Greetings, reader. This is your second issue of the spring semester, and it is rich with excellent content! The staff worked hard to make this issue all about you, the students, so we filled it with your voices. Did you know that you pay for The Saber to stay open each year with your student fees? That’s right. Every spring, a committee comprised of faculty, staff, and students votes to approve our budget, which comes directly out of your pockets. Therefore, this is your newspaper, and part of the public service it provides is capturing your voices. This year, you spent $40,000 to keep us open, and we certainly appreciate it. So, as you would take advantage of the gym, or athletic events, or meal plans, or anything else that comes out of student fees, take advantage of The Saber. Write to us, email us, or drop by to chat sometime. You can even send us anonymous messages if you have a good scoop. We love a good scoop.

I would like, also, to congratulate The Saber staff on their excellent work over the past several years, and that recognition includes those who have moved on. This publication won eight awards at the Georgia College Press Association’s Best Newspaper competition this year, and those awards are the culmination of a push toward excellence that began with editor-in-chief Catherine Saavedra, moved forward with her protege Scott Berson, and continues to be paramount to me. Job well-done, everyone.

These stories and several others found within these 32 pages of content.

Special thanks to Tom Ingram and The Local for help with events.

By Sydnee Williams

By Ivey Milam

By Toni Stauffer

By Scottie DeClue

By Bo Lewis

By Vivian Duncan

By Briana Williams

By Mariah Jackson

By Cole Trahan

Disclaimer
Opinions expressed in The Saber are those of the editor or writer of the article and do not necessarily reflect the views of Columbus State University or its affiliates.

Contact
For comments or inquiries, CSUsaber@gmail.com
For advertising information, CSUSaberAds@gmail.com

4225 UNIVERSITY AVE.
COLUMBUS, GA 31907-5645
CSUSABER@GMAIL.COM

@TheCSUSaber
The Columbus State University Saber

On The Cover: A rare appearance of Cody the Cougar dressed in BDUs.
Photo credit: CSU

These stories and several others found within these 32 pages of content.

Special thanks to Tom Ingram and The Local for help with events.
The CSU community seeks to improve administration by creating efficiencies, include planning forums and assessments. "This effort and has begun a new phase in the initiative that will utilize University System resources more effectively, CSU TO UNDERGO COMPREHENSIVE

The University determined the need for more space in 2017, will result in more academic space for students. "progressing nicely. " Wilson said. The original budget for the project was $355,910, but the completed cost was $408,438 – a 14.8 percent increase since the original bid. Leaks in the roof caused damage to the archives on the third floor during storm surges last summer.

According to Kelly Wilson, director of maintenance and construction at CSU, the renovations to LeNoir Hall, which will include the construction of science lab on the north wing, are "progressing nicely. " The project, which has been in planning since before 2017, will result in more academic space for students.

Columbia State University hosted more than 1,700 Fort Columbus students this February to recognize the relationship to the second and third floors will continue throughout the summer. The facility should be in full use by fall 2019.

CSU HOSTS FORT BENNING APPRECIATION DAY

Columbus State University hosted more than 1,700 Fort Benning soldiers at basketball, baseball, and softball games this February to recognize the relationship between Fort Benning and the University. Currently, about 10 percent of CSU's enrollment have ties to Fort Benning. Those members include active duty, spouses, and retirees.

CSU TO UNDERGO COMPREHENSIVE ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

CSU is in the midst of a major effort to utilize University System resources more effectively, and has begun a new phase in the initiatives that will include planning forums and assessments. "This effort seeks to improve administration by creating efficiencies, streamlining processes, and finding ways to be more effective with USG resources," Harwell said. "I have assembled an implementation team to assist in our participation, and we will be planning several open forums and "listening sessions". The CSU community may receive email notification to participate in this process, and are requested to do so if contacted.

CSU PARTNERS WITH GEORGIA POWER TO SAVE

Georgia Power, according to their Twitter account, has partnered with CSU on 60 energy-savings projects since 2011, saving a total of almost 5 million kilowatt-hours, giving CSU a rebate of $166,972 from the Georgia Power company. "This has been a deliberate effort that we can now see really add up," said Tom Hulsen, vice president for business and finance. "Our partnership with Georgia Power has provided the needed financial funding to make these projects possible," Mike Medlick, assistant vice president for facilities, said the University's energy-efficiency efforts were boosted in 2008 when CSU recouped $1.7 million from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act.

"These funds were used in three buildings we consider energy bugs," Medlick said. "We were required to show an energy savings over five years from any funds spent from AARA. When we were able to do that, Georgia Power saw our success and included us in their Commercial Energy Efficiency Program."

CSU TO IMPLEMENT GRAPHIC DESIGN PROGRAM

For the first time, CSU is offering students a bachelor's of fine arts with a focus in graphic design. Nicholas McMillan, a professor of art who specializes in graphic design was hired by CSU to help launch the program in the fall 2017. "My goal is for my students to walk of the stage, get a job, and keep them in Columbus," McMillan said. "There's so much wealth of opportunity in this community. That's what excites me … the more artists and designers we have stay, the more it will improve the city. " This fall, CSU will offer courses in graphic design 1, 2, and 3.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS PUSHED BACK, STILL SEEKING CANDIDATES

Elections for new student Government Association officers are fast approaching for this spring. The SGA is a student-run organization that leads students in academic and civic engagement, and is an organized voice of the students who focus on protecting students' rights as well as solving problems on campus. Unfortunately, not many students have placed applications to run for office. Applications are being pushed back to March 25, and campaigning will now occur March 27 through April 11. Debates and voting will be held at later dates as well.

SUMMARIES CONTINUED

Please see press release to consensogram.com. Sites are limited and should be submitted by the 15th of each month for publishing opportunity. Not all submissions will be published, due to space and copy is subject to editors for layout purposes. Please limit releases to no more than 110 characters.

CSU HOSTS 2018 POLITICAL DEBATE SERIES AND FORUM

CSU is partnering with local media outlets WRBL-TV and PMB Broadcasting to host, televised, and simulcast a series of political debates and forums in 2018. Six events are being scheduled to host candidates seeking the Governor's office, as well as those participating in the mayoral election. Sponsoring the events are AFLAC and TSYS. CSU professors, as well as WRBL reporters, will serve on panels speaking on the participants. The first event was held on March 6, and the next event – a mayoral debate – will occur on University Hall on main campus at 7:00 p.m.

STUDENT RECEIVES RARE SCHOLARSHIP TO NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

De'Marcus Monroe, a senior and theatre major at CSU, earned an all-expenses paid scholarship to attend the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society National Directing Fellowship this July. He graduates from CSU this May with bachelor's of fine arts in theatre performance.

AWARD-WINNING ARTISTS TO SPEAK AT 2018 DIVERSITY FORUM

The 2018 Columbus State University Forum and Legacy Celebration will occur on March 15 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m at the Cumming Center. The Legacy Celebration will be held at 6 p.m in the Lumpkin Center. This year's keynote speakers are Grammy Award-winning singer Chrissie Michelle and award-winning poet, artist, and author, Carlos Gomez. More information can be found at diversity.columbusstate.edu.

STUDENTS VOTE ON CAMPUS FORUMS

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"My goal is for my students to walk of the stage, get a job, and keep them in Columbus," McMillan said. "There's so much wealth of opportunity in this community. That's what excites me … the more artists and designers we have stay, the more it will improve the city. " This fall, CSU will offer courses in graphic design 1, 2, and 3.

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The Clearview Hall facility overlooking main campus opened in the fall of 2016 with the hopes of fostering community and promoting healthy social interactions for first-year students, and for many it has, but various students who live in the 130-bedroom residence have made claims that living in Clearview has been both enjoyable, as well as problematic for many reasons.

A verbal poll of students living in Clearview revealed information about how students feel living in the four-story building. Many students said they felt welcome due to their participation in activities and workshops hosted by Residence Life, which were designed to assist with adjusting to college life as well as problematic for many reasons.

Although many students have enjoyed their time at Clearview, others have made different claims citing drug and alcohol abuse, as well as verbal altercations. According to the CSU campus police website, there have been arrests at Clearview for possession of both alcohol and marijuana on more than one occasion since 2016. Since January of 2018, six incidents involving campus police have been reported.

Savanna Doster, a freshman and nursing major, commented on some of the behavior. “There was only like one fight, but that whole night was crazy,” Doster said. “People were just being rude in general and just kept telling me to ‘Go back to your room, white girl. It was crazy.” Doster also talked about the difficulties of living with friends. “You get to see the best and the worst in people,” she added.

One could assume that before coming to college, most students are used to living in their own rooms and having more space. When asked about their opinion of suite-style living arrangements, Clearview residents had varying answers. “The only problem with dorm life is having to live with random people. You’re not really connected with those people,” Kolawole Olorunfemi said. “At home, I used to room with my brother, but it was different because we had all those years together.” Football player Tieric Reese said that residents should be able to live separately. “I would change the rooms basically, Everyone would get their own rooms.” Another resident, Jamar Petigiy-Francois, commented on the size of the building. “Clearview is just too small, but if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.”

Additionally, some residents have complained about drug use in the building. Last semester, there was a mandatory meeting to discuss residency rules. Not everyone understood having to attend when they were not a part of the problem. “I know it sounds cheesy, but it’s like one big family,” freshman Chase Brandenburg said. “I only knew one person coming in here, and now I can’t walk down the hall without saying hey to somebody.”

“Students often make and keep friends because you see them everyday,” said resident Kayla Foster. Overall, there have mostly been positive comments about the dorm in general. Student athletes were happy about proximity between the dorms and the fields. Many other students were relieved about the availability of resources within the dorms as well.

Clearview Hall may have its problems, but a large and diverse living situation is never problem-free.
The Saber student’s viewpoint. The program helps the envoys, trustees, alumni, and community leaders to give a representative role to the student body by meeting with Office of Alumni Engagement and Special Events, assist the Office of the President, and develop professional, leadership, and organizational skills. The team of different majors and backgrounds who excel in academics and leadership skills. The first Presidential Envoys, a group of students involved in Nutrition Programs for her major. A member of Delta Zeta, she joined the Presidential Envoy program on the advice from her sorority’s collegiate chapter director, who is a member of the Alumni Association. "Probably my favorite memory so far was one of the reception dinners I worked at Dr. Markwood’s house," Woodard said. "It was so nice to be able to meet new people but also have a good conversation with past professors and Dr. Markwood." She added, "This program is such a rewarding experience. Not only do you get to meet awesome people, but you get to showcase to others how great Columbus state is.”

Music can change the world, because it can change people.” – Bonobo

Lyndsay Richardson is from Warner Robins, Georgia, and represented her hometown last year as Miss Warner Robins. He is an art major and expects to graduate in spring 2020. After going through the application process, he was chosen by faculty recommendation for his academic achievements. “It is a great program that provides lots of connections and helps you to see the inner workings of CSU,” said Richmond. His favorite memory of being an envoy so far happened this past December. “We had a Christmas party to help with at the Markwood's home and we wore Santa hats the whole time,” Richmond said, “and since all the guests brought coats, we had a huge pile of coats in a back room that we had to sort through later to get everyone’s coat back. It was a little chaotic, but that was part of the fun.” He plans to get a master’s in fine arts after graduation, then hopefully build up his work and get into galleries around the world someday.

Every artist was once an amateur.” - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Joshua Richmond comes from a small town called Cordele located in south Georgia. He is an art major and expects to graduate in spring 2020. After going through the application process, he was chosen by faculty recommendation for his academic achievements. “It is a great program that provides lots of connections and helps you to see the inner workings of CSU,” said Richmond. His favorite memory of being an envoy so far happened this past December. “We had a Christmas party to help with at the Markwood’s home and we wore Santa hats the whole time,” Richmond said, “and since all the guests brought coats, we had a huge pile of coats in a back room that we had to sort through later to get everyone’s coat back. It was a little chaotic, but that was part of the fun.” He plans to get a master’s in fine arts after graduation, then hopefully build up his work and get into galleries around the world someday.

Lyndsay Richardson is from Warner Robins, Georgia, and represented her hometown last year as Miss Warner Robins. This year, she is our reigning Miss Columbus 2018. A senior in music education with a concentration in voice, Richardson will be graduating in May. She is also the only music major who is a Presidential Envoy.

"Representing the Schwob School of Music has been a great responsibility and one that I’ve enjoyed," said Richardson. Her favorite envoy moment was working at the Tower Society Gala and getting to converse about her love of the school and music. "The Presidential Envoy program is an amazing opportunity to meet some of the extremely successful movers and shakers involved in supporting Columbus State University as well as an opportunity to get to know CSU graduates through the Alumni Association," Richardson said. "Getting to make small talk with the people you meet through this program is one of the most valuable experiences I’ve come across in all of my work at CSU.”

Richardson wants to become a middle school Chorus teacher in the Columbus area. "When I was in middle school, being involved in chorus class was what helped me cope with my older brother's passing," Richardson said. "Since that time, my motivation has always been to give back to my future students in the same way I was helped." She added "Middle school is always going to be tough, but with the help of music, it can be a more positive time in a child's life.”

She is also editor for the Lambda chapter of Sigma chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota, and vice president of the collegiate NAfME chapter. "I am proud that you can do it all AND be a Presidential Envoy to represent CSU," said Richardson.

"Every artist was once an amateur.” - Ralph Waldo Emerson

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VERBATIM

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BO LEWIS

JAMES KIMBRO

I've avoided some vaccines and I've suffered the consequences for it. I get sick quite often (on people who don't vaccinate themselves or their children) It's irresponsible. People do get sick and get other people sick.

KHUMBO BANDA

For me, I think that vaccinations as preventative measures are good. I wouldn't enforce it but I would say that it's good. It's something that should be highly encouraged because disease can be easily spread, you know, at schools and things like that. (People who are against vaccines) are entitled to their opinion. If they're against it, they're against it. That's fine. I can be for it. They can be against it. That's okay.

I think they're very vital to everyone's health, basically. I think that if you want polio, you can get polio if you would like. This year, I caught strain A flu and I was out of school for the first three weeks. There's a reason why these doctors make these vaccines. If you have the opportunity to get it, just get it. If I have children and I'm sitting next to this lady in the park and she's all like, "Yeah, I didn't vaccinate my kids." I'm packing up my stuff. Me and little Timmy and Jimmy and whatever his name is gonna be, we're leaving. Get the shot. You're gonna have herpes. Look at Usher. You could have prevented that! Honestly, if I find a bitch who's like "I'm not vaccinating my baby," Imma slap that bitch. Imma call CPS. Imma get her name, number, everything, and Imma post that shit outside. This bitch don't vaccinate her kids. She nasty. Don't bring your kids near her. It's cool if you don't want to get vaccinated. That's your own choice, but don't force your children to go through pain and suffering because you're a dumbass and you're uninformed.

My stance on vaccines is that it depends on the status of what they're getting. If it's like a rapid case of H1N1, I think that's when people should get vaccinated. But if it's not that bad then I feel like you might be okay. You can get over it. I don't think [childhood vaccinations] should be enforced if it's not a big thing. I think that parents do want to take more caution. (On parents not vaccinating their kids) I think they're not taking caution.

Well, me personally, I don't think that there's nothing wrong with vaccinations. I don't think they're bad. It protects the children. It isn't harming the children. And a lot of people think that vaccines give children autism, and it's proven to not even be true. I think they should go to jail. That's what I think they should do because you're putting other people at harm or at risk to get something just because you don't believe in vaccines.
“Trolls” around campus to take students from parking space to campus. 
Lack of prof (political science and psychology). 
More class options and more class times. 
Like more classes in the summer and for more majors. 
There is no “Law Field” classes or legal writing pre-law classes. 
The letter and sciences need new updates. FOB, only political science department. 
Different class location for psychology students. 
Can another department move downtown for more space on main campus? 
Degree works needs to be updated. 
We should have more diverse teachers. 
Half Ass professors - sometimes attendance isn’t necessary and those classes should be tailored for online. 
Teachers are not really teaching. 
Lenoir needs updated technology because the computers are outdated and break. 
We need a computer lab that can hold a classroom in either Lenoir or Jordan, because the main one is under construction. 
We need up-to-date pest control campus-wide. 
Elevator check-ups should be more frequent. 
The lights in the parking garage stairwells need to be cleaned. 
Students shouldn’t be allowed in buildings “under construction” because of the fumes. 
We should make sure that all the lights on campus and in the parking garages work. 
Can we have a 24-hour library? 
"There is frequently only one (or two at most) sections offered of 1100-level classes that a lot of majors need, and it makes scheduling really hard. It is one thing if there’s only one section of 5200 Underwater Basket Weaving, but there was only one section of PHYSICS 1111 offered this semester." 
Stop taking away meal plan options with fewer meals! I never get through more than 60 meals, let alone 100! 
"Why do students have to have a meal plan when they are an upperclassmen and live on campus? Our housing options have either kitchens or kitchenettes. I think that a meal plan should be optional after your first year."
All fees should be better explained and let us know exactly what we are paying for each semester. 
How often are couches sanitized in buildings (especially in Davidson)? Can someone please put veggie choices in the cafe? 
Please bring back tofu products. 
Greek Life equality. 
Later hours for the Subway, cafe, etc. for people with late classes. 
Not enough student involvement with athletic classes, SGA forums, Greek events, etc. 
Not all bathroom stalls have working locks or hooks to hang bags on. 
Not enough study rooms or enforcement of silence where those rooms are. 
CSU involve needs to be updated. 
Shuttlies to and from downtown keep coming early or late, or they don’t stop at certain stops. It is one thing for me to be a minute late catching the bus, but it makes NO sense for me to miss the bus because it came either 10 minutes early or not at all. I don’t have a car. We need reliable consistent transportation. I am tired of calling Mr. Alexander about his drivers when he accuses us of lying and then claims there is no problem. 
About the bus: please let the bus drivers know that just because you see your friend outside does not mean you get to talk to them for ten minutes because some of us have places to go! 
Warn students when necessary or required courses are not offered in a specific semester or either offer them year-round. 
Kaleb is my problem. 
More student involvement. 
Can we have a 24-hour gym? 
Can we have a 24-hour library? 
We need more diversity within SGA. 
Half Ass professors - sometimes attendance isn’t necessary and those classes should be tailored for online. 
Teachers are not really teaching. 
Lenoir needs updated technology because the computers are outdated and break. 
We need a computer lab that can hold a classroom in either Lenoir or Jordan, because the main one is under construction. 
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The monks of the Drepung Loseling Monastery in south India are on tour around the world and made a stop in Columbus with the purpose of promoting world peace and healing through Tibet’s various sacred performances and arts. Over the course of four days, Feb. 13-17, the monks performed The Mystical Arts of Tibet and worked to create an intricate and impressive mandala of colored sand in the RiverCenter Lobby. The performance culminated in a mandala ceremony, which took place on Feb. 17 after market day.

The Mystical Arts of Tibet has received national acclaim and sold out shows all over the country. It features a unique vocal technique called multiphonic singing; traditional instruments, including ten foot long dungchen horns; and vibrant costumes. The performance includes traditional, exotic dances, such as the Dance of the Sacred Snow Lion.

The Mystical Arts of Tibet tour brought the artistry and ancient sounds of chanting and sacred music to the heart of Columbus. The sand mandala was created as a gift to the community with the creation process being free for the public to view, and those who attended the dismantling of the mandala were given small vials of the sand to promote wellbeing in their lives. After the completion of the mandala and ceremony, those in attendance followed the monks to the steps of the Chattahoochee River to watch them disburse the sand into the water. This part of the event was to symbolize the impermanence of life.

Traditionally, Tibetan monks create sand mandalas in order to symbolize the presence of enlightened beings to help people imagine the extensive and ethereal enlightened state. The mandalas are also used as a means of meditation during the process of being built. The particular mandala featured in the Columbus presentation was the mandala of the Akshobhya Buddha.

**STORY BY VIVIAN DUNCAN**
The Saber monks would play their instruments. Point during or after chanting when the “I wish I knew if there was a name for the most to you and why? What was the part that stood out to you the most was their focus while creating the sand mandala. Their focused, yet calm, energy seemed to evoke a sense of peace in the room.

ALIA TORRES

Why did you attend the event? How did it compare to what you thought it was going to be like?

“I attended the event after a friend told me the monks would be coming to Columbus. Honestly, I had no expectations for the blessing ceremony. That why it was so important to be there that day for me. As for the performance, I did expect to see a lot of uniformed dancing and chanting. I did not imagine there would be much music. I did not catch the performance. I did not think I’d see that here in Columbus!”

What was the part that stood out most to you and why?

“I wish I knew if there was a name for the point during or after chanting when the monks would play their instruments.

There were two horns that cleared way of about a note or two. Like seas being parted by well alone! Hand cymbals played to the tempo of a bouncing ball, a large drum that sounded to rain down the thunders from above or below, and a conch shell. I’ll leave that to imagination. Altogether, it sounded to me exactly like a description of life. All of the sounds jumbled powerfully together. With its rhythm, yet random-startling and still joyous. It could have been a funeral march, the celebration of birth, or a war call. If you had never heard it, I imagine the sound would have resonated to an individual based on where they were in life. The ceremony the monks performed somehow also was exhibited in this unanimous sound.”

What knowledge, experience, or feeling did you leave the event with?

“The art of surrendering. Sinking into your surroundings. Showing what is to. Everything about it. It has been my theme this year, and it’s a practice. I’m going to see the monks again in Savannah in hopes to learn more along these lines. It was the best experience this year.”

SHANNA HARBUCK

“I had forgotten the tour was in town this past week. I happened to be leaving a day of meetings at the Trade Center Tuesday and was shocked to see the monks crossing the street in front of me. I never thought I’d see that here in Columbus! I made a point to stop and photograph the progress of the mandala every day after. Beautiful! Watching the monks construct the mandala was amazing! Having the opportunity to photograph the mandala creation, the performance and the closing ceremony was (probably) a once in a lifetime chance here in Columbus.

The costumes, especially the snow lion, were amazing! Combined with the chants and music, the performance was like nothing I’ve ever seen before. I am truly glad I decided to attend the event. Hearing about all of the hardships the monks face was also a wake-up-call; seeing these monks so upbeat and friendly, you forget the climate they’ve come from. I was grateful to be able to attend their tour, and to contribute to helping the refugee monks. Beautiful, and lovingly presented!”

What are your general thoughts/feelings about the event?

“It’s difficult to put into words the display of patience, the radiance of color, and the reactions of the audience around us. To say that something is difficult to share or explain is exhausting. The experience overall shows that nothing is permanent—we must do what we can, and in everything that is beautiful and vibrant. We, like pebbles of sand in a river, once painted as one beautiful image—just as water is our universal life force. As random and rhythmic the vibrations of sound emitted from the entire experience could have been, the ceremony itself is the perfect display of life.”

TYLER HIROMS

“I was really excited about this event because of the cultural diversity. The opportunity to be in the presence of the monks and learn a bit about their traditions was an honor. The part that stood out to me the most was their focus while creating the sand mandala. Their focused, yet calm, energy seemed to evoke a sense of peace in the room.”

DYLAN NABORS

“Columbus seems to be continuously on the verge of breaking new ground as far as preserving history and uniting others from around the world. With its numerous museums, Trade and Convention Center, Civic Center, CSU and the Schwob School of Music, the Springer Theater, and the River Center, there is always something to do. I attended the ceremony because I was in town for the weekend and it was important to my friend, so we went together. I would have to say that my favorite part was the chanting. The sound that those men produced with their voices was so guttural, and that resonated within me.”
"Common Grounds" was not Gass's first exhibition. In fact, when Golden Park in the South Commons went up for sale, an exhibition aimed at telling visitors about Columbus's commons areas, specifically the South Commons, Gass said. A common is a piece of land that is shared by all members of a community, Gass said, in order to try and understand the community. Gass said he had pointed out that the only common left in Columbus are the South Commons. When Golden Park in the South Commons went up for sale, an entrepreneur planned to purchase it in the hopes of building a casino. In response, Friends of South Commons, wrote an editorial in order to sway the people's opinion of keeping the area free of such construction. Friends of South Commons is a group that, according to Gass, "formed to change the property of the South Commons to keep the То-clustering spaces, but to continue its rich history of relaxation and green space that it has been offering since Columbus' founding." Rebecca Bush, exhibitions manager and curator for history at the Columbus Museum, said that there would be differences in the culture, the landscape—it just looks different. Gass said that he photographs people and monuments and has begun documenting memorial highways. When asked what sparked his interest in art history and geography, Gass explained that he had traveled Europe during his time in the U.S. Navy. "I would get lost in [Europe's] architecture, their monuments...the museums," he said. "I really love traveling and just how a few hundred miles or a couple of miles or countries away that there would be differences in the culture, the landscape—just fascinated me." Gass then continued by describing his experience of interning at the museum as "exceptionally moving." "It gave me a great sense of what I would definitely want to experience as a career," said Gass, whose intended career goal is to be a museum curator in a major city like New York City. Additionally, Columbus State University, Harold and Flavio Villa, about their experience as an international student at Columbus State University. Harold added that all three were given full tuition scholarships for their Music degrees at Columbus State University. When asked what they enjoyed most about Columbus State University, Harold also told The Saber that there was little opportunity for music careers in Honduras, but at Columbus State University there was a huge focus they could explore. "Honduras has one national university, and it doesn't have music," said Castro. There are numerous benefits for undergraduate students who get involved in research, performance, and creative endeavors. "The Tower Day experience gives undergraduates learn to balance collaborative and individual work, determine an area of interest, and jump-start their career paths." "We want Tower Day to empower students to make an impact beyond the classroom," said Israel. "Exposure to undergraduate research and creative endeavors help students discover their passion for research and continue on to graduate studies and other career paths."

Andrea Dorbu, the student director of Tower Day who presented in last spring's event, expressed gratitude for the opportunity. "It was exciting to share my research with people and also witness my hard work come full circle," she said. In addition to presenting, students can participate as a volunteer and help put the event together. Any student looking to gain a valuable experience and gain volunteer hours can contact Dorbu via email at dorbu.andrea@columbusstate.edu.

"Whether participation comes from being a previous host of the art exhibit or simply stepping forward by the event to engage with students about their research, all participation in the event is welcome," Dorbu said. One student who is looking forward to supporting CSU’s Tower Day is sophomore communications major Miranda Floyd. Floyd heard about the event from her fellow classmates who are interested in the event as a whole. "This will be my first time going," Floyd said. "I’ve heard a lot of good things from my friends." Floyd added that she will consider participating and expressed that Tower Day is a good way to be academically involved on campus. For students looking to present at this year’s Tower Day, please contact Israel or simply head to CSU’s website to get information, guidelines, and the forms you need in order to participate in this special event.

"The good faculty at Columbus State University there was little opportunity for research," said Castro. There is one national University in Honduras, and no university for music as a degree path. The classrooms here are also in better condition than those in Honduras. When asked what they enjoyed most about Columbus, they all agreed downtown was their favorite. Aldo added, "It's peaceful: It's a peaceful community and not noisy." Harold agreed, "I enjoy the kind people." Flavio, Aldo, and Harold also told The Saber that there was little opportunity for music careers in Honduras, but at Columbus State University there was a huge focus they could explore. "Honduras has one national university, and it doesn't have music," said Castro.
IS THE CSU POLICE FORCE STRETCHED THIN?

CSU Police address students’ concerns about RiverPark safety

STORY BY VIVIAN DUNCAN

Columbus State University police have two locations: one on main campus next to the Elizabeth Bradley Turner Center, and the other on the downtown RiverPark campus next to Samurai Japanese restaurant. Being located in such a public area rather than on a closed campus has brought about public concern that the CSU police downtown must divide their time and attention between school matters and city issues.

Although there are two major locations across the city, the CSU Police Department is one entity. The department is currently composed of 27 sworn law enforcement officers, as well as support staff and non-sworn campus safety officers. Depending on what events are happening that day and what resources need to be allocated, the workforce is divided based on need.

According to the department, they may have more officers on duty at main campus due to an event, or other need, but they remain flexible and can send more officers to RiverPark if needed.

Additionally, officers typically rotate campuses every other day. The patrol staff work twelve-hour shifts from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and there are officers on duty 24/7 on both campuses.

Lieutenant Jeremy Stanelle is the police department’s primary criminal investigator.

WHEN IT COMES TO URGENT MATTERS, SEVERAL STUDENTS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN AS TO HOW QUICKLY THE POLICE ARRIVE

“Even when the institution is closed, we are still here. Our main campus office is always open, and the downtown office is more during business hours. Ideally, the office is going to be open during the week for business hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.,” Stanelle said. “It being a secondary location, the door may not be open 24/7, and there may not be someone staffing the office, but there are still police officers, and if a student calls, someone will answer that phone at any time of the day.”

During a verbal poll taken from downtown campus, there were several reports of a job-well-done when students were locked out of their car or stranded with a dead battery. “[The police] are amazing! One time I was locked out of my car, and a policeman came and helped me get back in, and we had the most enjoyable conversation,” freshman Jaime Hall said. “He was so calm, and kind, and comforting, talking about how it happens to everyone.” Student Macy Frazier also had a good experience when locked out of her car. “[The police officer] talked about how they don’t teach you how to break into cars at the police academy, but that was a large part of his job here,” said Frazier. “Love our policemen!”

But when it comes to urgent matters, several students have expressed some concern as to how quickly the police will arrive. “The RiverPark police seem to be good with car troubles, but I don’t ever see them. If you hit the emergency button in the parking garage for an actual emergency, you are going to die,” one student said from experience with one of the blue call boxes. “They take forever just to get there.”

In another case, a student had to wait for a police assistance because the officer had to go handle a flight that occurred in the public parking deck. “I waited out behind Rankin for close to two hours and had to call again to get someone out. But other than that, they’ve always been really helpful,” said senior Isaac Morales. He went on to explain how his positive experience with the CSUPD far outweighs that singular negative experience. “One officer jumped my car twice when it broke down back in September,” Morales said. “He followed me all the way back to courtyard to make sure I could make it all the way there. It’s a good thing too, because it broke down again.”

Lieutenant Stanelle, who has been a police officer with CSU for 12 years, addressed the concern by explaining just how adept the police force is on campus and how they operate. He explained how there are about 54 blue-light police call boxes between the two campuses. When they were initially set up, they were put in areas that were a little less traveled to provide easy, two-way communication with police forces if an individual did not have mobile communications in an emergency. “Ideally, those are for emergency situations, but we do have folks calling in for other assistance because they are a readily-identifiable beacon and way to get help, whether or not it’s an emergency,” said Stanelle.

“When it comes to emergencies that occur away from one of the call boxes, Stanelle advised, “CSU Police is heavily involved in social media, but we always encourage students that those accounts are not necessarily monitored 24/7, so, in an emergency situation, please don’t send me a tweet because we may not get it at that moment. If people are in need of emergency assistance, we definitely recommend picking up the phone and calling in order to allow for that feedback loop for us. We can ask additional questions and make sure that we are allocating the appropriate resources.”

As for balancing between local and campus matters downtown, Stanelle explained how campus police officers in the state of Georgia have to go through the same police academy that all other municipal or county police officers go through, meaning that all campus police are certified state officers.

Currently, Georgia law provides a statutory jurisdiction of 500 yards from any property owned by the University or the University System of Georgia. “So, do we wind up involving ourselves in other local matters? We can,” Stanelle said. “Obviously with that jurisdiction and authority, if something happens where we are, we don’t want to overlook any incidents. Being law enforcement, our officers will address any type of issues that are observed.”

“I don’t believe this takes away from our students because, in general, Columbus is CSU and CSU is Columbus, especially with the RiverPark campus,” Stanelle said in response to the students’ concerns. “If we have ample resources to go ahead and work an incident, it is at discretion of the supervisors as to whether or not we are involved in that. It’s not in any form or fashion going to take away from our ability to respond to campus related matters.”
AN AFTERNOON OF SPIRITUALS

A Schwob Performance by Earl Coleman and Vocal Studio

BY BRIANA WILLIAMS

Family members, students, and supporting patrons of the Schwob School of the Arts gathered in the RiverCenter to enjoy a performance from professor Earl Coleman and his vocal studio. The theme of the recital, selected by Coleman, was spirituals. The recital was split into three sections, each beginning with Coleman introducing the history of spirituals and how they brought hope to individuals in times of desperation.

Before the performance, Coleman and four of his students sat down to discuss the recital and what it is like to be a student in such an advanced music prep school. Coleman holds his students to high standards, regardless of age or year. When picking a piece for a student, he wants to challenge them to reach their full potential. He takes pride in his students, stating, “you see the growth each year from the beginning to the end.”

After singing the final note in “O, What a Thrilling Feeling,” Olivia McWaters bowed to the room filled with applause. As she turned to walk back to her seat, she was stopped as the audience clapped to praise her performance. "The Black Panther" and "The Lion King" provided the perfect atmosphere for the recital. The students performed with the charisma of seasoned Broadway actors, moving to the rhythm of the spirituals and further captivating the audience. Senior Erica Humbert admitted to being nervous before the recital but revealed that once she got on stage “All of the nerves just go away.”

The Scherow School of Music is a conservatory bursting at the seams with talent and creativity. All of the students at Schwob are preparing to take spots in the professional performance industry. However, the students do not think of each other as enemies, but as a family.

The recital ended with the studio as a whole performing “Peace Like A River, Kumi Ba Ya” directed by Coleman. The presentation was nothing short of stellar. Coleman and his studio’s hard work and effort did not go unnoticed.

Black Panther: The Hero Black America Needed

“THE BLACK HERO WOULD NO LONGER BE TAKING A BACK SEAT”

STORY BY JAVERE JOHNSON
ILLUSTRATION BY DARRELL HARRIS

Representation is important. Thirty years ago, G.I. Joe action figures were predominantly white, and if someone says “Barbie,” the first image that probably comes to mind is that of a white, blonde-haired, skinny doll. When it comes to superheroes, white boys have had everyone from Batman to Wolverine to admire. White girls have even had Wonder Woman. Sure there have been plenty of black heroes, but more emphasis has always been placed on white heroes. Never has a hero of color been given the main stage until Black Panther.

“Black Panther” is another amazing film out of Marvel Studios. The company that had hit the box office last year with “Thor: Ragnarok,” “Guardians of the Galaxy Volume 2,” and “Spider-Man: Homecoming” started off strong this year with “Black Panther.” Breaking records before the movie even hit theaters, this was more than just another highly anticipated production from Marvel. This movie has to do with culture.

African culture and tradition are at the forefront of this movie, and that there had been little room from the outside influence of European culture. As mentioned before, the black hero would no longer be taking a backseat. Also important to note is the development and origin of these characters.

Every hero movie has a relatable factor. Peter Parker was just a nerd from New York before he became Spider-Man. Before the Captain got his shield, he was Steve Rogers, a kid too skinny to even join the army. Killmonger was a poor, black kid from Oakland. Even if he was a villain, this kind of representation not only shows black kids that they too can have the power to fight the Black Panther, but that what they can do with that power is up to them.

The movie is an intersection between black culture and the stereotypes about black culture. “Black Panther” tells the black community that they can be themselves and still achieve greatness. They do not have to conform to what society wants. They do not need to have straight hair, or talk a certain way to be accepted. Wakanda is a place free of those colonizers’ influence. Wakanda and its people are great without the help of the “white man” and that is one of the underlining messages of this film. The black community is capable of achieving greatness with their own resources and ideas.

“Black Panther” really takes a look at what it means to be black and free. An African nation, real or fictional, has never been portrayed as independent or stable—that is why this movie is so important. For too long the narrative has been that white people are needed to help people of color achieve their full potential; that white colonizers provided opportunities to minorities and they should be grateful. This film, however, explores the concept of what happens when they are left alone.
A dancer performs “Stepping” accompanied by two drummers.
On Monday, February 26, the Student Activities Council invited "Step Afrika!" to host a step-show in the University Hall auditorium. The show started at 7:30 p.m. Before the first show, the performers hosted a step workshop where students learned step moves and received a workout.

"The workout was very fun, very interactive, and very energetic. They were very helpful with being patient with us..." said Brianna Manuel from Alpha Kappa Alpha.

At the beginning of the show, the dancers defined "stepping" for their audience. Their website describes stepping as, "... a rising art form and an important part of America's artistic and cultural language." It also explains, "the body is used as an instrument to create intricate rhythms and sounds through a combination of footsteps, claps and spoken word."

The step show not only defined stepping, but taught the history behind it. Additionally, this company travels the world. Emanuel Chacon said that the company was founded in 1994 and became, as he words it, "the first professional dance teams dedicated to stepping." Before the show on Monday, the team had been to the Middle East, and in May, they will go to Guyana.

"Step Afrika!" is an organization filled with members of the black and latino Greek sororities and fraternities. This team of steppers travel the world entertaining and teaching people about stepping: what it is and from where it comes. The dancers invited a couple of our students on stage and taught them a sequence of step dances. "March," "Around the World Clap," and "Blades" were the techniques. Marching is done by stomping your feet like a soldier and bending over. With this movement, they rolled their fist one after the other. The "Around the World Clap" is done by reaching your hands above your head and spreading them out around for your hands to meet behind your back. Lastly, the "Blades" are done by holding your arms straight across your chest with your hands open making blades, then you switch from side to side.

They also taught some commands, which are "Attention" and "Brothers and Sisters." Among the students on stage, there were Yania Myers, a modern and classical languages major; Derrick Reed, a brother from the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity, and Jerry Cowell, a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

During the show, the dancers taught the audience about past working conditions in Africa. The working conditions for miners were dangerous; oftentimes, they would travel a long way from home, so they wouldn't speak the same language. They would use their boots to communicate. This became known as the "Gumboot Dance." After they taught the audience the history, they performed the dance with a skit. They used boots to tell each other when the supervisor, portrayed by Evans, was coming, and the guys performed a manly gumboot dance to impress a lady—all while maintaining a deep South African accent.

The dancers that appeared on stage were Emanuel "Manny" Chacon of the Lambda Sigma Upsilon Latino Fraternity, Matthew Evans of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Kiera Harley of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Jabari Jones of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Olabode "Buddie" Oladeinde of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and Anesia Sandifer of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority. "It is the first professional dance company dedicated to the art of stepping," Chacon said. "It is also rated the top 10 African-American known dance companies in the U.S."

"I had a great time, the energy was high, the step wasn't too hard. I definitely enjoyed myself!" said Myers after the show. "It was exciting for me as a black man to learn more about my roots," Cowell said. "Being up on stage was very fun," added Reed. "I would love to see a show like this again."

BY MARIAH JACKSON

IMAGES BY AMBRIA MORRIS

Students participated in a STEP workshop to learn some of the moves.
O n March 8, Vanderbilt University doctoral candidate John Hood delivered a presentation on his astronomy research in Jordan Hall. The free event was hosted by the Earth and Space Science department. His presentation was on research he did for his master’s thesis in order to find “variabilities in brightness of Fermi bright blazars.”

Hood has a strong passion for both astronomy and engineering. “I was always interested in space and what was out there since I was a kid, but it wasn’t until I was in the sixth grade and went on a class field trip the Coca Cola Space Science Center where I would say the fire was finally lit to go from an interest to a passion,” Hood said. “They have been like family to me, pushing me to new heights since I started working with them.”

Hood will be working with the transition-edge sensor bolometer technologies used in the South Pole Telescope, located there to take advantage of the dry atmosphere. “The South Pole Telescope or SPT is a radio telescope that was designed to observe the cosmic microwave background or CMB, dark energy, and galaxy clusters,” Hood said. “As for why I chose a project that would send me to there, it’s due to the incredible opportunities that the SPT group has to offer as far as work experiences and postdoctoral opportunities.” Hood added, “I am extremely excited about being able to conduct research in Antarctica. It’s one of those places that we have everyone wants to go to at least once, and I’ll get to spend at least two months there doing research. Hopefully, I will get to hang out with some penguins while I’m there, too!”

CSU GRADUATE REACHES FOR THE STARS AND ANTARCTICA

CSU graduate John Hood set to leave for giant ice desert

BY COLE TRAHAN

BY MARS LAURIULT

Y ou’ve probably read, shared, or at least scrolled past the headline of an article featuring some radically awesome and interesting class, and you probably wondered, “Why doesn’t MY school have anything like this?” The truth is, Columbus State University does offer modern, hands-on, intriguing, and downright cool classes; you might just be looking in the wrong places.

“Interactive Media Production” -- what does that even mean, and to what major at CSU could that possibly apply? Interactive Media Production is a general requirement for all communications majors. As described on the CSU website, this class is designed to “introduce students to digital media production and communication in the context of comprehensive communication campaigns, focusing on the use of design, production, and delivery of multimedia communication in publishing, broadcasting, public relations and advertising.”

This is totally fine and dandy, but what’s so great about it, and what does it mean? In this course, you create a YouTube channel, design segments or episodes for your channel, produce and record said episodes, and are finally graded on your views, likes, comments, and followers. Students across the nation use YouTube as a social media platform, making channels and videos for literally anything and everything; not only does this class sound fun and relevant, but it can help you understand how to use social media to market or gather user information to better a product or service.

I talked to Ashanti Jeff-Mapp — a junior and communications major — about her experience taking this course. When I asked her how she enjoyed this class and what she took out of it, she said, “I loved being able to film creatively as I pleased. My video editing skills are also a lot better.”

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Columbus State University

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Khim Crowell, Alumna ’12

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