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# THE Saher

*THE STUDENT-RUN NEWS SERVICE OF COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY*

COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

# THE Saber

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Cover Illustration: Marjorie Pierce

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



The first few weeks of getting back into the swing of things can be rocky, if not downright brutal. Motivation might be low, work is more boring than usual, and professors are springing tests and projects early, as if worried the semester will end any day now. After the brief but bright winter vacation, it seems like you'll never form a coherent thought again. However, now that the first few weeks of classes have everyone getting back into the routine, The Saber has returned in full force, ready to provide the news which Columbus State's community wants to hear.

First up, the big concerns on campus for students and faculty both old and new. Numerous renovations are planned in the upcoming months, from the demolition of Woodall Hall to the upgrade of Arnold Hall and the purchase of the Uptown Ledger Enquirer Building for Education and Nursing students. For details on all these important changes, our Campus Life and Local and World sections have dates, insights, and locations for those sticking around the next few years.

Also, you may have noticed that we are paying special attention to past holidays. While we did not publish on MLK Day, The Saber still feels it is important to remember King's important role in history, especially with Black History month fast approaching. Additionally, we look back to events that happened over the Christmas holiday, such as Charlie Hebdo in France, and the discontinuation of BodyMedia bands affecting students in physical education classes.

So here's a very heartfelt hope for getting over the January slump. We look forward to seeing you in a couple of weeks, when we release our special Mardi Gras and Valentine's Day issue.

- Catherine Saavedra  
Editor-in-Chief

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## Kicking off the Semester

### *A look into CSU's first Spring Kickoff*

**Lucas Ely**

*Staff Writer*

*Illustration: Noah Sachs*

The Department of Student Life started a new tradition at the beginning of this semester by throwing the first-annual spring semester Cougar Kickoff. The event welcomed students back to Columbus State University after the winter break with events put on by different offices and groups of CSU, much like Cougar Kickoff in the fall.

These events ranged from movie nights at Hollywood Connections, to "The Skin I'm In" presented by Diversity Programs and Services, and a "Meet The Greeks" introducing fraternities and sororities put on by Greek Life.

CSU athletics were also involved in the Kickoff week as the men's basketball team took a victory at home over the University of North Georgia. The entire week was capped off with the "Downtown Dub" rave presented by Residence Life.

Spring Kickoff was something to welcome students back from break, but to also welcome transfer or newly accepted students to their first semester at CSU. Additionally, since homecoming was moved to the fall semester, it seemed like there were missed opportunities to have large events in the spring.

On the topic of possible growth for the new spring Cougar Kickoff, Denise Medders, the Student Life administrative assistant, said that they were "satisfied with the current experience of the spring kickoff," and that it was mainly targeted at being supplemental to the bigger kickoff week that welcomes all of the students to school in the fall.

Another logistical hurdle for growth would be the weather. Cold weather during the early months of the year would impact attendance to events if they were to be featured outdoors, as well as the possibility of rain and other unfair conditions.

On the bright side, Medders mentioned that the College Football Championship game happened to coincide with the

week for kickoff, and that if it were to continually fall within the same time as the program, she could foresee a large game day viewing party to be added to the list of events and activities hosted during the kickoff.

Attendance and the obvious enjoyment of the events are a clear sign that the Spring Cougar Kickoff was a success for its first year. Medders expects for Spring Kickoff to grow in numbers as it becomes more of a tradition for students and the CSU event schedule.



## Fast Five with a Director:

### Mr. Troy Anderson Food Service

**Danielle Davis**

*Layout Editor*

*Photo: Troy Anderson*



**Food Service Director Troy Anderson**

Pots. Pans. Cooking utensils. Food Service Director, Troy Anderson, has dealt with it all. Before coming to CSU, he attended culinary school. There, he developed his love of cooking into a career. Now Mr. Anderson spends his time in the often busy corner of CSU's Dining Services.

**Where are you from?**

**TA:** I was born in San Diego, California. However, I was raised in Tennessee. So, I consider Knoxville my home.

**How many years have you been at CSU?**

**TA:** This month [January] makes two years.

**What would you be doing if you weren't a director?**

**TA:** I would be a deep-sea fisherman. If not that, I'd be out duck hunting somewhere.

**As a director, what do you want to achieve most for the students? What are looking to do for them?**

**TA:** I want to create an environment where the students can come in and enjoy each other's company while experiencing great food and service. It's instant gratification. It's the reason I went to culinary school, I enjoy doing this line of work. I like making them happy and seeing them respond well to what we do. And even if they have a negative response, I'll have the opportunity to fix it right away.

**What's an interesting thing about you that students don't know?**

**TA:** I speak Spanish and I used to live in Mexico.



## There's a New Dean in Town

*Dean Rome now heads the College of Letters and Sciences*

**Abby Robinson**

*Staff Writer*

*Photo: Columbus State University*

Columbus State University appointed Dennis Rome, Ph.D., as the Dean of the College of Letters and Sciences on July 1, 2014 and The Saber recently sat down with him for an interview.

Dean Rome hasn't always been a Dean, or even a Georgian. In fact, he grew up in Chicago and says, "I love Chicago, still love Chicago."

When he began his college career, he chose Bradley University like he chose CSU, because of the small class sizes. His advice for students at CSU is to "take time out, in the beginning of the semester and introduce yourself to the professor."

Dean Rome completed his bachelor's degree at Bradley University, his master's degree at Howard University, and his Ph.D. at Washington State University, and started his professional

career as a tenured faculty member at Indiana University where he taught honors classes.

He mentioned that his favorite parts about being at Indiana was the access to cultural diversity and the residential campus that created a community and "easy access to culture."

Dean Rome chose CSU because he saw "potential and talent" here. His goals are to bring a Chemistry master's degree in the fall, promote faculty and development, provide more scholarships, and offer an extended list of degrees and courses for the College of Letters and Sciences. Right now, Dean Rome is busy working on many projects for the benefit of the university that he says will "identify where our strengths are."



**Dean of the College of Letters and Sciences, Dennis Rome, Ph.D.**

## The Next Six Months

*Interim President Tom Hackett, Ph.D., offers insight into plans for CSU*

**Sam Sachs**

*Campus Life Editor*

*Photo: Columbus State University*

As previously covered in The Saber, Tom Hackett, Ph.D., is the interim President of Columbus State University and recently, The Saber had the chance to sit down with him to discuss the administration's plans for the semester and the following summer. Hackett mentioned what are called "capital projects," an example of which is the currently in progress Howard Hall renovations.

Following the recent successful purchase of the Ledger-Enquirer building, CSU is entering into several separate renovation and building projects starting in the next school year. Due to the passing of HB 788, the addition of dorms to Main Campus with 500 new beds is proceeding on schedule and construction will begin over the summer. A major part of planning and developing these projects is budgeting. Additionally, Arnold Hall will begin to be renovated in the summer.

According to Hackett, one of the first actions which he took once in office was to "solicit a budget for next year," and that the next six months will be months used to "continue work on comprehensive fund raising for CSU." With the Schwob School of Music becoming an officially recognized conservatory by the Board of Regents in February, CSU continues to expand and diversify.



**Interim President, Tom Hackett**

While Hackett is in office as the interim President, the President Search Committee continues its efforts to find a suitable group of candidates to submit to the Board of Regents Chancellor to pick the next CSU President.

When asked if he would be interested in remaining President, Hackett expressed that he "hopes to return to the Provost's office" following his term as interim President.

As the current interim President, Hackett is actually unable to be named

as the full president as per the University System of Georgia's guidelines.

Taking the opportunity to address his work as the Vice President of Academic Affairs before the current semester, Hackett stated that "In modern universities, it is extremely important to have a chief academic officer to ensure that the university reaches its academic goals."

Continuing off of this point, Hackett answered the question of what he feels is the main struggle for academics at CSU, noting that the university has room to grow in seeing students graduate on time.

Many students reportedly graduate after six years, but Hackett pushes for speeding up this process and encouraging students to finish getting their degrees in four years instead and to take the full 15 hours each semester to achieve this. He also said that the main focus of his current activities are involved in improving student retention and progression, which is again related to graduation rates and academic progress while at CSU.

Hackett will remain the interim President through the end of the semester until the new President is selected by the Board of Regents from the USG.



# Renovations on Campus

## *Building a better CSU*

Austin Wallace  
Staff Writer

Photos: Columbus State University

The Director of Campus Planning and Development, Eric Pittman, met with The Saber for an interview to discuss current and upcoming renovations on Columbus State University's main campus.

Howard Hall has been undergoing renovations since the beginning of fall semester of 2014, and according to Pittman it is still on track for its scheduled availability to faculty and students by the fall semester of 2015.

However, in addition to the Howard Hall renovations, CSU has plans to renovate Arnold Hall, LeNoir Hall, the Simon Schwob Memorial Library, and is also exploring the possibility of renovating the Davidson Student Center to include a Panda Express.

Pittman clarified that Arnold Hall "will begin construction around July [of 2015] and will be ready for the spring 2017 semester." He explained that the structure is "going to be gutted for all intents and purposes," and that the renovations will result in the first floor becoming classroom and lecture space, while the upstairs will become the new home of the faculty offices of the English and Psychology departments. In addition, the tiered lecture room will undergo modifications to "accommodate an array of different functions."

LeNoir Hall is expected to receive appropriate funding, which will result in the design process beginning in April of 2015. Pittman stated that the renovations related to this building will include the remodeling of many of the existing labs, and the addition of "as many as ten new labs" to improve functionality and expand upon the dated structure.

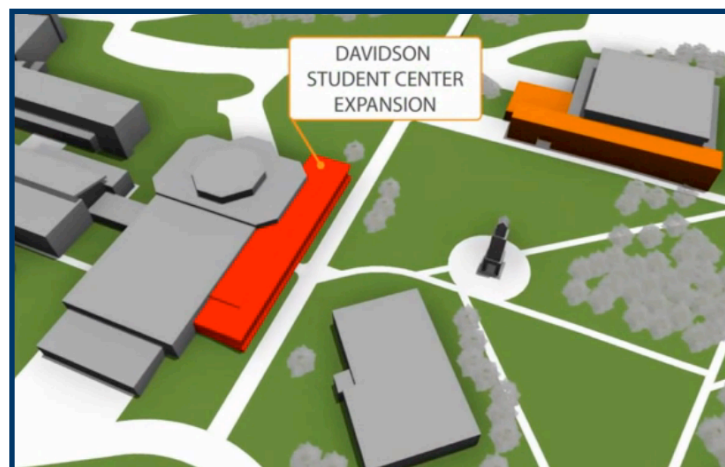
The Schwob library will receive additional study space, undergo renovations to improve its archive section and incorporate a "learning commons function," which will result in supplementing writing and math labs. Overall, the library will undergo "a lot of infrastructure renovation."

In news of construction and demolition, CSU is scheduled for a review on Feb. 6, 2015 for a project to construct a new Main Campus freshman student housing facility, as well as a Moe's Southwest Grill, both to be located on Clearview Circle. The student housing project is currently still in the design process; however, it is expected to add 500 beds designated to future incoming freshmen. If all goes as planned and funds are available, construction may begin at the end of May 2015. Woodall Hall is also scheduled for demolition near the same date as the Schwob Library renovations.

In total, the renovations of Howard, Arnold, and LeNoir Halls, as well as the Schwob Memorial Library will result in a combined cost of approximately \$32.4 million, with \$28.4 million of that money to be state funded, while \$4 million will come from private funds and funds raised by CSU.

Pittman assured that the primary purpose of these renovations and construction projects is to "help student comfort," ensure student retention and encourage student participation on campus.

If you are interested in receiving more information, Plant Operations may be contacted through Eric Pittman at [pittman\\_eric@columbusstate.edu](mailto:pittman_eric@columbusstate.edu).



## Student Government Focuses on Participation

*SGA's new time and new plans*

**Sam Sachs**

*Campus Life Editor*

*Photo: Columbus State University*



Columbus State University's Student Government Association has recently made the decision to change the time the forum is held in order to "raise the chances of meeting quorum," according to SGA President Rachel Green, and boost overall involvement by campus organizations. While SGA has typically held their meetings at 12:30 p.m. every two weeks on Thursday, the forum time has been changed to 3:30 p.m. by a majority vote held last semester.

The executive board has also decided to begin livestreaming forum for 24 hours immediately at the end of forum in order to allow representatives who missed the

meeting to vote and ask questions about announcements, funds requests and policy changes.

Both of these changes are part of a larger effort to bridge the gap between campuses and involve more RiverPark organizations. Currently, RiverPark is minimally represented due to the time required to travel between campuses and the potential of missing classes downtown to attend forum.


Five new senators were also sworn in on the Jan. 22 forum due to some senators being unable to attend forum because of their class schedules this semester. The list of new senators can be found in the SGA office with Toniandrea Barratt, the Speaker of the Senate.




Catering will also be returning to forum and will be provided by Aramark's Student Catering. The Student Catering part of Aramark provides discounted and more affordable food for student organizations and will be used to meet the needs of registered student organizations at a more reasonably priced rate.


SGA will also be tracking attendance this semester and in the future with scan cards using the barcode from student IDs and online with CSUinvolve. This is to enable the SGA officers to effectively award honor cords for service hours to representatives based on their attendance.


The SGA's office secretary Christopher Keough has also mentioned that the online forum will be linked to CSUinvolve and that "viewers will be able to watch forum live and post questions during each session in close to real time." Christopher also made note that there would be a 15-second delay between the live session and the streaming service. The SGA office is also hoping to vote on having an online ballot in the near future, and this will be proposed at an incoming forum.

With all of these changes in SGA, the overall hope from the office is that students on both Main Campus and in RiverPark will be able to participate more easily and work together to the benefit of the student body.






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## Selma

*MLK Jr. film gains acclaim and success*

**Eric Nicey**

*Staff Writer*

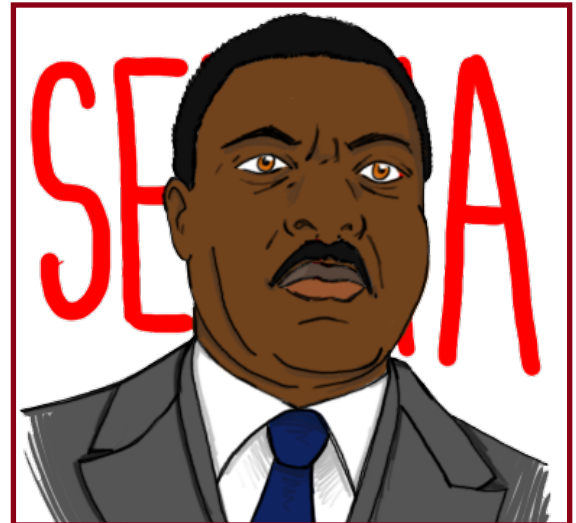
*Illustration: Noah Sachs*

With the recent passing of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and the coming of black history month, the critically-acclaimed film “Selma” has made a big splash in the box office. The film, starring David Oyelowo as Martin Luther King Jr., has made over \$30 million in revenue so far. The film depicts King’s lead on a five-day, 54-mile march from Selma, Ala. to Montgomery for the voting rights of African Americans in 1965. The film’s star-studded cast includes Carmen Ejogo as Coretta Scott King, Oprah Winfrey as Annie Lee Cooper and Tom Wilkinson as President Lyndon B. Johnson. It has been nominated for four Golden Globes and an Oscar.

The film’s first showing in the U.S. was on Jan. 9 in Selma at the Walton Theater and was free to the city’s citizens. The theater’s 250 seats were packed for its first premiere.

“It is important that we all understand our history and not hide it and I think this film will help us do that,” said Frank Wright, advisor of the Theta Zeta Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma.

Robin Price, a senior Art History major, agreed with Wright, stating: “I think this will open up a lot of people’s eyes to what we have been through and are still going through.” “Selma” has been released in all states. You can view it at a local Carmike or IMAX theater.



## Opinion: College, Love and a Pen

*Romance on the clock*

**Francesca Renfroe**

*Arts and Entertainment Editor*

*Illustration: Marjorie Pierce*

The work place can be a stressful environment. There are deadlines, competition, and not to mention strict bosses. What happens if two coworkers decide to take their relationship further than the work place? Would that add stress? Or, is it a good way to relieve stress?

“I feel as though when you’re dating inside the work place it’s a touchy situation. Only because if you’re unable to be professional in the event of a break up or argument, then it’s going to affect the work relationship as well as the customer service,” said Alexis Knox, Communication major. “But, if you’re able to put the personal aside, be business at work and leave the drama in the relationship at home, then it would be beneficial. But at the same time, at some point, there needs to be a parting of ways because someone is going to get promoted. Someone is going to want to move on. So, it’s gonna be a conflict of interest at some point.”

Time and space are important within a relationship of any kind. Spending too much time with someone can eventually drive you crazy, so seeing your significant other all the time at work and at home can be too much. Everyone needs their own personal space to function in a relationship.

“I have been in a relationship with a co-worker. Relationship lasted for a year and we got engaged. However, it blew up in pieces! I wouldn’t do it again because space is just as important as together time,” said Mikaila Ead, Psychology major.

“Our workplace is where we most often meet people. After finishing school, it is often the primary place where we meet new people from diverse backgrounds. These are people who are candidates for romantic relationships, or people whom we

will introduce to potential candidates,” said William Edwards, Communication Professor. “The workplace gives us a more objective view of others’ character compared to the bar scene or even religion settings where people are more likely to be pretending. The workplace is a great place to get to meet and know people for many purposes, but it is not an appropriate place to be romantic.”

“When there is a power distance between romantic partners, e.g., supervisor, this can quickly cause problems. This is even true when the weaker partner is not directly supervised by the stronger partner. Charges of sexual harassment, complaints by others of favoritism and distraction from duties are all too common when such relationships develop or collapse,” Edwards continued. “Even between equals, these same problems occur when the partners work in the same area. Knowing that we have high divorce rates, we certainly should realize that



the causality rate for romantic relationships is climbing. I don’t think these potential problems should keep people from forming relationships away from work.”

What a work relationship boils down to is maturity, distance, and discipline. If you are not mature enough to work in the same place with your partner, then maybe you shouldn’t have a work romance. If you do not have enough distance from your partner, you should second guess the decision to date them. Because, there will come a time when you’re seeing them too much. Finally, if you do not have the discipline to separate “work relationship” from “personal relationship,” then you should not date on the job. If you can handle all three of these then best of luck to you!

## College of the Arts Spotlight: Katherine Hinzman

**Francesca Renfroe**  
Arts and Entertainment Editor  
Photo: Katherine Hinzman

Art is more than just sculptures and paintings. There is a story behind every piece and it takes dedication to learn the history behind the works. This is the case for Katherine Hinzman, 19, Art History major. Her passion for both art and history led her to the College of The Arts.

As her senior year comes to a close, she tells The Saber why she became an Art History major.

### How did your journey in the arts begin?

**KH:** I was originally just a history major. One maymester a few years back, I took an art appreciation course with Dr. Barbara Johnston and fell in love with the discipline of Art History. I had always been fascinated by art. When my family moved around the country from one military fort to another, we always visited the museums wherever we lived and I adored them growing up.

The course with Dr. Johnston that summer just clicked with my love of history and my love of art, and it has been my passion, focus, and goal ever since.



*Senior Art major, Katherine Hinzman*

### Why Columbus State?

**KH:** I live in Waverly Hall, Georgia, and was first attracted by its nearby location. The International Program has been a real draw. I have studied abroad for a summer and afterwards was a visiting student at the University of Oxford for six months last year. Furthermore, I am pursuing a certificate in International Studies, a fantastic program in which I have been able to do a considerable amount of interdisciplinary work.

### Have any projects you're excited about this semester?

**KH:** This semester, I am completing my Honors senior thesis "Art, She is His Lover: Ruskin, Whistler and the Female Face of Art." In this thesis, I will be examining the "institutions" of art and gender in Victorian Britain from the perspectives of two major figures in the art world of the nineteenth century: John Ruskin and James McNeill Whistler.

I will also be traveling to the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library this February to conduct archival research of a medieval, sixteenth-century Book of Hours, which I will handle and analyze for a paper I hope to present at CSU Tower Day this April.

### What are your plans after graduation?

**KH:** I will be attending graduate school in England, pursuing a Masters in the History of Art.

From there, I hope to go on to doctoral work and afterwards, teach as a university professor.

## CSU Theatre is Back in Action

*Interview with senior Theatre Performance major, Blake Copeland*

**Danielle Davis**  
Layout Editor  
Photo: Carly McMinn

### Much Ado About Nothing

Written by William Shakespeare, this play follows two soldiers, Benedick and Claudio, who have returned from war. The two struggle in the art of love with respective interests, Beatrice and Hero. "Much Ado About Nothing" is centered on the idea of forgetting one's past and realizing that life is meant to be a joyous occasion. It will be directed by Prof. David Turner of the CSU Theatre Department.

### 1. What character(s) will you be portraying in "Much Ado About Nothing"?

**Copeland:** I'm playing Benedick, the self-proclaimed bachelor who falls for a trap and ends up madly in love.

### 2. How was the rehearsal process?

**Copeland:** The rehearsal process was like a roller coaster. It took a substantial amount of work which took a long time to get to the peak, and now we take the dive and go through the loops and turns of the story.

### 3. Do you feel like you have anything in common with your character?

**Copeland:** I connect with his desire to make people laugh. I think I've always had that spark in me that desired to see people smile.

### 4. What was the best part about being a part of this production?

**Copeland:** Being that Shakespeare was a foreign style of acting for me, I was incredibly timid to begin. The further along the process we went, I found that Shakespeare was not as intimidating as I thought.

In fact, I found that acting out his words is like surfing in a cloud. It's the most freeing thing in the world.

### Performance Times

Jan. 28-31 at 7:30 p.m. & Feb. 1 at 2:00 p.m.

### The Wedding Singer

This musical comedy features music by Michael Sklyar, lyrics by Chad Beguelin, and book by Tim Herlihy. "The Wedding Singer" will be directed by Prof. Molly Claassen of the CSU Theatre Department. It's based on the 1998 film of the same name that starred Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore. It focuses on Robbie Hart, New Jersey's beloved wedding singer. After being heartbroken by his fiancée, Robbie meets Julia, a waitress, and falls in love. However, she's to marry someone else. Will Robbie succeed in getting the girl of his dreams?

### Performance Times

March 13-14, March 19-21 at 7:30 p.m. & March 15 at 2:00 p.m.



*The cast of Much Ado About Nothing*

## A Definite Same-Sex Marriage Answer

*U.S. Supreme Court to rule on same-sex marriage constitutionality*

**Justin Minge**

*Copy Editor*

*Illustration: Trevor Mehrkens*



On Jan. 16, 2015, the Supreme Court of the United States announced it would be granting writs of certiorari from four separate lower-court cases concerning same-sex marriage bans, and rule on all four cases simultaneously. Hearing arguments from both sides of the cases, a ruling on the constitutionality of same-sex marriage, based on the rights granted in the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, will be made.

All four of these cases challenged their state's ban on same-sex marriage, namely the bans in Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Tennessee. Each of the cases were won by the respective plaintiffs, and the bans were lifted. These victories were short-lived, however, as the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit overturned these rulings on Nov. 6, 2014. Applications for certiorari were then filed by the plaintiffs, or essentially applications for the Supreme Court to review the circuit court's decision. These requests for certiorari were granted by the Supreme Court.

In their order list released on Jan. 16, the Supreme Court stated that they would be considering two questions in particular when

making their decision, both concerning the 14th Amendment. The first question asks: "Does the Fourteenth Amendment require a state to license a marriage between two people of the same sex?" While the second goes a bit further, reading: "Does the Fourteenth Amendment require a state to recognize a marriage between two people of the same sex when their marriage was lawfully licensed and performed out-of-state?"

The Supreme Court will be ruling on these questions later in the year, with all briefings to be completed by April 17, 2015. Each question could have a huge impact on the nation, and both call into question the scope of the protection of the 14th Amendment. Section one of the amendment dictates that no state "shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

If the Supreme Court rules that the answer to both their questions is yes, then same-sex marriages will be both legal and recognized in every state. If the answer to both is no, it would not require the states that have already legalized same-sex marriage to ban it a second time. There is also a third option, in which the Supreme Court rules in favor of one of the questions, but not the other. For example, the Court could rule that while states are not required to license same-sex marriages, they are bound to recognize those performed in other states that do license them.

36 states have completely legalized same-sex marriage so far, with seven of the remaining 14 already overturning their bans, pending appeals to the Supreme Court. These past few years have seen incredible progress for the marriage equality movement in the United States, and this progress cannot be denied no matter what the ruling of the Supreme Court turns out to be.

## A Review of the Consumer Electronic Show

*A big year for big TV's*

**Ryan Krafthefer**

*Media Editor*

*Image: Wikicommons*

The Consumer Electronic Show (CES) is a yearly tech convention that shows off the next big thing in technology for the coming year. From televisions to cars, this is the spotlight that many electronic and technological companies look forward to in order to show off their new toys. However, this year was a big year for television. It looks as if the flat screen TVs of the future are finally here.

4K technology for television is slowly on the rise, and many companies like Samsung and LG are leading the pack with their innovative new displays. LG's new OLED flat screens are adding a bit of a "twist" to the average TV display, as they are introducing a 77-inch flexible TV. With the press of a button, this TV can go from flat to a bent position and back to flat.

One has to start saving up those pennies if this is something that sparks interest, because this TV is not one that will be found on clearance anytime soon. With a price point of \$25,000, this TV is not for your average consumer. As with any new tricks to the technology area, this kind of innovation will quickly catch on, and slowly these prices will come down considerably.

Sony also came to CES this year with a very unique TV to show off. The Sony X900C was introduced as the world's thinnest TV

measuring in at around 0.2 inches thick. This makes Sony's new TV thinner than most phones. The price point for this thin piece of equipment has yet to be announced, but be on the lookout for more information coming in spring of 2015 as Sony is to possibly release it before the holiday season.





## Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

*A reflection on a remarkable man*

**Toni Stauffer**

*Staff Writer*

*Photo: Wikicommons*

Everyone at CSU had the day off on Monday, Jan. 19, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. If he had lived, Dr. King would have turned 86 on Jan. 15. He was born in Atlanta as Michael King, but his minister father, Martin Luther King, Sr., changed Michael's name to honor Martin Luther, the German 16th century father of the Protestant Reformation. Dr. King followed in his father's footsteps, becoming a Baptist minister for Ebenezer Baptist church in Atlanta.

King was a passionate, much needed voice in a dark era of racial injustice and was not just a man of words and ideas, but also action. In 1955, he organized the infamous bus boycott in Montgomery and formed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in 1957. Influenced by the teachings of Gandhi, Dr. King led the non-violent protests in Birmingham in 1963, as well as the march on Washington where he delivered his world famous "I Have a Dream" speech. In 1964, Dr. King was the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize, awarded for promoting change using peaceful means. In 1965, he led the Selma to Montgomery marches.

In 1968, in the midst of planning the Poor People's Campaign, a national occupation of Washington, Dr. King was killed by an assassin's bullet at the Lorraine motel on April 4 in Memphis, Tennessee. His gruesome and unexpected death shocked the world and is still a topic of much debate and controversy, 47 years later.



**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, known as The King Center, was established in 1968 by his wife, Coretta Scott King. It is located at 449 Auburn Ave., NE, in Atlanta, and is the location of the King family tomb. The center receives more than a million visitors annually, and is free to visit. For more information, go to [www.thekingcenter.org](http://www.thekingcenter.org).

## Columbus: A Year in Review

*A look at past poverty rates and homicides*

**Lyndal Bedford**

*Staff Writer*

*Photo: columbusga.com*

While people are optimistic about 2015 being better than 2014, the process can start by paying close attention to where it all went wrong in Columbus last year. In 2014, there were 22 homicides in the Muscogee County area as well as issues concerning high poverty rates and low income levels.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the poverty rate in Columbus was around 19 percent, and the median household income was \$42,972 between the year 2011 and 2012. At the start of 2011, the poverty rate was at 17 percent and average household income was at \$40,155. During that time, the one county in Columbus that was affected the least was Muscogee, with an average household income of \$45,178.

This is positive as it shows that the county was stable, but is not such good news for the rest of the city. Even though the city's average income has risen slightly since 2011 and 2012, the high poverty rate has affected crime in the Columbus area.

In 2012, FBI statistics revealed that the overall crime rate had dropped, but the rate of homicides had risen. The homicide rate was above average with 17 homicides in 2012, higher than the year before when there were 15 homicides.



**Mayor Teresa Tomlinson**

Referring to the drop in overall crime, Columbus Mayor Teresa Tomlinson expressed that she felt that the reason for the decrease was because of the taxpayers

being able to hire more police officers, and local neighborhoods and organizations were working together to help prevent and stop crimes.

However, the number of homicides was clearly a major issue. In 2014 in Muscogee alone, there was a total of 22 homicides, a jump from the number in 2012. This year, 2015, Mayor Tomlinson wants to fight the issue at the source. In her State of the City Address, she approached the topic by talking about the correlation between the poverty rate in Muscogee County, which is 19.6 percent, and the high rate of homicides that occurred.

According to Tomlinson, she is doing everything possible to work diligently with the Chamber and the Economic Development Authority to look into the issue in great detail.

It is expected that Columbus citizens will see progress related to the issue, and eventually in 2015 work towards the rebuilding of the distressed areas most affected by crime and poverty. Positive changes are coming, some that will truly make a difference for the city and the community at large.

## Nursing and Education to Move Uptown

*City expresses concern about proposed design concept*

**Scott Berson**

*Staff Writer*

*Image: Ledger-Enquirer*



Late last month the CSU Foundation officially purchased the current Ledger-Enquirer building on 12th Street in order to transform it into a new center for both the School of Nursing and the School of Education. With several hundred nursing students alone reporting to classes each day in Illges Hall on Main Campus, the move will free up space and allow for the acquisition of new technologies to aid in teaching.

The current Ledger-Enquirer newspaper has operated out of the same building for over 80 years. Although in some manner of disrepair, the building is regarded as the finest example of Mediterranean architecture in the city, and a portion of it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. CSU plans to tear down much of the current building, including the large tower known as the Page Building, the production facilities and the loading docks. It will preserve the historic portion of the building while adding a modern, three-story education facility connected via a walkway to the historic section.

The new design was reviewed on the 12th before the Board of Historic and Architectural Review, which unanimously approved the demolition but expressed concerns about the new style of the building, claiming that the broad, open faced glass front did not flow well with either the historical part of the building nor with the rest of the architecture downtown. Sudhir Patel, primary project architect, defended his idea and said that he wanted to form a distinction between the old and new, and did not want to simply copy an older design. The concept will have to be resubmitted after acceptable changes have been made.

CSU has an accelerated timetable for the completion of the facility, expecting it to be open to students by fall semester 2016, and does not expect the Board's concerns to result in any delay.

## North Korea and Paris, France

*Important world news stories that happened over winter break*

**Cam Krafthefer**

*Local and World News Editor*

*Image: Sony Entertainment*

Over the winter break, the media was plastered with the phrases "Sony Hack" and "Je suis Charlie." Thanks to smart phones and social media, it is easy to have a general sense of what is going on in the world. But for those who opted to spend less time with their digital devices during the break, here's what happened.

On Nov. 24, Sony was hacked by an unknown source, locking employees out of the system and spreading the company's secret information over the Internet. A few days later, on Dec. 1, the FBI declared that they were launching an investigation on the hacking incident. It was believed that Sony was hacked by North Korea, as James Franco's latest movie, "The Interview," was about an attempt to assassinate Kim Jong Un, North Korea's leader.

North Korea denied the hacking claims, but due to terroristic threats, Sony cancelled the movie's Christmas day release. On Dec. 19, the FBI confirmed that it was, in fact, North Korea that hacked the company's software, followed by an Internet outage in North Korea on Dec. 22. After President Obama claimed that "Sony made a mistake" by not releasing the film, Homeland Security stated that the threats were empty and weren't something that should be concerned over.

The movie was released on Dec. 25, as planned, at participating theaters. Obama signed an executive order on Jan. 2, which imposed increasing sanctions on North Korea. These sanctions allow for the Treasury Department to block any North Korean official or agent from accessing assets or entering the US.

Almost a week later, in Paris on Jan. 7, the office of a magazine was attacked, where employees were shot and killed. Charlie Hebdo, the magazine, is famous for its cartoons, which often poke fun at big news stories and religion. Islamic extremists claimed that they would attack the magazine if the cartoons continued to be printed. Charlie Hebdo responded with a 'no,' stating that it was their right to print whatever they wanted, as it was their freedom of speech.

Two brothers, Cherif and Said Kouachi, entered the magazine's office with two assault rifles and killed eight of the magazine's employees and one police officer as they fled the building. For two days, the city of Paris was on maximum alert as more than 500 policemen and women searched for the two suspects. After the two suspects were shot and killed by police, it was released that a total of 12 people were shot by the two brothers over the past three days.

During this horrifying time, people all over the world were reacting to the attack made on Paris. The phrase "Je suis Charlie," or "I am Charlie," became a popular form of showing one's support. US Secretary of State, John Kerry stated "All Americans stand beside France," when pledging solidarity with the country and its citizens.



*Sony's film released despite controversy*



## Groundhog Day

*A celebration of hope*

**Toni Stauffer**  
*Staff Writer*  
 Photo: Wikicommons

Every Feb. 2 our nation indulges in the ridiculous tradition of dragging a sleepy and irritable over-sized rodent from its hibernation burrow in order to predict the arrival of spring. If the groundhog sees its shadow, it is believed that there will be six more weeks of winter.

The most famous of groundhogs hails from Pennsylvania and is named Punxsutawney Phil, after its hometown. The location of his burrow is Gobbler's Knob. Phil and the town might be familiar holiday icons, having been featured in the film "Groundhog Day," starring Bill Murray.

In Georgia, we have our own furry General Beauregard Lee who lives in Lilburn and has even received honorary doctorates from the University of Georgia: a DWP, which is "Doctor of Weather Prognostication," and a DSG, "Doctor of Southern Groundology." There are other less famous groundhogs, such as Buckeye Chuck in Ohio, and even one as far north as Canada named Balzac Billy.

So, where did this crazy tradition begin? The first Groundhog Day celebration was in Punxsutawney in 1887. Like most traditions, its origins are a bit muddled; however, it is believed that Groundhog Day originated from the Christian holiday Candlemas, the day when clergy would distribute candles for the winter. People believed that the weather, whether clear or cloudy, predicted the length of winter and the candles were a representation of that belief. The Germans began using hedgehogs for the predictions and

brought the tradition with them when they migrated to the U.S., substituting the groundhog as their mammalian weather vane.

People need hope, a sign of the coming spring to get them through the rest of the long, cold winter. Whether the herald of spring is a groundhog, a red-breasted robin, or wriggling earthworms, spring will soon be just around the corner.



*Marmota monax, or the common groundhog*

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## Flu Season

*Protect yourself this year*

**Austin Nichols**

*Staff Writer*

*Illustration: Marjorie Pierce*



Amidst all the clamor over diseases such as Ebola, many students have forgotten to protect themselves from a threat that is much more common: the flu. In college, viruses like the flu pass between students much more quickly due to the close quarters of classrooms and dormitories, as well as repeated exposure to the same germs.

Most of the younger and healthier students can defeat the disease in just a few days, but for older students or those with auto-immune deficiencies, the flu can easily develop into pneumonia or other serious illnesses. This can result in missed classes, and, on rare occasions, even death. The Department of Health and Human Services estimates that a serious outbreak of the flu could potentially cost over 60 million lives worldwide.

There are several safety measures students can take to help prevent the spread of the influenza virus, including frequent hand washing, the use of hand sanitizer after sneezing or coughing, staying hydrated, and getting a flu shot, which can be found at almost any local pharmacy or drugstore, and even in CSU's own Health Clinic.

Symptoms of the flu include fever, muscle aches, chills, runny or stuffy nose, sore throat, nausea, and diarrhea. Most physicians would recommend that those who believe that they have the flu isolate themselves for at least 24 hours, and visit a doctor if symptoms worsen. Students should take steps to protect themselves and others during the flu season.

## Out with the Old, in with the New

*CSU students have resolutions to stay fit and eat healthy in 2015*

**Eric Nicey**

*Staff Writer*

*Photos: Tionna Howard*



**Rebecca Zangenberg, Education major**

Just as with any other January, the ritual of making, and keeping, New Year's resolutions has come once again. One of the most popular resolutions is to become fit and eat healthy. Many CSU students have decided to take on this promise. Leeya Ulibarri, a sophomore Sociology major, stated: "Staying fit and eating healthier is definitely one of my resolutions, and I plan to do so by laying off the junk food and working out more." Tiffany Watson, a junior Computer Science major, added "It is important to me to stay fit and eat healthy, because I have four kids to chase around the house."

According to national averages, fitness is currently the number one resolution in the U.S., with 37% of the nation claiming this resolution as their own. Alicia Bryan, associate professor for the health, physical education, and exercise science department, says that, "It is a common resolution for all but in order for it to be achieved, it must be strategized. Also, for college students staying fit and eating healthy is very important because it gives them more energy and offers an ascetic property." Staying active and eating well is a resolution that is slowly becoming a mainstay at CSU. Students are picking up less Starbucks cups to wake up, and taking more morning jogs.



**Ana Benca, Psychology major**

## BodyMedia Halts Production

*CSU fitness classes no longer require the BodyMedia Armband*

Before the start of the semester, BodyMedia announced they would no longer be making the BodyMedia Armband required for most fitness classes at CSU. The physical education department is still trying to work out exactly how student fitness activities should be monitored in PEDS and PHED classes. Some classes simply do not have required technology. Instead, they record and report only the physical activity they participate in during their class time.

Other classes, like the Concepts of Fitness class taught by Tammie Barnes, use a mixture of technology. Each student was allowed to choose which device they preferred. Barnes says, as a teacher, she preferred the BodyMedia Armband because it connected students “straight to the teacher” and was “more user-friendly to online fitness classes.” However,

Barnes concedes that the device was difficult for students to use: “As soon as they plugged it in they were frustrated.”



While some students are still using the BodyMedia Armband, others in Barnes' class have stretched out to the Fitbit, which monitors activity but not heart rate, and even the Adidas miCoach. Cyline Velazquez, who uses the miCoach x\_cell, says she likes it better than the Armband: “There are workout plans online, like I have the “No Sweat” workout...It also records workouts you’ve done.” The miCoach is only \$70 with no annual subscription and a free phone app for iOS and Android phones.

Currently, there is no standard fitness device for the department. Barnes has said she is going to compile “a list of good and inexpensive [devices]” for future classes to choose from if the department does not settle on one first.

**Catrina Dygert**

*Sports and Wellness Editor*

*Photo: bodymedia.com*

## CSU Rifle Team

*Continuing to shoot for the top spot*



*Marko Maksimovic of the CSU Rifle Team*

As this year's rifle season wraps up, the CSU rifle team is blowing away their competition. The team outshot both Murray State and Morehead, two of the top teams in the region, and scored a season best of 4553 aggregate against Murray. The next meet is Jan. 31 at Jacksonville State. The team will travel back to Jacksonville, Ala. to participate in its third Ohio Valley Conference Championship on Feb. 7 and 8. The last meet of the season will be the NRA Qualifier in Murray, Ky., a two-day event starting Feb. 21. This will be CSU's last chance of the season to qualify for the national championships.

**Catrina Dygert**

*Sports and Wellness Editor*

*Photo: Columbus State University*

## Cougar Basketball

*A score review from winter break*

Columbus State University's basketball program is having a great season, as the men's basketball team pulled in their seventh consecutive victory in a match against Lander. The women's basketball team, ranked 16th in the region, snagged a victory against Lander as well, with a final score of 78-70. After taking on Young Harris on Saturday, Jan. 21, the Cougars look toward victory in a conference game at Flagler on Jan. 28. A full schedule of the remaining eight games can be found on csucougars.com.

**Austin Nichols**

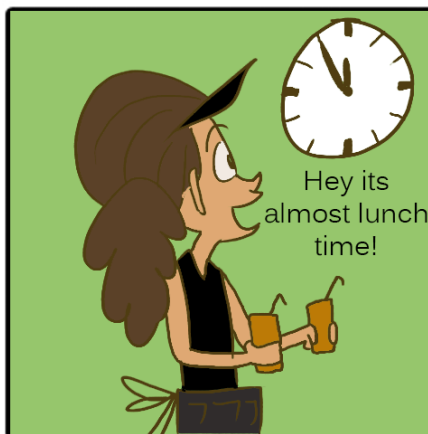
*Staff Writer*

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