” said Baker. “We are seen as ourselves.” Schwob’s student body is diverse. The faculty goes to other countries to find people to recruit, making the competition intense.

Even though the music school is near conservatory level, the students are still required to take core classes. The intense practice schedule in addition to the academic classes that Schwob students have to take creates a difficult load for students to handle. “[Even though] it is not your average college experience,” said Saif, “there are no regrets.”

Schwob is a place where students get to discover themselves. According to White, every member of the Schwob School of Music gets to “find what kind of musician they are.” Because of the location of the school, not many people outside of the surrounding community know that Schwob exists. “Being in Georgia especially sets the school apart,” said White. Germany-Glover said he “didn’t even know about the school until senior year.” Since the school is so small, discovering their style is easier, which makes CSU’s music program, as Saif puts it, the “hidden gem of the south.”
College athletes’ lives often leave no time for anything but academics and training, and many college athletes realize this is true. For Columbus State University’s Cassandra Wade and Madeline Goodfellow, academics come before training. Coach Jay Entlich is no doubt impressed by the Lady Cougars’ ability to shine both on the field and within the community.

Each year, Coach Entlich has had three to five starting freshmen. The younger players are important to the program because they can step into position right away and “compete for a starting job.” He encourages his team to prioritize their academics. The only way a soccer player is allowed to miss class is if they are playing a team that requires a few hours to travel. Most girls will come an hour early or stay late at practice for extra one-on-one training. Two days a week, coach Entlich requires the girls to lift weights to build strength.

He has gotten to know his players well over the duration of their time on the team. Leadership is seen throughout the team, but especially in Madeline Goodfellow and Cassandra Wade. Both players coach a U-4 soccer team of Columbus Youth Soccer, participate in servant leadership, the Honors College, and have participated in different study abroad programs.

Goodfellow is a freshman business major. Coach Entlich describes her as a defensive center back. The position requires the player to protect the goal at all times. Goodfellow has three classes a day. After her classes, she naps and goes to practice before studying. Unlike other athletes, she doesn’t follow a diet other than staying away from soft drinks. Goodfellow’s goal is to “win a national championship, especially for all the seniors who have been here all four years.

Wade says Goodfellow is a “solid” team player; “whenever the ball goes to her, [Wade’s] not scared when she gets it.” Goodfellow agrees she is a hard worker and says she never gives up on a ball. The one team member she looks up to is Brooke Nail.

She plays a position in front of Goodfellow and enjoys talking to her during the games because she believes it is important to stay connected as a team.

Wade is a senior English major. Coach Entlich describes her as an attacking player, the “play-maker” of the team, and the one who controls the ball. She has two classes every day, with practicing and studying afterwards. Wade “will eat anything and everything,” and shares a similar goal to Goodfellow’s—the hope to win a national championship. The team has been close to winning with Wade playing in the game her sophomore year. She wants the freshman to have the experience of playing in a national championship like she did. Wade is always the one to calm the girls down and believes she brings a calming effect to the team. She also looks up to Brooke Nail and Olivia Jarrell. Nail and Jarrell are two juniors that started the team with a class of thirteen girls. They are the only two that have continued to make it each year. To Wade, that is respectable.

The girls on CSU’s soccer team work hard every day. There are numerous hours of work during the week and on the weekends, that go into making improvement. Coach Entlich describes Goodfellow and Wade as “no different; they’re always asking how they can get better.”

There are numerous hours of work during the week and on the weekends that go into making improvements.
EXTENDING A HAND TO VICTIMS OF BULLYING

The Anti-Bullying Society pledges to help those in need

BY IVEY MILAM
ILLUSTRATION BY KILEY ANDERSON

Kanisha Hicks is no stranger to the issues posed by bullying. She first experienced it in kindergarten. Over time, this developed into depression, and she started taking medication. However, she soon found the side effects were much worse than the depression, so she quit her medication and chose to face it.

As Hicks battled her demons, friends contacted her and shared their own stories. During these times, Hicks pushed her own hardships aside to address the pain of others. She took time out of her day to sit down and listen to those friends. “Sometimes, it really just takes someone listening to you,” said Hicks.

Her friends weren’t the only ones being helped by having someone lend an ear, for she also reaped rewards. “It helps me to help another person,” said Hicks. “I don’t mind missing sleep for that.” She then began contemplating ways to spread healing to people outside of her group of friends. It wasn’t until tenth grade that she established an organization to combat the effects of bullying.

Hicks founded the Anti-Bullying Squad in November of 2012. What started as a mass of ideas blossomed into an official organization at Cairo High School in Cairo, Georgia. Initially, the counselors told her that it would never work. Contrary to their conviction, the Anti-Bullying Squad, since renamed the Anti-Bullying Society, is still thriving.

Be the change you want to see

In 2015, Hicks bought the rights to her organization so that she could “operate on a larger scale.” A year later, she introduced the society to Columbus State University. There, she is a sophomore who is currently majoring in Secondary Education with a concentration in Literature. “The transition is slightly difficult because...I have to do everything until I get a reliable team behind me,” said Hicks.

According to the society’s constitution, their purpose is to “motivate and inspire individuals who have been victims of bullying to know their self worth and unleash their awesomeness.” One way that the organization motivates people is a method known as Random Acts of Kindness (RAKS). RAKS involves someone going out and acting selflessly in hopes of brightening another person’s day. “It’s an everyday thing, like smiling,” said Hicks. She believes that this method is the most effective because even small gestures can have a profound impact on others.

The organization’s motto is, “Be the change you want to see.” Hicks based this motto around the idea that if you want a positive change to transpire, you must play a role in helping it to. The logo, an image of two hands stretching to meet at the center of a circle, was tailored to fit a similar concept. “Pretty much, it’s the world, and we’re reaching [out],” explained Hicks. She described it as a symbol of help and union. “If you reach halfway, we’ll meet you there. Together, we can have anti-bullying.”

At the Anti-Bullying Society, any CSU student can become a member. If you plan to join, you must fill out an application and pay dues, which are $15 per semester. Once you gain membership, you are allowed to participate in voting, be elected as an officer, and propose new ideas for group activities or events. There are monthly chapter meetings and daily interactions through social media, text, or Skype so that members can stay in touch. The chapter meetings take place at least once a month and include parties, games, movie showings, and barbecues.

The Anti-Bullying Society acts for the well-being of not only CSU but the entire city, and it does this through community service. “We really want to bridge the gap between college and community life,” said Hicks. “We can make the space a better place by keeping a smile on our face.” Some of her service projects will be canned food drives, gift collections, and a Janitor Appreciation Day.

In addition to arranging volunteer work outside of school, the society offers a mentoring program. “It was a program where I would take a group of high school students and show them different life skills,” said Hicks. Some of her lessons are “how to go to the bank, how to monitor credit, [and] how to survive in college.” Others concentrate on scholarships and college applications. Nevertheless, each lesson prepares students for the future and emboldens them to pursue their goals.

The mentoring program pairs up a member from the Anti-Bullying Society with a middle school or high school student based on comparable backgrounds and interests. Mentors are required to complete a written application, attend an interview with a member of the Awesome Committee (a committee of students in charge of the mentoring program), and attend training sessions that illuminate the objectives of the program. Mentees must fill out an application that has a parent/guardian consent form. Applications include questions concerning basic information, such as email, interests, strengths, and schedule to ensure that each pair is matched correctly. Pairs meet weekly for two to three hours, and phone calls or emails are arranged a week before the meeting dates.

Hicks also encourages parents to become mentors. “A lot of negative behavior starts at home, so if I could get the parents involved and change their mindset, then that would eliminate a substantial amount of the negative behavior,” she said. “A person really wants the love and support of their parents.”

While Hicks has had a significant impact on other people because of her experiences with bullying, she still finds herself being asked the same question: If you could remove bullying from your past, would you? Her answer is a resounding no. “I would go through [bullying] all over again. If I was never bullied, I wouldn’t be the Kanisha I am today.”

The first entrance ceremony for the Anti-Bullying Society will be held on Sept. 7 at 6 p.m. The tentative location is room 237 in the Student Center for Commerce and Technology building. You can contact Hicks for more details at khicksdebate@gmail.com or 229-454-6095.

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LEFT BEHIND
Abandoned pets in the wake of Hurricane Irma leads to a moral discussion

BY TONYA STREETER
ILLUSTRATION BY KAYLEIGH DICKSON

A
fter Hurricane Katrina decimated New Orleans in 2005, many abandoned pets lingered amidst flood waters, waiting for their families to return. Many families never did. Owners were faced with a hard decision: to be left behind with their pets or be rescued without them. According to The Washington Post, general population shelters, such as The American Red Cross, would not take in animals because of health and safety concerns, resulting in many families being separated from their pets for good. As a result, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act was passed in 2006, which required states to adjust emergency plans to include mandatory pet evacuation, care of rescued animals, and animal response teams.

Despite efforts to aid pets in disasters, many of the same problems arose with recent hurricanes, Harvey and Irma. More animals were rescued thanks to the lesson offered by Katrina, but many of those rescued were being taken to separate facilities—a frustrating experience for the pets and their owners. Many pet owners preferred to risk their lives along with their pets rather than be separated from them.

In Columbus, animal-only shelters, like Paws Humane, have done what they can for animals abandoned and displaced by Irma. Paws, a no-kill shelter, has taken in 43 cats and 34 dogs since the storm and is expecting to receive a few more, according to Bobbi Yeo, CEO. Paws hopes to reunite some animals with their owners, but can only keep them for so long before they must be adopted, since the animals are being housed in a warehouse borrowed from Flournoy & Calhoun Realty.

20-30%
of all human evacuation failures can be attributed to pet ownership

Though progress is being made, animal evacuation plans are far from ideal.

On a national scale, countless organizations have accepted donations specifically for pet rescue in Texas and Florida. Though progress is being made, animal evacuation plans are far from ideal. Since Irma ripped through Columbus, it is clear that residents need to be aware of what they can do for their pets in the event of a natural disaster.

The best way for pet owners to ensure that their pets are safe during natural disasters is to prepare. Yeo stressed the importance of microchipping pets and making sure they have a collar and ID tag. Many animal advocate organizations, such as the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), have posted advice and specific steps for owners to take on their websites, such as creating emergency kits for pets and arranging to stay at a pet-friendly shelter ahead of evacuation. “Our pets are full members of our families,” said Yeo. “We owe it to them to take care of them and keep them safe.”

Hurricanes develop every year, and these problems are not going away.

20-30%
of all human evacuation failures can be attributed to pet ownership

100,000
Estimated number of pets left behind as a result of Hurricane Katrina

70,000
Estimated number of pets who died as a result of Hurricane Katrina
As midterms approach, try a few of these tips to bring a little hygge in your life to help deal with stress. Remember to take a moment between study breaks to slow down and appreciate the simple things that bring joy to your life.
The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program was created in 2012 through executive order by the Obama administration. According to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services there are 800,000 DACA recipients in the U.S. DACA allows youth brought into the United States illegally by their parents to get a pardon from deportation. Recipients gain the right to work, study, and obtain driver’s licenses.
WHILE MOST STUDENTS MAY NOT BE ABLE TO identify a DREAMer in their class, they most likely encounter them. One CSU nursing major is a DACA recipient. When she was two years old her family came to the United States from Mexico in search of opportunity. Since coming to the U.S., this student has tried to live her life like any other U.S. citizen.

“When I was younger, I didn’t know I wasn’t born in the U.S. The news says that people in this program, they don’t know that they’re not US citizens. All we know is the U.S.,” she said, “I know Spanish and the culture of Mexico, but I don’t know Mexican history. I don’t know what was taught in Mexican schools. I feel like I am American and Mexican.”

The student applied to the DACA program as a way to seek greater opportunity, because her options in her former standing as an undocumented immigrant were limited. “My parents actually thought I wouldn’t be able to go to college,” she said, “It wasn’t until I was 15 [that] this program was introduced, and that’s when my mom saw in the news that they were trying to get people to get further [their] education. We got in contact with a lawyer and paid $2000, so that we could even apply for DACA.”

She added that DACA does not receive any money from the government for scholarships. According to the National Conference for State Legislatures, Georgia bars all DACA participants from receiving in-state benefits. Not only did this nursing major pay a large sum of money to attend CSU, but she was almost denied acceptance. “They require a birth certificate from the U.S. Even though I had a Georgia driver’s license, they still almost didn’t take it because I was a DACA recipient,” she said. “For some reason we are thought of as lazy, like we take everyone’s position, but we’re not. We’re doing the same amount of work and sometimes more.”

Despite the hindrance of the cost for an education, DACA opens many doors for people. “Because of DACA I was able to get my driver’s license, a social security number, and I was able to work,” she said. “Without it I could not work, or be able to drive a car. I wouldn’t even be able to go to school.”
Because DACA limits the DREAMer's ability to travel internationally, this student cannot participate in study abroad programs, or even visit family who still live in Mexico. "My siblings were born here and they know more about Mexico than I do. They're the ones that are able to travel to the country. I can't leave the U.S.," she said. "My grandpa was sick and I wasn't able to go visit him. You know, when there are school trips to Europe, I can't go." She said there had been a point where DREAMers could travel, but only for humanitarian purposes. Travel required an application process, a fee, and DREAMers could only travel within a certain period of time as granted by the U.S. government.

DACA also hinders DREAMer's abilities to establish credit. "My Social Security number isn't letting me get a credit card," she said. "...I only found out this year that my Social Security card is only available for work and identity." This student asks us to remember that she and other DREAMers are here to achieve their dreams, like every other person living in the U.S. "I just know that my parents worked really hard for us. Like my dad works in a different state to get us where we need to be," she said.

If the DACA program gets cut, people living in the U.S. who were previous recipients will suffer. "It would probably just force me back into the shadows, I guess you could say," she said, "I would have to leave school first of all, then I'd just go home and find something to do. I don't know what I would do."

DACA BASIC FACTS

Who are the DREAMers?

Young, undocumented immigrants earned the nickname DREAMers as a result of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act first introduced in 2001. The act was intended to provide a path to legal status for undocumented youth who arrived in the U.S. as children. Numerous versions have been introduced over the last 16 years, however, none have become law even with bipartisan support.

DACA TIMELINE

2001-2001
DREAM Act is introduced in the House but did not pass.

2003-2008
The DREAM Act gets revised, but no support or progress is gained. This bill stays stagnant.

2010-2011
DREAM act gains momentum and passes in House of Representatives.

2011
California enacts the California DREAM Act. A national DREAM act fails in the senate and loses momentum.

2012
DACA, a new act similar to DREAM, is enacted by the Obama Administration in an executive order giving aid to alien minors.

Sept. 2017
Attourney General Jeff Sessions announces that the DACA act is to be officially rescinded.

70%
DACA recipients in school who are also employed

17%
DACA recipients in college pursuing advanced degrees in higher education

92%
DACA recipients pursuing educational opportunities they could not previously

83%
DACA recipients in college pursuing associate's or bachelor's degrees

65%
Number of DACA recipients who are currently attending school

*Information taken from Center of American Progress and the National Immigration Law Center from 2015 surveys
My Thoughts on DACA and Dreamers:

Insight From a CSU Professor

Correspondence from Elizabeth Narango-Hayes, Ph.D.

I was almost a “Dreamer” (Dream Act of 2017), a DACA person... My Mexican parents debated on taking me the 10 min across the border to be born in Tijuana, Mexico versus San Diego, CA. I “happened” to need to be born via C-section so I was born in the US, in San Diego county, about 10 miles from the border with Mexico.

I grew up around MANY people that were “stuck” in that miserable situation, due to no choice of their own, growing up completely and thoroughly American but not actually being legal Americans. Most had never even BEEN to Mexico [or were so small they did not remember it], or did not speak Spanish!

Many reading this article may be of the mindset of “Send back all those illegals that are taking our jobs and draining our economy.” As a child of immigrants, I can assure you that no one WANTS to leave their home. It is a true travesty that people for many reasons in many countries around the world feel they have to leave their home for a sheer chance at survival. Since my parents were born and raised in Mexico, I can attest that the vast majority of Mexicans in the US that came here did so out of utter desperation.

“What do I care, I am an American, all of my family is American.” Well...

Imagine your wonderful home in Columbus GA becomes unlivable, due to either mass violence or a complete lack of access to education, jobs, and basic services. In an attempt to escape the oppression of the 1% of the population that is in power, you decide to move... to Norway.

1) How do you get to Norway?
2) What language do they speak?
3) Aren’t they all platinum blond and blue eyed? Won’t I stick out?
4) I have no idea how their society works...
5) But I must, it’s my only shot at survival. So, you try to find how to go, but the process is extremely expensive and takes 10+ years... if you had that kind of time or money, you wouldn’t need to go in the first place! But the human instinct for survival kicks in and you put yourself through the most horrific things just to arrive in Norway.

You can’t go outside, not even to buy groceries, for fear of being caught and sent back.

You take the crap jobs that the locals won’t do, for crap pay, you are looked down upon for merely looking different, you live in fear of being sent back to Columbus where you will surely be killed, and you just try to stay out of sight. You work long hours doing backbreaking work for just enough money to send home to your family and split an apartment with ALL of your coworkers. You can’t go outside, not even to buy groceries, for fear of being caught and sent back. You miss your family, your language, your food, your home... but you are doing this to give your family a shot at making it.

Now, imagine you are a parent and you found a way to bring one of your beloved children with you to Norway, and though you can’t shake your Columbus GA “Southernness” your

According to Department of Homeland Security, Individuals meeting the following categorical criteria could apply for DACA if they:

- Were under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012;
- Came to the United States before reaching their 16th birthday;
- Have continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007, up to the present time;
- Were physically present in the United States on June 15, 2012, and at the time of making their request for consideration of deferred action with USCIS;
- Had no lawful status on June 15, 2012;
- Are currently in school, have graduated, or obtained a certificate of completion from high school, have obtained a General Educational Development (GED) certificate, or are an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States; and
- Have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, three or more other misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety.
Opinion

TROY VIDAL, PH.D, CSU POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

“At this time I can’t comment on the economic effects of the DACA reversal, but it does call into question the credibility of the United States government. This credibility question extends to executive agreements and treaties negotiated by previous administrations, such as the Paris Agreement, the Iranian Nuclear Deal, the commitment of the United States to NATO, NAFTA, etc. It also calls into question American commitment to global leadership or, rather, the abdication of American leadership, thus creating a power vacuum that is currently being exploited by the adversaries of the United States.”

CUBA AS A CLASSROOM

Professors share insights on new program

BY MADDIE FUERTE

Columbus State University is offering an opportunity like none other. For spring break 2018, Ilaria Scaglia, Ph.D and Doug Tompson, Ph.D are taking twenty students to a country that was banned under a United States embargo in 1960. In 2008, shortly after President Obama took office, the embargo was lifted for religious and educational purposes. Obama allowed United States airlines to travel to Cuba in 2016 and before leaving the office in 2017, fully lifted the restrictions. Both CSU professors are excited about the trip and have many expectations for the courses being taught.

Locals will be opening their homes to CSU students and providing them breakfast and dinner. This type of arrangement is known as a “casa particular.” Tompson describes these living arrangements as “homes turned into restaurants and bed and breakfasts.” Scaglia is excited about this opportunity for the students to fully embrace Cuban culture. Students will be fed the same foods Cubans eat, and they will see first hand what they do in work and free time. When Scaglia and Tompson began to plan this trip, they stayed in a hotel for part of their trip and in a casa particular for the other part. According to Scaglia, they came to a conclusion that staying with the locals means receiving a “higher quality stay.”

Not all of the courses this trip offers are traditional. Scaglia will be teaching World History with the focus on Cuba and an advanced course on Cuban history and culture. She will focus this course on memory, how Cubans use and display their history, and the shape of the Cuban state. Tompson will be teaching a course on colonial crops, with the focus of sugar, coffee, and tobacco. Trips will be taken to areas of crop production for students to see the lasting impact of Cuba’s prized products. Students will study the colonial economy by focusing on the process Cuba uses to sell goods such as the sugar, coffee, and tobacco, as well as visit museums and plantations.

While in Cuba, there won’t be a classroom setting; rather, the bus rides and dinners will serve as introduction and reflection time. Throughout the day, students will have handouts to guide their daily explorations. The entire day will be a learning experience. Students will be visiting many places of interest, such as the capital Havana, Santa Clara, Trinidad, and the Bay of Pigs. As Scaglia enthuses, students “will have Cuba as [their] classroom.”

Just before the publication of this article, the state department issued travel restrictions to Cuba after 21 U.S. diplomats were sickened by a mysterious illness in apparent attacks. “We are aware of the situation with Cuba and the new Travel Advisory, but we have not yet made a determination regarding the program,” said Becky Becker, Ph.D, the Interim Executive Director for the Center for Global Engagement. “The Center for Global Engagement will review the situation during the coming days and weeks and consult with appropriate university personnel in order to make an informed decision.”
Most artists get their start by submitting their work to group exhibitions. If they continue to do this and strengthen their body of work, they may eventually come across an opportunity to have their work displayed in a solo show. This is definitely a big deal and something worth celebrating. Recently, Ceramicist Courtney Ryan had her first solo show at the very place she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree: Columbus State University.

Titled “Domestic Consumption,” Ryan’s show was on view at the Art Lab from Aug. 22 to Sept. 23 with a reception and artist talk on its final day. During the talk, Ryan elaborated on the “behind the scenes” parts of her process. For example, she doesn’t use readymade glaze. Instead, she makes her own. Making glaze is like baking a cake; there are several ingredients used in specific ratios to make a great final product. Ryan starts with a standard glaze recipe for a certain color, makes small changes, and then tests it by dipping a small piece of fired clay into it and firing it again. She has done hundreds of glaze tests this way, tweaking her “recipes” to obtain the perfect finish, hue, and transparency.

Ryan also spoke about the concepts she explored through the work in “Domestic Consumption.” In her artist statement, she explains that she “[utilizes] the ephemeral and immortal qualities of clay [to] explore the complex relationships we have with materials found in our domestic environment.”

Through the methods of casting, handbuilding, and wheel throwing, Ryan produces sculptures representing domestic spaces undergoing decay and being overrun by nature. Beginning with a form made of clay, Ryan incorporates objects found in the home, like plates, by jamming shards or pieces of them into the soft clay form. The incorporated objects are clay versions of the real thing and sometimes, the form itself is a clay version of something found in the home like a teacup or a decorative frog. Jamming shards of objects into the form allows all elements of her pieces to become one, so she chooses this technique over simply adhering them at the surface.

Ryan’s work achieves a “maximalist aesthetic through repetitive designs and multiple elements to create intricate visual and textural experiences.” So much is going on in each of her pieces, it’s as if every time you look at them, there are new details you didn’t see before. As artists, we are taught to not add too much detail into a piece to prevent it from becoming busy. If a piece is busy, the eye has nowhere to rest because it is being overstimulated. Curiously, Ryan’s art does not feel busy. It finds a balance between being highly detailed and being unified.

“Domestic Consumption” dives into the idea of overindulging in domestic commodities. The decomposition of these objects is the method in which this idea is explored in the work. Through the addition of domestic objects, Courtney Ryan’s art employs feelings of familiarity and it’s quality of excessiveness asks the question: What defines home?
My work investigates the excessive and conspicuous consumption of domestic commodities [...] My own personal narrative is rooted in the out-doors and from constant relocation, highlighting subtle tones of familiarity and an inquiring curiosity in what defines ‘HOME’.

-COURTNEY RYAN
With virtual reality (VR) technology growing, its implementation is becoming more diverse. While most headsets and motion-tracking controllers are being used for entertainment purposes, other companies and institutions are experimenting with alternative uses.

Since hitting the mainstream, VR is now becoming more accessible. Various headsets are available from a few different name brand companies, such as Sony's PlayStation VR, HTC's Vive, and the now Facebook-owned Oculus Rift. Samsung and Google have also produced mobile-based VR headsets that allow smartphones to be equipped. Programmers and developers are finding new ways to fully grasp the capabilities of VR technology.

Sea Hero Quest is a mobile game that has received a VR sequel. That matters more than one might expect from a bubbly adventure game involving a son setting sail to recover his father's lost memories. In tune with the narrative, the entire game is set up to collect data for Alzheimer's research. According to the game's website, “By playing Sea Hero Quest for only two minutes a day you generate the same amount of data scientists would take 5 hours to collect in similar lab-based research.” The game has had over 3 million downloads since its release in August 2016 and the VR component is now available. Sea Hero Quest utilizes spatial navigation to gauge people's cognitive abilities with real life navigation, being as it is usually the first sign of degeneration.

Virtual reality will provide more in-depth data, catching the subtleties of movement and recognition. Alzheimer's Research UK, along with University College London, the University of East Anglia, German telecommunications giant, Deutsche Telekom, and game developer Glitchers all collaborated on the project to help further the study of dementia by focusing on using consumer generated data. Sea Hero Quest VR is compatible Samsung Gear VR and available for download with the Oculus Rift.

This is just one, but massively rewarding use of up-and-coming technology that is not strictly for entertainment. Other examples range from helping children and teens with autism to develop social skills by helping them understand certain social cues for real life scenarios, to assisting architects create better models by letting them test their designs with digital walkthroughs. Virtual treatments for pain and PTSD are also being looked into as well as training programs for medical students. News organizations such as CNN and the New York Times are currently having readers literally "enter" their stories to immerse themselves in current events.

Unfortunately, with the rise of VR also comes the rise of the bandwagon to be a part of the growth. This past June, a charity event held in Sydney, Australia had CEO's wear VR headsets to simulate homelessness as part of the Sydney "CEO Sleepout" fundraising event before they spent a night sleeping outside. Although they claimed to have raised $5 million, the VR aspect was criticized for being "dystopian" in nature by further exemplifying the gap between elites and poverty-liners. Despite potential cringe-worthy situations such as with "CEO Sleepout," VR is thriving and will continue to do so especially if applications are constantly broadening. Queue the Blue Pill, Red Pill debates now.
Have you noticed the Georgia peach logo popping up in movies, TV shows, and video games? Through this logo, the Georgia Entertainment Industry Investment Act offers a 10% uplift on production costs. This promotional peach represents only a small fraction of the tax breaks that helped make Georgia’s film industry first in the nation. Incentives like this provide the same opportunity for our local game industry to rise to the top. Thousands of Georgians find employment in game design, and many Columbus State University students aspire to join this workforce that accounts for an economic impact of over $550 million in Georgia.

Within the past few years, several house bills have circulated through legislation, shaping the future of homegrown entertainment production companies. A few months ago, House Bill 199 was proposed to amend the title regarding revenue and taxation of interactive entertainment companies in Georgia’s statutory code. While not all proposals have been in the game industry’s favor, developers can currently enjoy tax credits up to 30%. That’s a huge deal when it comes to cutting production costs, and it’s the very reason why Atlanta became the Southern “Hollywood.” Since the Georgia Entertainment Industry Investment Act, at least 12 Georgia-based companies received about $8.3 million in tax credits (per a 2015 study). Pairing its rapid economic growth with Georgia’s generous tax breaks makes for potentially promising careers for students here on the Games Track in Computer Science.

The Georgia Game Developers Association commissioned a study titled “Economic Contributions of the Georgia Video Game Industry in 2015.” This report—written by Dr. Jay O’Toole, an Assistant Professor at Georgia State University in the department of Managerial Sciences—uncovered some impressive numbers, like that $550 million output mentioned earlier. The data shows that video game manufacturers employed 3,142 full-time workers. “The industry as a whole added an estimated 407 new jobs in Georgia in 2015 as well,” O’Toole reported. The collective employment impact (both full-time and part-time) is 11,938 jobs. As the industry expands, more jobs will become available to local graduates. If you’re one of those students, you can expect a salary of approximately $64,000 per year in some cases.

“How optimistic are you about the growth of the electronic and video game manufacturing industry in Georgia?” This question was a part of a survey sent out by O’Toole. On a five-point scale ranging from “not at all” to “very,” responses ranked four. “The median and mode response indicated people with intimate knowledge of the industry are ‘considerably’ optimistic about its growth in Georgia,” the study concluded.

Hey, future game devs: maybe you’re not so optimistic yourself. Even though it’s a booming industry, it can be hard to get a foot in the door. However, there are plenty of opportunities at Columbus State University. The catch is that students are the ones who create these opportunities. Get involved in indie projects, organize game jams, and participate in the clubs and organizations available. Game design is teamwork, and you’re putting yourself at a disadvantage without social networking. While the industry is economically massive, it’s a small world on the developer’s side. Right now, your peers are your greatest asset in earning a future in game design.

To get to know them, because you guys are the next generation of game developers. Your success will be made in Georgia.

A REVIEW OF:

“Destiny 2” dropped for Xbox One and PlayStation 4 on Sept. 6, and it’s coming to PC on Oct. 24. Since then, I have spent some time with the PlayStation version of the game. I was not a huge fan of the first “Destiny” (2014)—it was very clunky. That being said, “Destiny 2” is freaking awesome. Toward the end of “Destiny 1’s” lifespan, they really polished the game with downloadable content, fixed a lot of issues, and flushed out the narrative. These changes continued on into “Destiny 2.” My favorite change is the depth of personality given to supporting characters. Now they feel like people instead of the human-shaped waypoints to turn in quests. One of the major changes is the weapon slots: in D1 you had a primary, secondary, and heavy, and any weapon in one of these slots could have some type of elemental burn. In D2 you have kinetic, elemental, and power. This doesn’t seem like a huge change, but you could run two auto rifles if the mission calls for it. In players versus play (PvP), the team sizes changed from 6v6 to 4v4. A new PvP mode was added—countdown—which plays similarly to Counter Strike. One team must plant a bomb while the other team defends. When it comes to Player versus Environment (PvE), they upped the scale of the three player strike missions. This reminds me of my “World of Warcraft” days—which is a good thing. If you are a fan of first person shooters, massively multiplayer games, or role-playing games, I highly recommend picking up a copy.

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Imagine: Migos comes to do a show here at Columbus State University. The entire campus is radiating with anticipation to see the award-winning rappers perform. Tickets are bought. Seats are filled. The time has come. Migos takes the stage and the crowd erupts with excitement. Surely this is going to be one of the best events ever held at CSU. They start with the crowd pleaser “Bad and Boujee” which is not all bad, but something is not right. As they perform, it sounds a bit awkward. By the second verse you realize they are censoring the song.

Now Migos never came to CSU, but Emmanuel and Phillip Hudson did and they had to alter their comedic performance. They engaged students in games with them onstage, but could not produce the content they wanted because apparently the show had to be kept PG-13. Personally, I think it’s pointless to have events where artistic expression and language are limited. Even events on campus that are held at the clock tower are censored.

DJs play a mix of altered music that simply doesn’t have the same feel to it. Most have heard the real thing, and a few may speak that way as well. The point is we are all consenting adults. The majority of students, besides a select few, are over the age of 18. So, the thing is when I go to a campus cookout or a “dance party” thrown by CSU, I do not want to feel as if I am back in high school being babied all over again. Explicit material should be allowed on campus.

As young adults we are well beyond vulgar material having a severe impact on our psyche. According to the University of Rochester’s health encyclopedia, our brain is not fully developed until 25 years of age. However, we still have the ability to make rational decisions and keep impulses in check. The point in which the things we see and hear being the sole factor in affecting what we do stops in our pre-teen or early adolescent phase. So, the argument that this kind of entertainment would influence college students to engage in dangerous behavior is completely invalid.

A study done by Jared Stubbs at Florida State University reported that music, whether rock or rap, could not be proven to have a direct connection to the actions of college students. So, passing through Davidson and hearing O.T. Genasis’s “Cut It” is not going to influence a majority of people to go buy some cocaine before heading to class.

Plato believed that to have good citizens you must have well-educated children, but he also believed that teaching children only the good and shielding them from evil was the best way to educate them. This is where I disagree. To fully understand something you must be exposed to the good and the bad. Sheltering students will only handicap them in the future when they are in the face of true evil. It is time for CSU to stop sheltering us. The real world is not censored.
Two years ago, when I first introduced the College for All Act, the political establishment said that it couldn’t be done, and that it was a “pie in the sky” idea. But a nationwide, grassroots movement led by millions of you and your families refused to take “no” for an answer. Loudly and clearly, you said that in the wealthiest country on earth it is unacceptable for young people to go $30,000 $40,000, $50,000 in debt just to get a college education, or for hundreds of thousands of bright young people not to go to college because they cannot afford it.

Today, the idea doesn’t seem so crazy. Recent polls show that an overwhelming majority of Americans agree that four year colleges and universities should be tuition free.

The good news is that legislators across the country are now introducing their own “college for all” bills at both state and municipal levels. This year, the City College of San Francisco began offering tuition-free college, and enrollments for residents are up by 51 percent compared to the prior year. In New York, this year tens of thousands will go to the state’s public colleges and universities without paying tuition. Similar programs have popped up in Tennessee, a conservative state, and in Oregon, as well as the cities of Detroit, Chicago and many others.

We are making enormous progress on this issue, but much more has to be done. I am calling on you for your help. Please join me for a livestream event on October 10th at 7 pm ET to kick off a campus movement to fight to make public colleges and universities tuition free.

Many of you and your families are struggling to meet the high costs of tuition, expensive books, housing, and extra fees. You’ve had to choose majors that are “marketable” instead of ones that you are passionate about. Some of you have had to attend less expensive schools over the summer to save on tuition, or cram credits in already busy semesters. Far too many of you are forced to work long hours in between classes instead of paying attention to your academic work.

It’s no secret that student debt in America has reached crisis proportions, with more than 40 million Americans owing over $1.3 trillion. All across this country, young people are struggling with outrageous debt for decades, which impacts their ability to get married, have kids or buy a home. People should not be punished for getting the education they need.

Other nations around the world understand the benefits of having an educated workforce that isn’t burdened with enormous student debt. In Germany, Ireland, Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Norway and many other countries public colleges and universities are free. In Germany, public colleges are free not only for Germans, but also for international students.

Education is essential for both personal and national well-being. We live in a highly competitive, global economy, and if our economy is to be strong, we need the best-educated workforce in the world. The only way to achieve that goal is to make sure that every young person in this country can get the education that he or she desires, regardless of his or her family’s income, and without going into major debt.

When an idea catches fire, when people see the justice of that idea, it can move very, very quickly. In my view, there will be a day when every qualified American will be able to get the college education they need—tuition-free. But that day won’t come until the American people demand it.
Comics

**Who's a good girl?**

**Did you just assume my gender?**

**Halloween Costume Contest**

All right everyone! It's time to vote on tonight's scariest costume!

Contestant #1: Dracula! What a classic!

Contestant #2: Pennywise the Dancing Clown! A nightmare come to life!

Contestant... #3?

**OMG**

U-uh, folks... I think we might have found our winner...!!
The evolution of movie monsters

BY TONYA STREETER
ILLUSTRATION BY MADI STEELE

Movie monsters, like Dracula, King Kong, and Godzilla, were born into a world without advanced Computer Generated Imagery (CGI) technology. Their on-screen presence required that audiences have an imagination, challenging us to fool ourselves into the mind of the monster. Now, with our access to CGI, every detail of these monsters are created and intensified with incredible realness. Audiences do not need to imagine anything, limiting engagement with the monster and its ability to scare. The only function of movie monsters today is to impress a wide-eyed audience with their enormity and effects. The monsters themselves seem to play a small role in their own films, according to Chuck Bowen, reporter for The Atlantic.

Classic horror films will continue to be made and audiences will swarm to them, but not for the same reasons. The only non-human movie monsters which seem to still exemplify terror are demons or supernatural beings. “IT” (2017) has proven that classic monsters still entice audiences. True, modern CGI effects were used to enhance Pennywise’s demonic features, and the clown itself is not the focus of the film. Instead, the courage of the Loser’s Club and their ability to conquer their fears incarnate takes the spotlight, leaving us with a sense of defeating the evil ourselves—something remakes of classic monster movies are often lacking.

In movie monster history, Dracula remains a legend which started with Bram Stoker’s 1897 novel. Hundreds of films have featured him. In the beginning, he was a creature to be feared with his ability to hypnotize and overtake young women for their blood. Yet, he was handsome and proud of his aristocratic heritage—two things that can make audiences more empathetic towards villains. So, what happened to the grotesque, yet mystifying Dracula? Overuse. The vampire trope has been overused and usurped by Hollywood (i.e. “Twilights”), causing movie makers to rely too much on CGI and action in order to attract audiences. Today, successful horror films rely on our desire to empathize with the characters we see on screen. The most terrifying monsters are the ones dressed in human skin because we can see parts of ourselves in them.

Think of “Psycho” (1960) and how Norman Bates, with his unsettling charm, left audiences questioning their own sanity as they watched as he terrorized a young woman while dressed as his dead mother. A more recent film, “Black Swan” (2010), comes close to convincing its audience that they are experiencing a kind of psychosis along with Nina, the film’s protagonist, similar to Edgar Allan Poe’s ability to create an insane narrator who manages to convince us of their sanity by story’s end. Since “Psycho,” movie monsters have started taking a more human-like disguise, and our return to these films rests in our inherent need to empathize.
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