



# THE Saher



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# THE Saber

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 The Columbus State  
University Saber

## AWARD-WINNING COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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PHOTO BY JAMES MORGAN

## Parking and Support Services Move to Illges Hall

*Director of University Support Services Steve Morse  
discusses changes*

BY SCOTTIE DECLUE

While everyone settled into the groove of a new fall semester, Columbus State's department of university support services continued work on a project that has been in progress since Feb. 2017—a relocation of the bulk of the department to Illges Hall, and the integration of a new parking services office into the department.

The idea for the changes came after President Chris Markwood and the Executive Leadership team saw a need for the centralization of the department and the restructuring of parking administration and enforcement.

"We are restructuring how we handle parking administration and enforcement on campus, moving the responsibility for these efforts from university police to auxiliary services," said Markwood in a statement February of 2017. "This will allow University Police to focus on campus safety and security." CSU Chief of Staff John Lester, who was Vice President of University Relations at the time, elaborated on the merger in an email addressed to Support Services.

"Columbus State University continuously strives to improve safety and security on campus for our students, faculty, staff, and

visitors," wrote Lester. "In order to improve campus security and provide additional university police officers on campus, we are implementing a new parking system for students, faculty, and staff that will include a new parking office and decal fee." Lester added that faculty will be reimbursed through a salary increase. Staff making less than \$30,000 per year will receive a stipend for the amount of their parking passes.

Pivotal to the logistical programming behind the transition was Steve Morse, senior director of support services and new overseer of the Parking Services team. Morse reiterated that the move to Illges served two purposes: better communication and increased convenience for the CSU community.

"Communication is what makes us really effective and efficient. When there are so many moving parts, it is so hard to collaborate," said Morse. "The President's office said that if you have students, faculty and staff coming to your facility for their needs on a regular basis, you need to be more centrally located." Support services was previously located in the warehouse at the bottom of Lot 5, and walking uphill was the only way to get back to main campus.

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

When I became editor of The Saber, I suddenly invested much more time taking interest in the inner workings of the university. I now find myself staring at bulletin boards, peppering people on campus with questions, and excitedly racing through reams of content looking for the next scoop – as hard as I try, I still miss things.

The mountain of content shows how hard the CSU community is working to grow, and it shows how involved people are on and off campus. Faculty and students are doing important research in their fields, staff are keeping the campus organized, and the administrative leaders are constantly coming up with new, innovative ways to make CSU better. We even have a new strategic plan in the works.

As CSU continues on this exciting path of expansion and discovery, I strongly consider what role my editorship plays. I encourage everyone to continue striving to improve CSU in whatever ways you can, as reporting good news is always preferable.

**– Scottie DeClue**  
**Editor-in-chief**

CSU Police aren't the only ones working to improve security measures on campus. Currently, Parking Services is bidding for a license tag scanning software that will make parking enforcement more efficient and provide crucial security data to better protect students. Parking's new scanner would enable the university to know every single vehicle owner's name, vehicle location, and violation status in about one hour. Morse added that, at the moment using current practices, that could not be done in eight hours.



# Spencer Talks Leadership, Gives Advice for College Students

BY TONYA STREETER



*This August, the acclaimed Jim Blanchard Leadership forum welcomed Academy Award-winning actor Octavia Spencer as the keynote speaker. Spencer won an Oscar in 2012 for her role in The Help and was nominated again in 2017 for her role in Hidden Figures. Before her much anticipated talk at the event, Spencer granted the Saber an exclusive interview.*

## **What would you say your overall message will be to the audience this evening?**

I don't know what [Ed Helton, moderator] is going to ask me. With regard to leadership, I think it is about how we take ownership in leadership. You have to be a good follower in order to lead, which means you have to be a good listener and a person who offers solutions instead of contributing to problems. So, I guess I would try to show how I apply that everyday as an actor.

## **You graduated with a Liberal Arts degree from Auburn University. How would you describe your college experience?**

Well, how would you describe yours?

**Uh, hectic.**

Yeah, I think it is probably the same way for all of us. I think after high school you are just getting your land legs. You're figuring out who you are going to be when you first get to college, and when you graduate college you have an idea of how you want to be.

Then, it's about how one goes about, you know, achieving the goals one sets for oneself. So you know, college was fun, but I'm also a down-to-business person. I'd just lost my mom, and I took a year off before I actually went to school. It was truncated. I did a lot of class work during the three years that I was at Auburn.

## **If there is one bit of advice you could give a college student, what would it be?**

Finish. Finish college. The one thing besides your education that I marvel at, and I'm grateful for, is

that college really teaches us how to finish things. And it is a huge accomplishment. Life happens so often that it gets in the way so fast.

You get married and start having kids, and when you have kids of your own it's hard to go back to the dreams you have for yourself. The first thing, besides an amazing education, is that it does allow one to enjoy the ownership of completion.

## **I'm excited about an upcoming movie of yours, The Shape of Water. How did you enjoy working in the fantasy genre?**

It was very different working in the fantasy genre, but Guillermo is one of our last living horror/fantasy directors and this is more of a fairy-tale, an adult fairy-tale, so I would have given anything to have had worked with him. It's a very unique and very beautifully poetic movie.

## **Historically, African-American figures have been suppressed or nonexistent in the history books. Your film, Hidden Figures, shines light on some of these prominent, African-American historical figures. Today, there is a nationwide conflict concerning the removal of Confederate symbolism. What is your opinion on this current controversy?**

You know, honey, it's a controversy. I think I don't want to weigh in on this because I have my own personal beliefs and in this climate if you don't believe what other people believe.... There used to be a time when grown-ups could talk about things, and that doesn't seem to be the way right

now. So, I don't want to contribute in any way to that conversation.

## **Hollywood has unrealistic expectations for women actors. What is your opinion regarding those expectations?**

Yeah, I would go one better and say that society has unrealistic ideas about women. We could talk about it regarding the parity with pay. We could talk about, you know, equality in the workplace with regard to promotions. If we are talking about my industry, female led movies are often funded for far less than men which means they make a lot more.

There shouldn't be that much of a difference in how much women are paid. Then if we talk about women of color on that spectrum, we are paid far less than white women. There are a lot of women who are ready to be seen as equal. This is something that needs to continue to be talked about. But I think you have to be very delicate about the way you talk about feminism because when people say that women should be paid equally, people take to their corners just like with other social issues. But what I hope that people understand is that men could do it without women and that women could achieve without men.

But why would anyone want to? It is strange to me that people don't realize how much we accomplish when we work together. So Hollywood has a lot to do, they've made strides, but just like Hollywood, society itself has a lot of strides that need to be made to stop objectifying women and understand that we have more to contribute than beauty.



# Athletics Department Gears up for Fall Season

*Athletic director Todd Reeser and sports information director Stephen Williams talk fall sports*

**BY SCOTTIE DECLUE**

The fall semester at CSU is now well underway, and the athletics department is gearing for a strong season of fall sports. Competing this semester will be men's and women's cross country, golf, basketball, and women's soccer. Director of athletics Todd Reeser, and sports information director Stephen Williams expressed high hopes for a strong season.

"We have extremely high expectations for all of them," said Reeser about the fall season's teams. "The Women's Soccer program [began] their season on Sept. 1, aiming for its fourth straight Peach Belt Conference championship, and a return to the NCAA Final Four for the third consecutive year. They are picked as the pre-season favorite."

The women's soccer team has finished first every year but two in the Peach Belt Conference since the team's inception in 2003. This year's roster has 14 new soccer players (13 freshman and one transfer) and 12 returning players. Three returning players, Cassandra Wade, Olivia Jarrell, and Hugrun

Elvarsdottir, are All-American players.

"Women's soccer is one of the perennial powers in the country," said Williams. "Not the state, not the region, in the country."

Soccer is opening preseason number three in the country. Last year, the team made it to Final Four and lost, and two years ago the soccer team made it to the national championship and lost. Both years, the girls lost to the same team: Union University (KY), who was their first opponent of this season. Williams added that North Georgia is the big rival for the season.

Both the Men's and Women's Golf teams will play in four events in the fall, with the spring schedule to be announced at a later date. The Cougar men will open up Sept. 11-12 at the Kiawah Island Invitational in Kiawah Island, S.C., while the Lady Cougars begin Sept. 23-24 in the Battle at Old South hosted by UNC Pembroke.

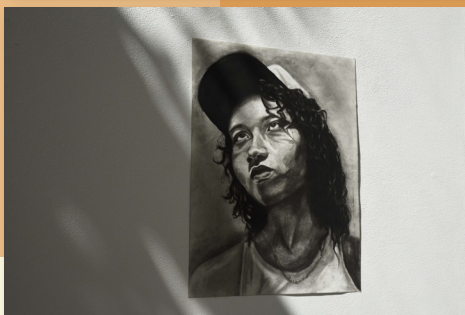
Also in the spotlight is the newest member of the men's cross country team, Tim Asis. He transferred to CSU from Young Harris

College after the school's cross country program was cut. Asis was the conference champion from the 2016 season.

Basketball season is set to begin in November, and the head coach of the men's team, Robert Moore, wrapped up the 2017 recruiting class with the announcement of five signees. Jesse Deloach, Ali Hill, Tyler McConnell, Cam Paulding and Jalen Thomas will join the Cougars for the upcoming 2017-18 season.

Women's basketball will be starting the season with a new coaching staff member, Dario Hernandez. Hernandez comes to Columbus State after spending the last six seasons at the NCAA Division I level, most recently with Wagner University (NY).

"I'm excited to bring Dario to our staff," said Anita Howard, head coach of women's basketball. "He's a great addition to the culture we're building here. He brings energy and passion to our sidelines that will aid us in practice and games."



Photos by Marisol Peña

## Foundations

THE PREMIER EXHIBITION SHOWCASING WORK FROM LAST YEAR'S TOP ART STUDENTS



# THE GREAT AMERICAN ECLIPSE OF 2017

## A JOURNEY THROUGH THE EYES OF TWO CSU STUDENTS



PHOTO BY KILEY ANDERSON

BY MATTHEW KRAUS

*“At 1:20 p.m. the moon made its presence known”*

**RIVERPARK** – On the afternoon of Aug. 21, the Earth’s closest celestial body was on course to block out the sun. I was also on course for the Coca-Cola Space Science Center (CCSSC), to attend their eclipse viewing event.

As the shuttle came to a complete stop, I stepped off the bus with purpose. The sun was bright and spending several hours in that sweltering heat required some preparation. So, I made my way up to my dormitory to grab some food and water for the event, as well as my camping chair.

Outside once again, I made my way down Broadway. All of the eclipse glasses were sold out since the previous Monday; I didn’t have a pair of my own, so I’d have to wait for my turn on a sun spotter or eclipse telescope. A few minutes later, I reached my destination. An inflatable red, blue and white archway prominently displayed the name of the event, and one of those waving, inflatable guys had the word “Welcome” lettered down its torso.

Many families had settled comfortably on the grassy areas beneath the nearby trees. As the flier for the event promised, there were two sun spotters and three telescopes set up specifically for viewing the eclipse. Arrangements were made for stalls to distribute pinhole projectors and coloring

pages, as nearly every family had children with them.

I decided to join the line of eager people extending from the front entrance of the CCSSC to the archway. It turned out to be a line for eclipse memorabilia and not for entering the building, so I made my way inside. Solar eclipse enthusiasts were lined up for a chance to watch the live webcast of the eclipse from totality locations, places where the eclipse reached 100 percent coverage; the eclipse coverage for Columbus would only reach 92 percent.

Despite my early arrival, the webcasting theater was already at capacity and closed. Back outside, I took a minute to view the sun through one of the telescopes modified for the eclipse. One of the event coordinators gave me a pinhole projector to use on the white cardboard sheets strewn about the yard. At 1:20 p.m. the moon made its presence known, taking its first nibble at the upper right corner of the sun. An elderly man used a pair of binoculars as a pinhole projector to show two young children the current state of the eclipse, while a young girl wore a bulky welding helmet. Everyone seemed to be anxiously awaiting its peak.

I also encountered two CSU theater majors, Alexander Sackman and Allie Hansen. Alexander had his own pair of

eclipse glasses, and offered to share them with Allie and myself. Together, the three of us watched as the moon slid across the sun. At exactly 2:37 p.m. the moon reached its predicted position, blocking out the Earth’s source of light and allowing only the bottom sliver of the sun to remain. In that moment, I marveled at the modern astronomers and mathematicians responsible for telling the people of Columbus exactly when the moon would perform its finale.

The surrounding area didn’t exactly darken, but it dimmed considerably thanks to the combined efforts of the moon and the mixed blessing of a cloud passing over our celestial spectacle.

In that same moment, another odd occurrence took place. I heard about nature reacting to past eclipses, but none of the dogs around me were the least bit interested or worked up; however, about two dozen dragonflies suddenly appeared and hovered above the crowd in a disoriented fashion. As the moon moved away from the sun, the dragonflies dispersed, and a few minutes later, the crowd followed suit. With the magic dispelled, I returned to the blistering, humid reality of just another summer day in Columbus.





A GROUP OF STUDENTS MEET UP TO OBSERVE THE ECLIPSE.  
PHOTOS BY JUDE JOHNSON AND BO LEWIS

## CONTINUED BY NOLAN TEMPLE

**MAIN CAMPUS** –The auditorium was dimly lit and quiet except for the slight hum of the projector. A large screen hung above the stage and displayed an image of a web page loading. A technician adjusted the dimensions of the projected window, while individuals and small groups of students, faculty, and public attendees began to enter, filling pockets of seats spread across the room. People were eating lunch, conversing, and consuming media with their smartphones while they waited for the screen to give some signal.

Columbus State University recently hosted a livestream of the eclipse in University Hall for students who could not venture too far to see it. About an hour before Columbus's partial eclipse was visible, two loud and excited voices burst through the speakers. Once the two vibrant hosts officially started the event, commentary flowed through the cluster of viewers like the infomercials before movie previews. The hosts discussed facts and exchanged jokes about the eclipse, while taking questions from the crowd at the actual event occurring downtown.

The stream was split into three grainy images. On the left, a picturesque farm lay underneath the sun in Grand Island, Nevada was largest of the three images, with a barn located in the background. The sky was bright with faint clouds of different shapes shuffling through pixels. In the bottom right video, a somewhat fish-eyed point of view from Linn, Missouri focused on a similar skyward view; however, the

distortion made the horizon curve narrowly along with the sun's circumference, directing attention toward its center. Last, a telescopic image of the sun from Columbus, Georgia was fixed on the top right corner.



The moon appeared at about a quarter past one, inching in front of the sun every few minutes. While the eclipse crawled closer, more and more of the audience would get up and move toward the entrance. At first glance, the departure of viewers appeared to be associated with a waning interest; however, there was more of an attraction directly outside of University Hall's auditorium lobby. Through the building's entrance doors, more people gathered outside.

Compared to the hosts' reverberating voices coming from inside, the chatter out on the sidewalk was more intimate. The most common phrase heard among the gathering was, "Hey, have you seen it yet?" followed by the mutual passing of eclipse viewing glasses. Heads were tilted upward and fingers pointed toward the sun.

Eager to see the sky darken, Clarence Caldwell, a junior Computer Science major, was also excited to be a part of the moment. "I'm just here to see it happen," said Caldwell, "Who would want to miss such a great, intellectual event?" As the partial eclipse peaked at 2:37 p.m., everyone huddled together, swapping glasses, and doing their best to make sure all could see. While they looked toward the sky, the world grew dim but the atmosphere grew full of awe and

*"It's an existential moment, really."*



# CSU NAACP CHAPTER CONDEMNS CONFEDERATE STATUES, CALLS FOR REMOVAL

*Student NAACP weighs in on symbolism, expresses concerns about the state of monument controversy*

**BY SCOTTIE DECLUE**



The widespread movement to remove and excise monuments tied symbolically to the Confederacy came to Columbus State University this August after the president of Columbus State's student-run chapter of the NAACP, Shanequia Frails, made an official statement to *The Saber* regarding the NAACP's stance on the conflict.

In a three page response to a request for statement made by *The Saber*, President Frails made clear the stance of the student NAACP on Confederate symbolism, public statutes related to the confederacy, and positions on white supremacy and related factions. Frails also addressed the recent events in Charlottesville, Virginia where a woman protesting confederate monuments died after a being run over.

Local interests in the confederate statue controversy were spurred in late summer after the president of the city chapter of the NAACP, Tonza Thomas, called on Mayor Teresa Tomlinson to remove a confederate monument from Broadway. Thomas' request

came shortly after a similar request was made by the national and state presidents of the NAACP in early August calling for the statewide and nationwide removal of confederate symbols and statues.

Tomlinson responded publicly to Thomas when she stated that the monument would not be removed by the city due to its erection by private parties, and also because of its historical significance.

Tomlinson claimed the statue is unlike others across the country that are being removed because it is "not a monument to war or generals."

"It is a monument to the death, destruction and loss of life that came from the ignorance, hatred and false bravado of that war," she said. "It was erected in 1879, not during the push back from the civil rights movement or in conjunction with Jim Crow." This statement of refusal caused uproar between factions in Columbus who either supported or opposed removal of the statue.

Currently, the debate over whether or not

confederate statues should be removed has made it all the way to capitol hill. Nancy Pelosi, House Minority Leader, asked that confederate busts be removed from the halls of the capitol.

"The Confederate statues in the halls of Congress have always been reprehensible," Pelosi said in a public statement. "If Republicans are serious about rejecting white supremacy, I call upon Speaker Ryan to join Democrats to remove the Confederate statues from the Capitol immediately."

Pelosi's call to action came shortly after remarks from President Donald Trump indicated that tearing down confederate statues might snowball into a greater problem. Trump mentioned after the incident in Charlottesville that the removal of confederate monuments dedicated to officers like General Robert E. Lee might eventually lead to the removal of statues of presidents who once owned slaves, about which he tweeted, "So foolish!"

In the southeast, virtually every state has



## Statement from CSU NAACP

*The NAACP chapter at Columbus State University whole heartedly condemns all confederate statues and all confederate associated symbols in the public eye of the city of Columbus, Georgia and all cities for that matter. Columbus being a diverse community of people from all backgrounds, shall not be subject to public reminders of racial oppression...*

*...To the NAACP chapter at Columbus State University, symbols of the confederacy are all statues, flags and any other symbols enforcing the glorification of the confederacy's stance in the Civil War. ..*

*...Personally, I look at all confederate monuments and symbols with the same equality. No one confederate symbol, flag or monument is less harmful than the other. Anything remotely related to the confederacy is condemned by myself and many others...*

*-Shanequia Frails*

## TIMELINE

### CHARLOTTESVILLE ATTACK

**Aug. 12**

James Alex Fields Jr. drives his car into a crowd of protesters, killing 32-year-old Heather Hayes. The protest was over a confederate monument.

### STATE NAACP RESPONDS

**Aug. 16**

State NAACP president Phyllis Blake calls for elected officials in Georgia to remove all Confederate symbols from public property.

### COLUMBUS NAACP RESPONDS

**Aug. 18**

Columbus NAACP president Tonza Thomas calls for Mayor Teresa Tomlinson to remove a confederate monument from Broadway.

### COLUMBUS MAYOR RESPONDS

**Aug. 18**

Mayor Tomlinson denies the NAACP's request to remove the confederate monument.

### CSU NAACP RESPONDS

**Aug. 29**

CSU NAACP President Shanequia Frails responds to monument controversy.

received proposals to remove confederate monuments, according to the New York Times.

Although different statues have been erected for different reasons throughout history, condemnation against any and all symbols of the confederacy has been vocalized by the NAACP from all levels—no matter the statue's intended purpose, the convictions of the NAACP have been steadfast and resolute.

The national, state, and local NAACP spokesmen clarified that "ALL SYMBOLS OF THE CONFEDERACY FROM ALL GEORGIA PUBLIC PROPERTY," be removed immediately—a conviction that has resonated throughout each chapter's public statements in some way.

The statute in question, currently located east of Heritage Park on the Broadway median, was erected by the Ladies Memorial Association in 1881 to commemorate the confederate dead. The monument cost \$5,000, and a ceremony presided over by

then Governor of Georgia Alfred H. Colquitt was held to unveil the marble statue in the presence of over 5,000 people according to historical accounts.

Frails went on to present possible alternatives to dealing with the confederate statue on Broadway. She suggested that the Columbus government reimburse the private parties who paid for the monument. \$5,000 with an inflation rate of 2.13% annually, which would make the statue worth about \$110,000 today. She also illuminated a personal perspective on what a future containing confederate symbolism might look like for her prospective children.

"If one day, my child should grow up in a world where the history of their ancestors being oppressed is openly displayed as honorable, while others scream that it's their Southern heritage," she said, "then that would be disheartening."

*Confederate Monument on Broadway*





# There and Back Again

## A Trip to the Emerald Isle

**W**hy do we travel?

Do we wish to escape the monotony of our day-to-day lives? Do we travel to learn about different cultures and expand our worldview? Or do we travel because we feel drawn to certain places, compelled to answer an unexplainable pull that drives us to explore foreign lands?

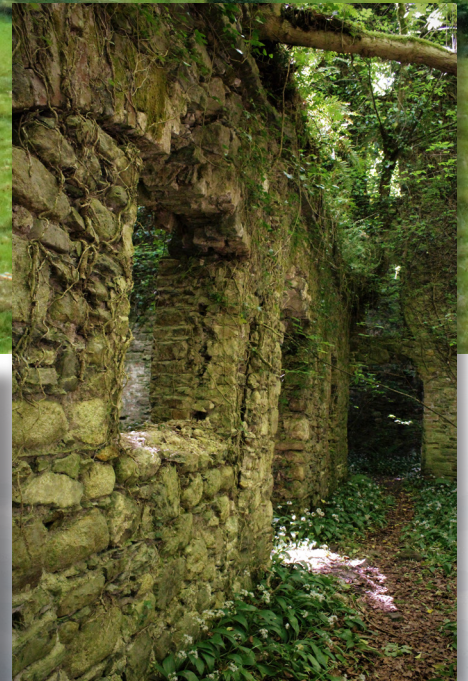
In May, I answered the traveler's call, boarded a plane to Ireland, and spent two weeks on holiday with my family. I explored castle ruins, picturesque villages, and rural countryside nearly untouched by the 21st century. I hadn't traveled to Ireland since I was a kid, but I remembered the emerald isle as a mythical land conjured from the pages of *Harry Potter* or *Lord of the Rings*.

I was thrilled to experience Ireland as an adult, and maybe imbibe a stout or two in the pubs. But even at twenty-three, the fairytale charm of Ireland wasn't lost on me. I found that the rolling fields of green grass, the yellow gorse (a native shrub with prickly leaves and yellow spring blossoms), and the sheep that dotted the hills like tiny, fluffy clouds still enchanted me.

As I explored castle ruins built by Norman invaders and Neolithic passage tombs dating back to 3200 BC, I realized that my memories of Ireland were not just the whimsical fantasies of an eight-year-old. Ireland was magical.



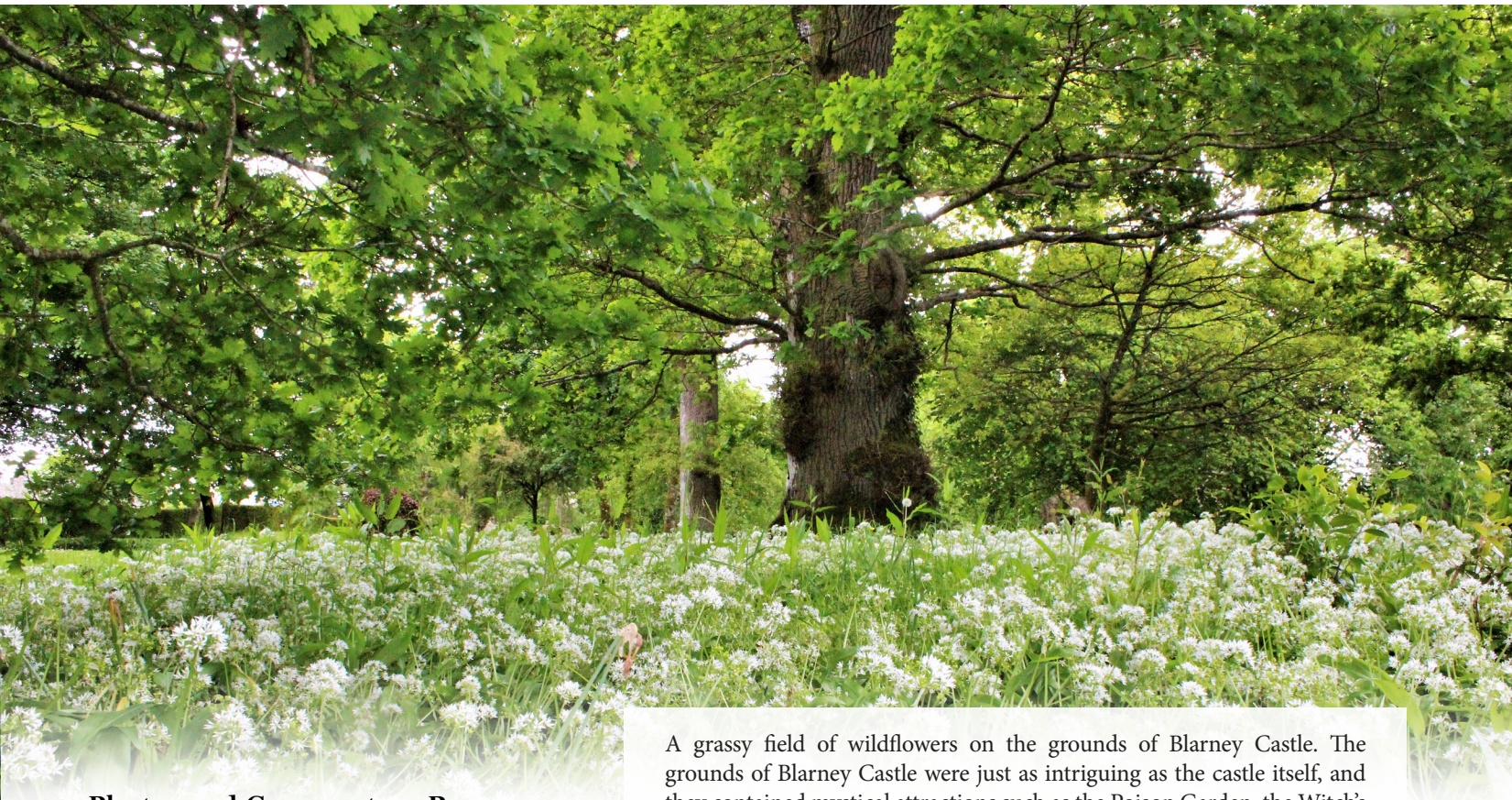
**Above Left:** A ringed cross, also called a celtic cross, which remains a popular symbol in Irish culture today. Some legends claim that the Christian cross was introduced in Ireland by St. Patrick, who combined the symbol of Christianity with the sun cross to teach pagans the importance of the cross. The burial ground at the Rock of Cashel features several examples of the traditional ringed cross.



**Above:** Ruins of a tower house found while hiking through the grounds of Tintern Abbey in County Wexford.

**Left:** The interior of Blarney Castle was partially intact, which made it easy to imagine what the ground floor, great hall, and living quarters looked like in their prime.





**Photos and Commentary By  
Lauren Miley**

A grassy field of wildflowers on the grounds of Blarney Castle. The grounds of Blarney Castle were just as intriguing as the castle itself, and they contained mystical attractions such as the Poison Garden, the Witch's Cave, and the Bog Garden.



**Above:** “The Blacksmiths Cottage” –an Airbnb in the Southwest of Ireland where I stayed for a bit. The host, Emily, provided many amenities including fresh eggs from her chickens!

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**Right:** A guard-tower on the grounds of Blarney Castle overlooking spring blooms. The main castle was built in the 15th century and is now a popular attraction famous for the mythical Blarney Stone, a small limestone built in the battlements of the castle. Legend has it that if one kisses the stone, they will receive a gift of eloquence.





# THEATRE STUDENTS DESIGN SHOWS FOR CHILDREN

By Jude Johnson

Illustration by Brittney Green

In place of senior thesis papers, some theatre students direct their own shows. “The Great Alphabet” and “Under a Red Moon” are two student-directed shows occurring this semester. Darby High is directing “The Great Alphabet,” a children’s show that has been modified to be enjoyable and safe for children with autism and sensory processing issues. Asher Brooks is directing “Under a Red Moon,” a three-person show about the investigation of the mental state of a serial killer.

Both directors are excited over their roles. “I didn’t know how I would do a regular thesis with what I’m interested in—sensory friendly theatre,” said High. “It just seemed logical to try and direct a show.” By directing a show of her own, High is able to combine her passion with a physical product that can be shared with the people she wants to work with after college.

“I want to be a professional director and experience is everything,” said Brooks. “Every show that I can do is a notch in my belt that may open doors for more projects.” Having the experience of directing shows before searching for professional work is an incredible opportunity for students such as Brooks who wish to pursue directing as their career.

As directors, High and Brooks are responsible for finding the scripts, holding auditions, callbacks to cast actors, and putting together a production team to handle the technical aspects of their shows. While Darby

High tries to run all aspects of her show the same way Columbus State University does, Asher Brooks runs auditions a little differently than official CSU shows. “I find that relaxing the tension in the room for one thing makes people feel comfortable,” said Brooks, “and people who are comfortable can act better.”

Both directors have encountered the same issue in their projects. “The student directing has one major flaw: budgets,” said Brooks. Student-directed shows are not funded by the university, so students must figure out how to get all of the costumes, props, and set pieces they need without a pre-existing budget from which to pull.

“Some of the stuff I need I can ask to borrow, but for the most part I’m on my own,” Brooks added. Many students choose to borrow from past shows whatever they can, but in some cases still have to apply for grants or pay for what they need themselves.

Despite concerns with budgeting, High and Brooks are prepared for the work it takes to put on their own productions. Brooks said the best part of directing “Under a Red Moon” is that he gets “to make something that no one else can ever replicate [and] in the end my cast, my crew, and I created art that belongs to nobody but us.” High is looking forward to the feedback from the community

after “The Great Alphabet” because with any feedback “positive or negative [she] will learn a lot from the experience” that she can use in her future productions.



## BE POSITIVE: FIRST BLOOD DONOR EXPERIENCE

By Nolan Temple

Illustration by Kayleigh Dickson

**I'D NEVER DONATED BLOOD** until the American Red Cross held a blood drive in Columbus State's Davidson Center, and I was able to spare about a pint of my life force. Earlier this summer, they announced that there was a shortage of available blood and called for emergency donations. Before then, I didn't realize that summer months typically lead to shortages. According to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), “nearly 700 fewer blood drives are scheduled during the Independence Day week than the weeks before and after the holiday.” This leads to “about 61,000 fewer donations,” mostly because the people who usually donate are away on vacation.

I scheduled an appointment through their website, though they also have an app for consistent donors to keep track of events and their donation history. I made sure to eat a meal and drink plenty of water that morning. Although I set an appointment for 2 p.m., I don't think it would've mattered if I had just walked in. It wasn't very busy at that time, with only two people donating in

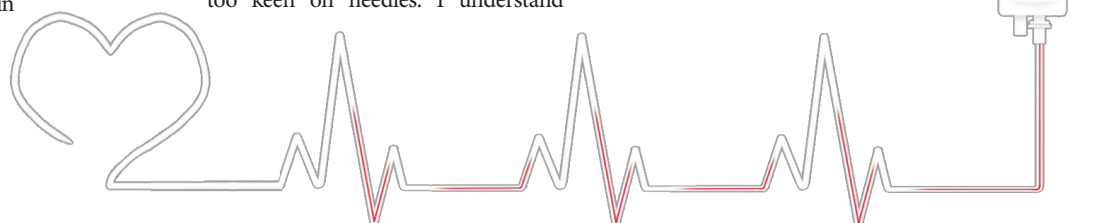
medical recliners and one in the waiting area. I signed in on a computer next to the Columbus Room entrance, took a seat, and began leafing through pamphlets. After reading all the lists and information about eligibility requirements, I was called into a makeshift cubicle.

A Red Cross volunteer asked me questions about my general health and if I've visited any countries listed on the pamphlets in the last however many days. I had my temperature, blood pressure and pulse examined. He pricked my finger to check my hemoglobin levels, which determine if my blood cells have enough oxygen. The volunteer was blunt but diligent, ensuring that everything was clear for me to proceed.

Another volunteer seated me at one of the medical recliners, each with hooks for bags and tubes. The nurse told me to relax and squeeze the rubber grip to help my veins show. She found a visible one in my right arm. My hands were sweaty, as I'm not too keen on needles. I understand

their necessity and don't mind once they're in, but the moment right before they penetrate the skin is torture. Once the bag was placed on the side of the chair, she asked me to relax again. I looked away as the needle pierced into my skin and through to my vein, but it was quick. The bag filled up after about 10 minutes, and after removing the tape, the nurse pulled the needle out. The tape hurt worse than the actual removal of the needle. On a scale of one to 10, it was about a three.

I didn't mind my donation and was glad to be of help to someone. A pint of blood goes a long way. I found out my blood type is B+ a week later, a type attributed to roughly 8-9% of the population, or 1 in every 12 people. There will always be a need blood donations. If eligible, everyone should try donating at least once.





# Sarahah: A New Platform for Cyberbullying?

By Ivey Milam

Illustrsation By James Morgan

If you ask people on campus if they have heard of the app Sarahah, they will most likely respond yes. Considering that this new social networking app has gained millions of users since its release on June 13, 2017, the app's popularity isn't surprising.

After only two months since its debut, the app managed to get over 10 million downloads according to India Today magazine, and that number is increasing. This surge in popularity is partly due to Sarahah's influence on sharing constructive criticism: it makes the process quick and easy. However, many parents and teachers have voiced their wariness about the app and its potential to be a space for cyberbullying.

The process of signing up for Sarahah is simple: you create an account, share your ID with friends on sites like Facebook and Twitter, and wait for messages. Once you've received messages, a number will appear in the chat bubble on the lower left corner of your screen. When you access this chat bubble, you can view the comments people have left and "save them as photos, block the person who sent [them], flag them, or delete them," said Columbus State University Sophomore Cole Kiker.

The app's developer, Zain al-Abidin Tawfiq, explained that the app is for "discovering your strengths and areas for improvement by receiving honest feedback from your employees and your friends in a private manner." Even the title is the Arabic word for "honesty," so users should expect a variety of candid messages to fill their inbox.

In regards to the app's promise of privacy, each user is granted anonymity and is able to send a message to fellow users after clicking on the link for that person's account. The comment can be anything really—praise, a token of admiration, a suggestion for improvement, or a put-down—but the receiver won't be able to reply. This feature has attracted disapproval because people are not able to contact those that inspire them; nor are they able to contact and confront those who leave off-putting remarks. "It was a little annoying not knowing who it was, but I usually figured it out," said CSU freshman Deirdre Eddy.

Although adults comprise the majority of people concerned

about the app's effects on users, younger people have also acknowledged that there are detriments to it. Students have observed that Sarahah can attract spiteful people, as CSU junior Marcia Harper noted, "I had a great experience, but I can see the potential dangers, especially in the way of bullying." Whether it be a friend, a family member, or you, each user faces the possibility that an old bully, or a new one, might contact them.

Bullies and trolls are common on any social media site, and Sarahah is no exception. According to India Today magazine, one reviewer on Google Play claimed that her 13-year-old sister used the app and "got a death threat aimed at [their] 2-year-old brother." This is an example of Sarahah's darker side. Even Tawfiq himself has addressed this issue by assuring users that "if a sender

violates the rules and regulations of the app, or some other similar incident, [he] may be forced to reveal the details of the sender."

As for messages that may lower someone's self esteem or be emotionally adverse, it is crucial to realize that you might be inviting criticism by signing up for Sarahah. If you are sensitive to such messages, it is best to steer clear of the app. For those willing to take a risk, there is also a portion of users who use the app to spread positive feedback.

Megan Farokhmanesh said that she "was surprised by how overwhelmingly positive the comments [she] received were" and that the anonymity factor increases people's confidence so that they leave more positive messages.

Overall, while some agree that Sarahah is not an ideal app for someone with low self esteem, others don't think it's a complete breeding place for bullies and victims. There are countless users who attest to harmless—and even positive—experiences.

"I never received any negative messages. They've all been pretty positive," said Kiker. "One person opened up by saying they had a crush on me throughout most of high school. Other than that, no one ever said anything terrible about me."

As for the future of Sarahah, some speculate it will soon fade from memory. But for now, the app will attract as much attention as it can before being forgotten.

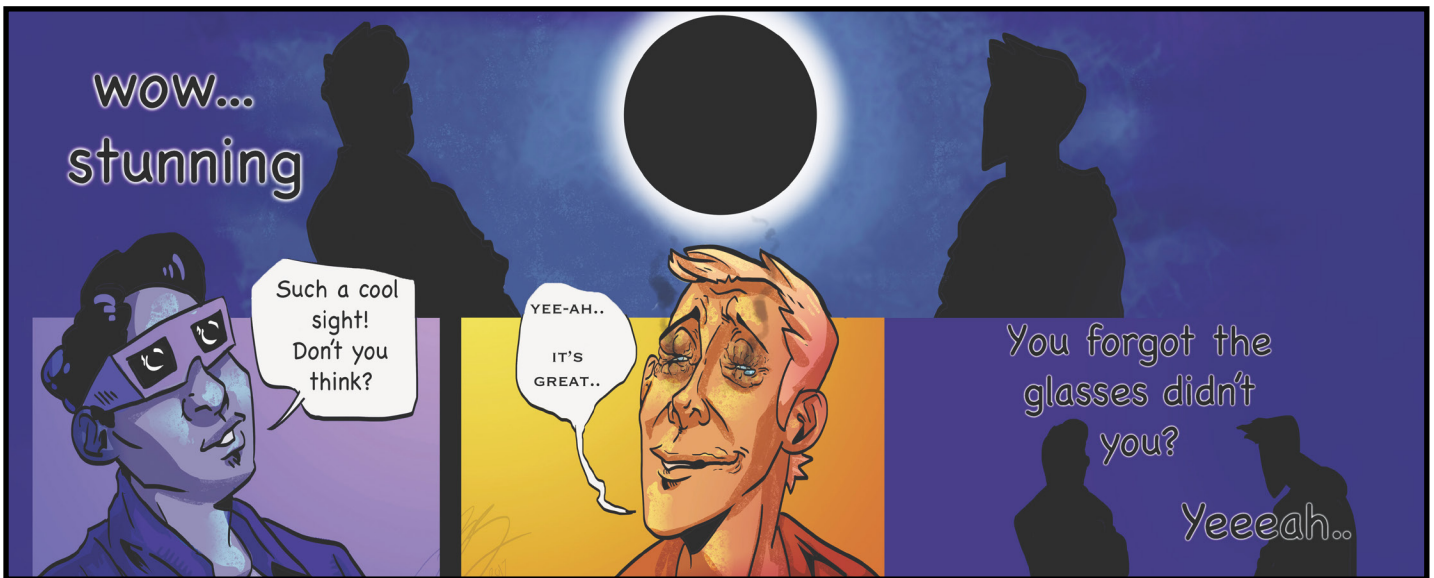
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**The comment can be  
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suggestion for improvement,  
or a put-down**

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# Does CSU Need a Culinary Program?

By David Bost

Illustration By James Morgan

With gourmet restaurants such as 7th Street Provisions, Mabella's Italian Steakhouse, and Epic Restaurant located near the RiverPark campus, could CSU start a successful culinary arts program? If given a place for their studies we could, but should we? Absolutely not.

Only one college and one university in Georgia offer culinary programs—College of Coastal Georgia, which offers an associates of applied science in culinary arts degree, and Kennesaw State University, which offers a Bachelor of Science in culinary sustainability & hospitality. The KSU degree isn't so much about learning the art of preparing food and instead "emphasizing areas such as resource conservation, food, nutrition, and essential business skills/abilities," according to the KSU degree catalog. Coastal, on the other hand, is a true Culinary Arts Program. It is the only culinary program in the University System of Georgia with an American Culinary Federation accreditation. Out of the 28 universities and colleges across the state, why does only one have a thriving Culinary Arts program?

Here, the answer is Columbus Technical

College, which offers a degree in culinary arts. If CSU were to start a culinary program, we would have to compete with CTC for students—which we already do for nursing—and CTC holds several advantages. Technical colleges are based more on learning a skill or trade. This requires less core and general education classes, which results in faster graduation for students. Another edge is that CTC has more affordable tuition. If you take twelve credit hours at CTC, you will pay roughly \$1400; however, the same number of credit hours at CSU amounts to about \$3,100, not including meal plans and housing. This is all assuming a chef has even attended a secondary education institution. According to the U.S Bureau of Labor, most chefs only hold a high school diploma—and that's okay. Writing a paper or using college algebra are skills that would rarely, if ever, be used by a chef.

The fact that most culinary programs are offered by technical colleges makes sense; after all, it is the learning of a skill, versus the long and arduous task of getting a liberal arts education. However, that doesn't mean that CSU is incapable of bringing a culinary-centered

program to campus. CSU offers two year degrees and certifications, but with our higher cost per credit hour, and CTC offering a two year program just minutes away, a two year degree just does not make any sense. There may not be enough material to fill up a four-year degree track with just core classes and cooking. So, why not add everybody's favorite subject—science? Classes offered could teach the psychology of eating or the most artistic way to present food along with business classes to help these new chefs start their own businesses. Perhaps work study positions could be made to staff the Cougar Café and Rankin Den, since the food on campus can use all the help it can get.



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