

THE Saker

COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT-RUN NEWS SERVICE

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COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

THE SABER

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On the Cover: Chris Daniel, Infielder
Cover Photo: Akil Charles

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



April Fools! Did you enjoy our previous issue, The Saber's venture into the medieval world of Game of Thrones? Hopefully no one took our words too seriously, but we've enjoyed hearing about how you guys loved it, and we had a blast thinking up all those crazy stories and corresponding media.

This issue we return to serious news coverage, including highlighting various students and their activities - such as the American Marketing Association's return from their marketing conference in New Orleans and student Stephen Clayton from the Schwob School of Music on pages 4 and 5. The student accomplishments continue with CSU Baseball on page 14.

There's big news across the US, such as recent legislation which could be affecting your student loans on page 12 and a newly rediscovered cure for MRSA on page 13. Also don't miss the continued updates on the search for CSU's next president on the following page.

The Saber is currently looking ahead to the fall semester and hopes to bring fresh blood to The Saber family. We are seeking individuals who would be interested in exploring the world of college journalism. Anyone interested in positions in writing for our four sections - campus life, arts and entertainment, local and world, and sports and wellness - or illustrating, photography, or advertising should consider taking this opportunity.

Those who are interested in getting a jump start on the application process, email me at CSUSaberEditor@gmail.com.

-Catherine Saavedra
Editor-in-Chief

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And Then There Were Four...

CSU presidential candidates narrowed down

Sam Sachs
Campus Life Editor

As of March 19, the final four candidates for Columbus State University's next president have been announced.

While Aldemaro Romero Jr., Ph.D is absent from the list, candidates Hanna, Markwood, Stockton, and Griffiths have all retained their eligibility to become the fifth president. Members of the search committee have not commented on Romero's removal from the list of finalists.

Previously, The Saber reported on two candidates, Randy Hanna, Ph.D and Aldemaro Romero Jr., Ph.D. With the final candidates having been chosen and forums having come to an end, a look at the other three candidates follows below.

The candidate that came to campus immediately after Romero was **Christopher Markwood, Ph.D**, the current Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, with his visit occurring on March 8-10.

Having previously served as Dean of Faculties, interim chancellor, and Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Superior, as well as teaching at Lamar University and the University of Central Oklahoma, Markwood's academic background speaks for itself. Having also served in a number of administrative positions, Markwood's philosophy emphasizes transparency, which he calls "a way of life. It's a culture, a belief system. It's a value that has to be lived out daily in actions."

Markwood also stated a support for shared governance, the belief that faculty, staff and administration should equally and jointly make decisions on school policy such as budgeting, curriculum and programs.

Expressing the same view on shared governance, **Carl Stockton, Ph.D**, followed Markwood's campus visit on March 10-12. Of his career in academia and administration of higher education, Stockton stated that he's "been through the ranks," as a reference to his service as an educator and administrator for 31 years.

Stockton began his career as a first generation college student, and earned a Ph.D in health education before beginning as a visiting assistant professor in health education at Florida State University and assistant professor of health education at the University of South Alabama.

Continuing to rise in the ranks of higher education, Stockton was made an associate professor at Radford University in Virginia,

eventually becoming a full professor at Radford before working at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, University of Texas at Brownsville. He is now currently a professor and provost officer and Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Now Stockton is hoping to become CSU's next president, saying that he has the ability to communicate effectively across all areas, notably through his example of being able to "talk to the housekeeper all the way to the governor."

Stockton also expressed his interest in increasing retention, a subject of discussion with all of the candidates, including **José-Marie Griffiths, Ph.D**, the fifth and final candidate to visit CSU.

Griffiths arrived on campus on March 15, and stayed through March 17. Of the candidates, Griffiths is the only female. She is also one of only two foreign-nationals, with the other being Romero. While Romero came from Venezuela, Griffiths was from England, with a professed focus on higher education and research.

Originally receiving her doctorate in information science at University College in London, Griffiths has taught at City University in London and Queen's University in Belfast.

She also worked as a research director at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund Laboratories in London, and as the Director of Education and Training while at Marconi Avionics in Hertfordshire, England before coming to the United States between 1979 and 1980 as a visiting professor.

Currently, Griffiths is a professor and the Vice President for Academic Affairs at Bryant University in Smithfield, R.I, following a more than two-decade long career in American higher education. Her time spent in academia has included an additional three positions as vice president, and vice chancellor at the Universities of Tennessee and Michigan and King Research, Inc. in Maryland.

Of her potential role as president for CSU, Griffiths has stated that she would be similar to a "booster rocket" and aid the university in moving forward with its plans and goals.

The final decision of the president among the four finalists is up to a University System of Georgia Board of Regents committee, headed by Thomas Hopkins Jr., the chair of the Special Regents' Search Committee. Until then, the process is left to the Board of Regents to complete.



Photo: www.medicalautomation.org

Dr. José-Marie Griffiths



Photo: prt.uhcl.edu

Dr. Carl Stockton



Photo: www.tamucc.edu

Dr. Chris Markwood



Photo: www.apsu.edu

Dr. Randy Hanna

The American Marketing Association

Helping students meet leadership goals

Toni Stauffer

Staff Writer

Photos: AMA

President Jay Armstead Places in Sales Competition



AMA president Jaspen “Jay” Armstead, senior marketing major

Armstead has been a member of the AMA at CSU for three years, and at the recent conference in New Orleans, Armstead received second place in the Northwestern Mutual Sales Competition out of 600 competing schools.

“I’ve always been a fan of the art of selling. I knew that they had the event from being [at the conference], so I knew this year I wanted to give it a shot.” He explained. “I wanted to test my skills against some of the best collegiate competition.”

According to Armstead, getting second place was an incredible experience.

“I grew up as a shy kid, so having that kind of confirmation that I was on the right track, that [I’ve] improved my people skills, and I was actually good at what I thought was good at, was an amazing feeling.”

ourselves on being active in the College of Business, CSU, and the community.”

The CSU chapter of the AMA has plenty to be proud about after returning from the American Marketing Association International Collegiate Conference held in New Orleans last month with an award for Outstanding Chapter Plan and excellence in fundraising, communication, and membership.

Members of CSU came home with individual prizes as well. Armstead won both an award and a second place victory in the sales competition. Another member, senior marketing major Tanika Owens, took the prize of a Microsoft Surface Pro 64GB Tablet. For Owens, the AMA conference “revealed to me what it takes to be prosperous in my profession and was a wondrous way to network.”

While Armstead will be graduating this May, he plans to remain active in the AMA at CSU; interviews are currently being conducted for new officers who will assume their duties in the fall.

The AMA is open to all students regardless of major and is advised by College of Business faculty member Bob Kinnett. Students are encouraged to sign up through CSUInvolve. A general meeting is held every first and third Tuesday of every month in CCT 309 at 12:30 p.m. For more information on the AMA at CSU, contact Jay Armstead at armstead_jaspen@columbusstate.edu.



Columbus State's AMA chapter wins a plethora of awards and prizes for outstanding work

The American Marketing Association (AMA), established in 1937, is one of the largest marketing organizations in the world with more than 30,000 members across the globe. The organization’s mission is to serve as a forum to connect like-minded individuals and foster knowledge sharing. The AMA provides resources, tools, and training for members, and also supports marketing practice and thought leadership around the world.

Jaspen “Jay” Armstead, senior marketing major, is the current chapter president for AMA at CSU. This year, Armstead said the organization’s main focus on campus was to help students develop their professional skills and to teach them how to market themselves and their skill sets. When asked how much the AMA has positively affected his life, Armstead stated, “Extremely, especially in my collegiate life with exposure to leadership opportunities and professional development.” He added, “We pride

AMA Members Meet “Game of Thrones” Actress



Maisie Williams, “Game of Thrones” actress in New Orleans

While in New Orleans for the AMA conference, senior students Catherine Saavedra, management major, Erika Galdamez, double major in marketing and management information systems, and Brittany Upshaw, sociology major, had a chance encounter with Maisie Williams, Arya Stark in HBO’s hit series “Game of Thrones.”

All three AMA Members are huge fans of the show, and were thrilled when they realized it was Williams. Upshaw said, “I wasn’t the one who approached her. I was too busy standing there in shock and awe, but I was still able to get a picture with her. I spent the rest of the day squealing in joy.”

Student Spotlight: Stephen Clayton

Trombonist credits professor's guidance in national success

Danielle Davis

Layout Editor

Photo: Stephen Clayton



Stephen Clayton performing on stage

For sophomore music performance major Stephen Clayton, the trombone has always been special. "I liked listening to the trombone. So when it came time for me to join the band in sixth grade I chose it. It just sounded really awesome. And it still sounds really awesome," Clayton explained.

Now he's been playing the trombone for nine years. He grew up in Winter

Park, Florida and played in Winter Park High School's marching and symphonic band.

Recently Clayton was selected as a finalist in the American Trombone Workshop. He travelled to Washington, D.C. where the workshop was hosted by the Army Band in March. "The process began back in November when I sent in a recording. Out of the 100 people who audition via recording, 3 are chosen to come to Washington, D.C. and play in front of a group of judges. I received the second place honor," he said.

In addition to placing second at the American Trombone Workshop, Clayton auditioned for the United States Air Force Band while in Washington, D.C. "It was a good week. Definitely a highlight of my college career," he said. At 19, Clayton was the youngest person to audition out of 40 people.

He cites Professor Bradley Palmer as a reason he's been allotted these opportunities. "He's really fantastic. He's a great professor and he's well respected

in the trombone world. Working with him these last two years has prepared me to compete at these high levels," Clayton said.

Upon graduating from CSU, Clayton can see himself doing a number of things. "I would love to play music for the rest of my life. Obviously one of my goals is to play in a big symphony orchestra. Also playing in one of the military bands like I auditioned for would be great. The quality of the play is amazing. It's at such a high caliber," he said.

Clayton looks forward to having more chances to compete. "You know, I took home first place at the American Trombone Workshop last year in the Division I area. And this year I took home second in the Division II. Maybe I'll try for Division III next year. Who knows? But once again, I have to speak to Prof. Palmer's guidance. He, along with the amazing facilities and other professors here at CSU, has had a huge influence on my success. CSU's just a great place for music."

Chef Cody Moves on Up

Cougar Café to be renovated for fall of 2015

Chandler Brickenden

Staff Writer

Illustration: Noah Sachs

The Cougar Café on Main Campus will be renovated this summer in preparation for the fall 2015 semester. The renovations will begin as spring 2015 finals conclude. Students can look forward to new menu options, new furniture and new decorations.

After the renovations, the Cougar Café will have new food preparation stations where students can see their meals prepared from scratch in front of them. To reflect these changes, the dining facilities will have new menu offerings. The salad bar will be expanded and will include a deli station that will serve sandwiches similar to those found at Subway and Quiznos. The addition of an international section will include a Mongolian grill and a wok.

These additions will allow the Cougar Café to serve international cuisine that



is prepared authentically. Also among the changes are a new double decker pizza oven and a new meat smoker. Students should take note that fried chicken will be served during lunch on Wednesday instead of Thursday after the renovations.

Another important change to the Main Campus dining facilities will be an increased seating capacity. While the Café is currently seating about 270 customers, the proposed renovations will accommodate approximately 400 customers.

As the facilities are renovated this summer, students can expect for Cougar Café to temporarily serve food at the Lumpkin Center. The renovations of the dining hall are scheduled to conclude during the first week of August.

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Chattahoochee Cookin'

New exhibit opens in Columbus Museum

Members of the Columbus Museum celebrated the opening of the newest exhibit, "Chattahoochee Cookin'," on March 31.

The exhibition celebrates the Chattahoochee Valley's culinary history by highlighting food produced and eaten in the South, including Muscogee sofke, a traditional Creek dish similar to grits. The exhibit also puts a spotlight on local beverage companies, like RC Cola, originally called Chero-Cola, and agricultural technology and innovations designed by local residents, such as the shoulder plow thought up by Elias Haiman and Joseph Blount.

The exhibit shows southern cooking through a variety of mediums. The most popular piece, however, is a painting by local artist Bo Bartlett called "A Moment in Dinglewood."

The painting depicts Lieutenant Stevens behind the counter at Dinglewood Pharmacy before preparing Dinglewood's most famous food tradition: the scrambled dog. Stevens, now in his 80s, was the mastermind behind the current recipe for Dinglewood's chili and is considered a "local celebrity," by Dinglewood Pharmacy owner, Terry Hurley.

Chattahoochee Cookin' doesn't just focus on famous foods from Columbus, however. The exposition also features a video showcasing local farms like the Jenny Jack Sun Farm in Pine Mountain, Ga.



An old Tom's dispenser was the perfect place to go for a sandwich or peanuts

Museum goers can sit and watch Jennifer and Chris Jackson on their daily life on the farm, from taking care of the animals to planting new crops. Patsiliga Plantation in Talbot County, Ga. is also featured in the video. Now a historical landmark, Patsiliga Plantation hosts a festival every year to sell flour, cornmeal, and grits which are all ground on site.

There are also attractions aimed specifically at children. The "Farm to Table" portion of the exhibit is interactive and focuses on teaching kids how farmers produce food for people to eat.

A stuffed field allows children to "grow" and harvest their own plush vegetables and sell them at a cash register stand. There's also a plastic kitchen and dining set for kids and their families to enjoy a "home-grown" meal together. The interactive display was designed to teach kids the four steps of production: 1. Grow 2. Buy/Sell 3. Cook 4. Enjoy!

While the exhibition is designed to showcase the South's rich history with comfort food, it also serves as a comfort to students who might be far from home. Sophomore art history major Kallie Turner loved the exhibit, stating: "I live in the dorms right now, but I'm from a really small town and it kind of reminds me of home."

Other students can get a taste of home at any of the upcoming events the Columbus Museum is hosting to celebrate the exhibit.

There will be corn syrup paintings on April 11 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., a teen event called "Make it with Mama" on May 16 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., and a lunch and lecture entitled "From their Farm to your Table" on May 29 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. All events are free and open to the public. The Chattahoochee Cookin' exhibit will run through Sept. 20.

Comedian David Chappelle to Perform at RiverCenter

LiveNation adds an additional show following popular demand

Danielle Davis

Layout Editor

Image: rivercenter.org

The city of Columbus is no stranger to well-known comedians. The Columbus Civic Center welcomed Mike Epps back in February of this year and Kevin Hart performed at the RiverCenter for the Performing Arts in 2012. Now, comedian David Khari Webber "Dave" Chappelle will be appearing this week at the RiverCenter.

Born on Aug. 24, 1975 in Washington, D.C., Chappelle got his start in New York City where he performed at numerous venues. Most notably, Harlem's Apollo Theatre, where he was booed off stage during "Amateur Night."

He made his film debut at 19 in Mel Brooks' 1993 musical adventure comedy "Robin Hood: Men in Tights" as the character Ahchoo. Following this, Chappelle continued to act comedic roles before securing his own sketch comedy show on Comedy Central entitled "Chappelle's Show." Recently, he's been travelling and devoting his time to performing standup comedy.

Chappelle's first show in Columbus will be on April 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bill Heard Theatre of the RiverCenter. A second show

will follow at 10:30 p.m. Tickets are priced at \$56.50 per seat. They can be purchased online or at the RiverCenter box office.



Dave Chappelle's standup tour promotional material

Frogtown Hollow Music Festival Returns

Twenty artists to perform over two day festival

Scott Berson

Local and World News Editor

Logo: Tracy Saunders



A great collection of local musical talent will gather at Woodruff Park for the 8th Annual “Frogtown Hollow Jam” music festival in downtown Columbus on April 17-18.

The lineup features at least 20 different music acts over the two days, including Stereomoner, American Roommates, the Garrett Miles Band and Band of Thieves. Vendors, inflatables, arts and crafts tables, face painters and stilt-walkers will also be there when it’s time to take a quick break from the music.

“Frogtown Hollow” started in 2008 as a bluegrass music festival, but has since expanded its focus to include any and all genres of music. “I’ve always wanted to promote music in this area, and after attending a bluegrass festival not far from Columbus, I decided to start the first Frogtown Hollow Bluegrass Jam,” said festival founder Jon Saunders.

“The festival has grown each year as has our attendance. I expect this year’s event to have the biggest attendance ever because we are using local talent, and Columbus has a great source of talent. This year’s theme is Local Motive because I am using only this area’s talent to perform. Everything is local- the staging, the bands, the production. The only exception are some of the vendors. This year is going to be very special because it is a showcase of the musical talent in this area.”

Saunders said that his goal is to support the musical arts in the valley area, and although not a fundraiser, some proceeds from the event always get donated to a good cause. “We always give to a charity. Last year we gave to [the] CSU Music Department and have given to others in the past.”

Columbus is still a relatively small city with large ambitions, and festivals like this require the support of the community to grow and maintain relevance.

“Frogtown Hollow” is only the first in a series of Columbus music festivals (the others being “RiverFest” and “JunkFest”), but Saunders says that doesn’t mean it’s holding anything back. “This is a homegrown, grassroots festival and we have a lot of young bands performing this year. We have attractions for college students. We sell adult beverages. We have food and drink vendors. We have games. It is the first big outdoor event of the year in Columbus and offers two days of fun and music for the whole family.”

Admission for the festival is \$10 per day, or half off with a military ID. Doors open at 6 p.m. Friday and 10:30 a.m. Saturday.

College, Love and a Pen

Can social media ruin a relationship?

Francesca Renfroe

Arts and Entertainment Editor

Illustration: Noah Sachs

We’ve all seen it: the couple who gets together on social media and then a week later they are posting negative statuses about their partner. Cringe-worthy posts.

Social media like that of popular websites Facebook or Twitter, have been the center of attention for nasty break ups and even a reason why some cheating partners get caught. When everything is out for the world to see, it may be hard to hide your dirty laundry. Even if you moved on from that argument you posted about two days ago, your audience has not. However, is it the social media that ruins the relationship or the person?

It [social media] can,” said Laura Pheonix, a CSU graduate. “It hasn’t for me but tons of studies have come out showing it can because of infidelities and drama. My fiancé and I don’t stress. He doesn’t use his much and even though I use mine more he sees everything I post because I have him on my friends list. It’s no big deal because the trust is there as well as the transparency.”

It is true that sometimes there can be an issue with a partners’ fidelity when it

comes to social media. Many people have been caught cheating simply because the person they are cheating with tags them in a photo. Or, they are friends with both their partner and the person they are cheating with. That can lead to a sticky situation if both people think they are the only one in the relationship.

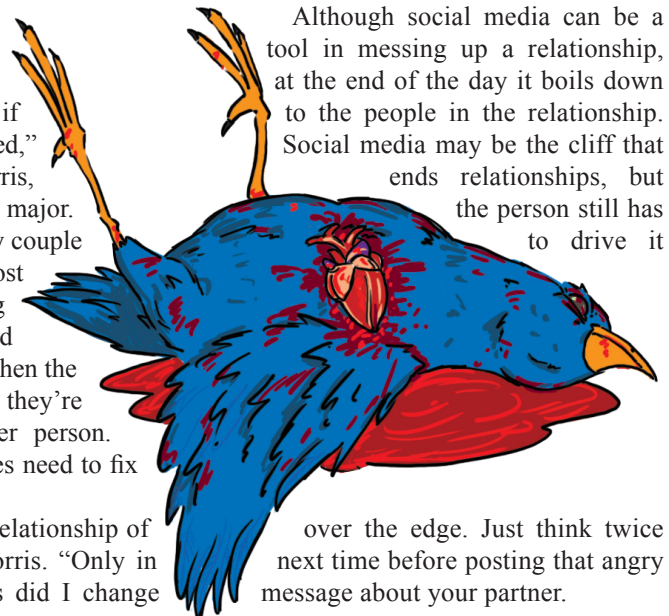
“Yes, I believe it [social media] can [ruin your relationship] if other people are involved,” said Jazmine McMorris, sophomore Spanish major. “What I’ve seen from my couple friends is that they’ll post about how they’re feeling (and it’s usually bad), and be anonymous about it when the Internet clearly knows they’re talking about their other person. In those moments couples need to fix their issues offline.”

“It hasn’t ruined any relationship of mine,” continues McMorris. “Only in one of my relationships did I change

my relationship status. And that was it with us. And when we broke up then we changed it back. I think if you want a cute relationship, do it. I don’t care. But don’t expect the Internet to care about your relationship. I could care [sic] much, much less.”

Although social media can be a tool in messing up a relationship, at the end of the day it boils down to the people in the relationship. Social media may be the cliff that ends relationships, but the person still has to drive it

over the edge. Just think twice next time before posting that angry message about your partner.





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Local Nonprofit Spotlight: Habitat for Humanity

Students help to build homes from the heart

Toni Stauffer

Staff Writer

Photo: Anne Brown



Alternative spring break college volunteer group

Habitat for Humanity (HFH) is an international nonprofit organization that assists low-income families in obtaining affordable housing. From humble beginnings as a concept for "partnership housing" by Millard and Linda Fuller in Americus, Ga., the organization saw phenomenal growth after gaining the participation and support of President Jimmy Carter in 1984. Since then Habitat for Humanity has built or repaired over one million homes and has served more than five million people worldwide.

People are often under the misconception that Habitat for Humanity simply gives away homes to the poor, but that isn't the case. Prospective homeowners must have an income that is between 30-50 percent of their area's median income. They are

also required to pay a \$1200 down payment and contribute 500 hours of "sweat equity" to the construction of their new home, as well as to the home of someone else. All houses are built using donations of land, material and labor, which help keep monthly mortgage payments affordable.

These new houses increase local property values as well as government income from taxes on the newly built property. Race, religion, and other differences are not factors when prospective homeowners are being considered, only their need and willingness to work. Another misconception is that only people on welfare or other assistance programs are chosen to receive homes, but the truth is that most prospective homeowners are the working poor.

Anne Brown from Columbus State University's Office of Community Outreach is the advisor for HFH on campus, but says that the school club will be going away after this semester. CSU will still be partnering with the local Columbus chapter of HFH as usual, but there won't be a formal group for it anymore. "We lost student interest due to required membership and dues," said Brown. "Students cared more about volunteering than formal club membership, meetings and paying dues."

HFH is just one of many non-profit organizations students can choose to volunteer for through CSU. The next Cougar Service Day will be Saturday, April 18 for the House of Heroes organization. For more information regarding HFH and other volunteer opportunities through CSU's Office of Community Outreach, go to CSUinvolve and search for volunteer programs, or contact Anne Brown at Brown_Anne1@columbusstate.edu.

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Religious Freedom Restoration Act

Indiana law prompts nationwide backlash

Austin Wallace
Staff Writer
Image: Mike Licht

On March 26, 2015 the Governor of Indiana, Michael Pence, signed a controversial new bill known as the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) into law. The law “prohibits a governmental entity from substantially burdening a person’s exercise of religion, even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability, unless the governmental entity can demonstrate that the burden: is in furtherance of a compelling governmental interest; and is the least restrictive means of furthering the compelling governmental interest.”

According to Pence, the goal of the law is to “ensure that religious liberty is fully protected under Indiana law” and that it essentially “mirrors” the Federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

The 1993 Federal RFRA was introduced after two Native American men in Oregon were fired from their jobs when it was discovered that during their private religious practices they consumed peyote, a hallucinogenic cactus. The men were denied unemployment benefits and attempted to sue the state, but failed. This led to a public backlash, which prompted the introduction of the Federal RFRA to protect the freedom of religious minorities throughout the nation.

While both sides of the debate agree that Indiana’s RFRA and the



Sign made in response to Indiana’s RFRA

Federal RFRA share some similarities, opponents of the law believe that Indiana’s law expands the scope of the RFRA so far that it enables businesses and private companies to discriminate against people of the LGBT community, meaning that they could refuse to offer services due to their own religious beliefs that the LGBT “lifestyle” is immoral.

According to Senator Chuck Schumer, former congressman who introduced the Federal RFRA in 1993: “The federal RFRA was written narrowly to protect individuals’ religious freedom from government interference unless the government or state had a compelling interest,” and that it “could never be used to justify discrimination against gays and lesbians, in the name of religious

freedom or anything else.” Schumer also pointed out that “The federal RFRA was never intended to apply to companies as it would to private individuals.”

Indiana has already faced major public backlash as a result of the RFRA. Since the signing, some states have banned state funded travel to Indiana. Celebrities such as comedian Nick Offerman have canceled appearances in the state, and businesses such as Angie’s List have said that they are reconsidering their plans of expanding and holding events in Indiana.

As a result, Governor Pence signed a new law that clarifies the wording of the act, prohibiting providers from using the law as a legal defense for refusing to provide services, goods, facilities or accommodations to others.

A similar RFRA was proposed in Georgia by Senator Josh McKoon (a representative of Columbus). Following national coverage of the backlash in Indiana, however, the bill was tabled in committee while lawmakers dealt with other concerns.

McKoon fought for the reintroduction of the bill, but it was not approved by the final day of Georgia’s legislative sessions on April 3. Governor Nathan Deal said that the bill could be opened back up for debate next year.

New Midtown Bike and Walking Trails

Ambitious project will connect Midtown and Uptown

Scott Berson

Local and World News Editor
Illustration: Marjorie Pierce

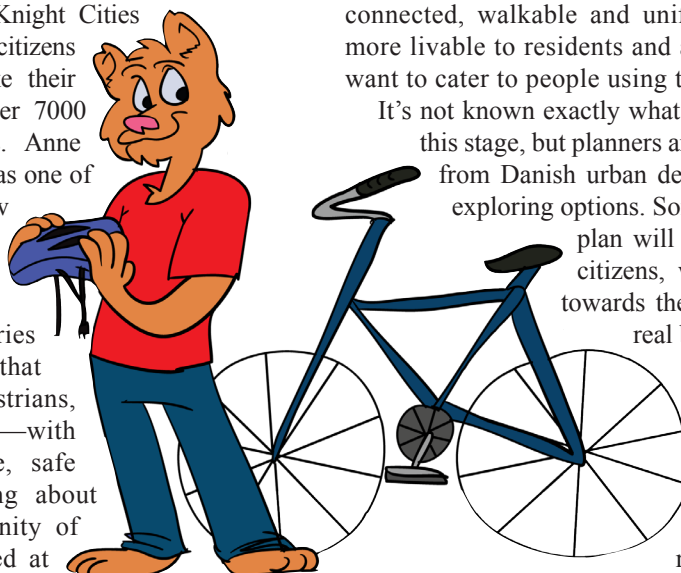
Last year, the Knight Foundation, a national nonprofit organization which “supports transformational ideas that promote quality journalism, advance media innovation, engage communities and foster the arts,” announced the “Knight Cities Challenge,” a contest that invited citizens to submit ideas for how to make their city more livable. There were over 7000 applicants, and only 32 winners. Anne King, of MidTown Incorporated, was one of those winners, and the city has now received a \$200,000 grant to make her plan, titled “Minimum Grid: Maximum Impact,” a reality.

The grid is envisioned as a series of bike and pedestrian trails that “will provide everyone—pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders and drivers—with equally convenient, comfortable, safe and inviting options for moving about within Columbus’ Core Community of MidTown and Uptown,” as stated at

a Midtown, Inc. press release. Midtown is a relatively small section of the city as a whole, but holds over 12% of the city’s population. It is expected that making this dense area more connected, walkable and unified will both make Columbus more livable to residents and also attract businesses who will want to cater to people using the trails.

It’s not known exactly what the grid system will look like at this stage, but planners are partnering with representatives from Danish urban design firm Gehl Studios to begin exploring options. Sometime this spring, a preliminary plan will be submitted for feedback from citizens, with a more solid plan coming towards the end of summer. After this, the real building can begin.

“We are daring to reimagine how people connect and move about within the Core Community,” King said. “We want to connect scattered gems and enliven the heart of the community for residents and visitors.”



Obama Announces Student Aid Bill of Rights

Legislation will make it easier for students to manage debt

Scott Berson

Local and World News Editor

Illustration: John Hope



It is a rare sight to see a student who has not had to take on at least some debt in their college career. As tuition costs (not to mention board, and fees) rise across the board, seven out of ten students will graduate with debt, the average amount of which is over \$28,000. Student debt is now the second largest source of debt in the country, trailing only moderately behind home mortgages, and Georgia alone has a staggering \$44,263,989,000 in outstanding debt.

A necessary evil of the system, it is nonetheless a stressful experience for students to have to navigate the world of repayment during school or after graduation. Students may have multiple loan servicers, may have become disabled or joined the military, or may have to defer

payments until they find work, all of which means clambering through a complicated jungle of federal red tape and third-party banking policies.

New legislation, announced by President Obama last month during a speech at the Georgia Institute of Technology, aims to help students simplify their options for their loans and ensure that they have access to the resources they need to get through college successfully and then pay back their debts after graduation.

President Obama said in a conference call to student journalists that he sees getting a college education as “the surest ticket to the middle class.” He emphasized that without federal assistance, he and his wife would not be where they are today. “Michelle and I have gone through this

ourselves, we wouldn’t be here, where we are, if we hadn’t gotten grants and loans and work study...we have to make sure that those tools are there for this generation, without students having to be burdened with huge debt.”

While the legislation does not do any active work to decrease student debt, it will make managing loans much easier.

By 2016, Obama has tasked the Department of Education to build a central website for student loans, where students can go and view all of their outstanding loans side by side. They will also be able to use the website to file complaints, ask for help with income-based payment plans, and to get any other help or other information they need with regard to repayment. The site will also act as a kind of oversight organization for school financial aid offices to ensure that they are providing accurate information and giving quality customer service.

Despite what he called “enthusiastic reception across the board,” Obama emphasized that, as it stands right now, the legislation is really just a memorandum, and will require the approval of Congress before it can be implemented.

In a similar situation is Obama’s earlier proposal to make the first two years of community college free. As Congress deliberates on the budget, the White House is encouraging those who “believe in a Student Aid Bill of Rights” to go to WhiteHouse.gov/CollegeOpportunity and sign their name to the declaration. “If we all rally around these principles, there’s a lot that colleges, lenders, and the people you sent to Washington and to your state legislatures can do to realize them across the country,” Obama said. “We can’t allow college education to become a luxury.”

White House Student Aid Bill of Rights

- I. Every student deserves access to a quality, affordable education at a college that’s cutting costs and increasing learning.
- II. Every student should be able to access the resources needed to pay for college.
- III. Every borrower has the right to an affordable payment plan.
- IV. Every borrower has the right to quality customer service, reliable information and fair treatment, even if they struggle to repay their loans.



Old World Cure for MRSA

1000 year old remedy could hold the cure to today's superbug

Catrina Dygert

Sports and Wellness Editor

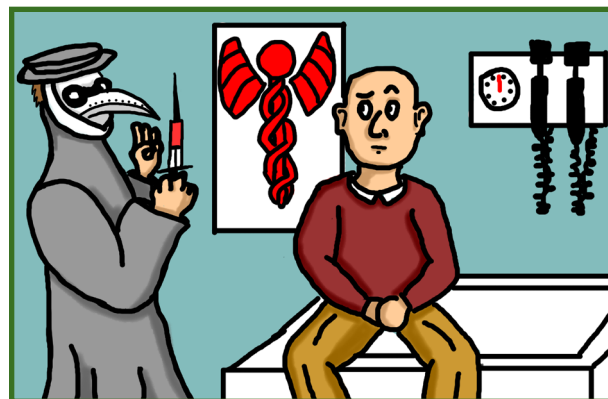
Illustration: Trevor Mehrkens

Every culture has their fair share of old wives' tales, but one 1000 year old eye salve could prove effective in the fight against Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), also known as the "superbug." The medieval ointment was found in the British Library in a copy of "Bald's Leechbook." The recipe calls for garlic, onion, wine and cow bile to be mixed together in a brass pot.

While the concoction might sound disgusting, researchers at the University of Nottingham found that the salve proved incredibly potent against the MRSA bacterium. In fact, Steve Diggle, an associate professor of sociomicrobiology, said the ancient tonic "seems to be more effective than conventional antibiotic treatment." Scientists have since replicated the first experiment, and each time the salve killed up to 90% of MRSA bacteria in biopsies taken from infected mice.

Though the salve has not been tested on human cases yet, scientists remain hopeful that it will help stall the effects of superbugs that have been tearing through hospitals. There were over 75,000 cases of MRSA in 2014. Already this year, several hospitals in Los Angeles have been forced to update safety measures after the breakout of MRSA at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and the UCLA Ronald Reagan Medical Center.

While hospitals are generally equipped to handle outbreaks, other places still run a high risk of having an MRSA breakout. These places are generally crowded and have a lot of skin-to-skin contact, like Army barracks or college dormitories. Researchers at Ohio University took samples from 15 university resident halls and found that every site had at least one case of MRSA bacteria, most commonly found on the floors of communal showers.



A senior psychology major, who wished to remain anonymous, did say MRSA wasn't "as scary as people say it is." She contracted MRSA when she was 14 and had to take antibiotics but "was never hospitalized." Brooke Watson, a junior psychology major, revealed her nephew had MRSA: "We thought it was a bug bite at first," but Watson's nephew kept scratching it and it soon became infected. She also admitted that "there was a fear of it being spread. I, as a diabetic, didn't want it."

Students can prevent the spread of MRSA in the same way that they can stop the spread of the common cold. Start by making sure any open wounds are covered and disinfected. Wash your hands often and try not to share personal items. Wash all sheets, towels, and bedspreads regularly, and wash clothes according to the manufacturer's label. For more information about MRSA and its symptoms and treatment, go to cdc.gov/mrsa/community.

Tuesday, April 14th

Tower Day is an annual event through which CSU undergrads present research, scholarly activities, and creative endeavors

Schedule:

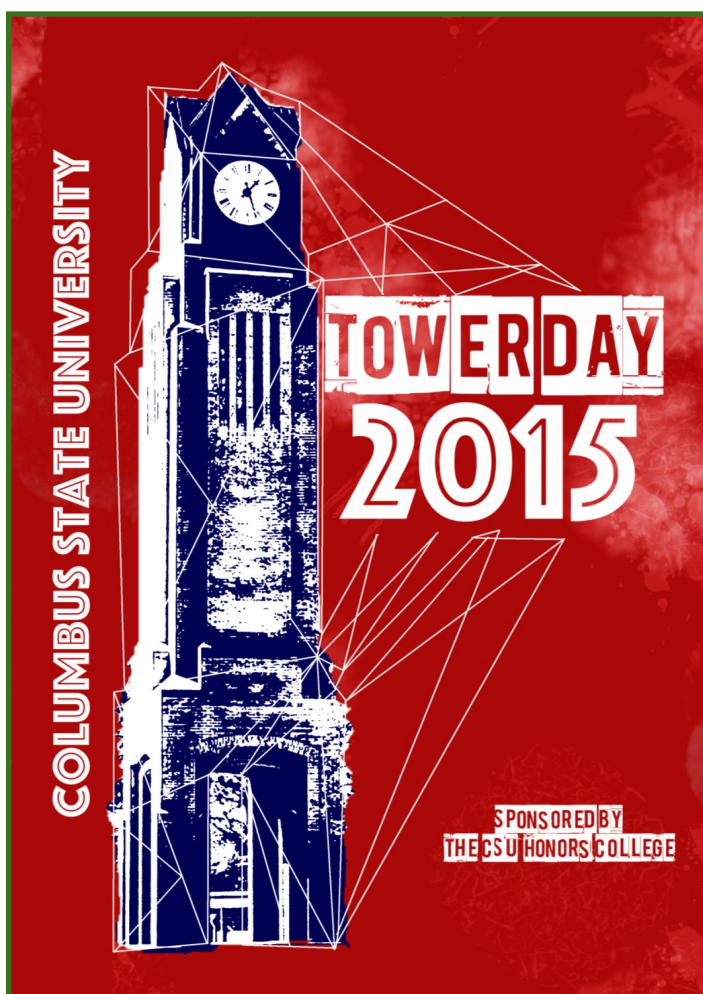
11:00 am — Keynote Address
Davidson Auditorium

12:00 pm — Poster Session & Special Events
SSSC 130, Columbus Room, and CougarLounge

1:45 - 4:40 pm Concurrent Presentations
Davidson 254, 256, 258, and Schuster 101

4:45 pm — Awards
Davidson Auditorium

For more information, visit:
<http://research.columbusstate.edu/undergrad/towerday/>



Cougar of the Week

Interview with Shanila Chapman

Akil Charles

Staff Writer

Photo: Akil Charles

Fine arts major and sophomore Shanila Chapman was the Cougar of the Week for the week ending March 29.

She set four season bests at the Emory Classic in Atlanta on March 27 and 28. Chapman finished the 100 meter dash in 12.14 seconds, started the 4x100 meter relay which CSU won in 48.45 seconds, and won the long jump with a distance of 5.55 meters. Chapman also finished the 4x400 in second place, with a time of 4:00.35.

You were Cougar of the Week. How does that make you feel?

"It is very humbling and it makes me feel honored because we have been working very hard this season – harder than we were last season – and the Coach is more confident in the workouts, I'm more confident in the workouts and I feel the work paying off."

Why Track?

"Track is something I found myself interested in since I was like eight years old. It's what I wanted to do since middle school, but my team never had a chance. They always had a cross country team or a



Shanila Chapman, Track Team

football team. In high school, when I could finally do it, my grades weren't where they needed to be. My sophomore year, when I finally started, it was the most fun I've had. I told myself that is what I want to do for as long as possible."

How long have you been on the CSU team?

"Since I started school here. They gave me a scholarship."

What events do you run?

"100 meter dash, 200 meter dash, 4x400

meter relay, 4x100 meter relay and I also long jump and triple jump."

What's your major? What do you want to do with it?

"Fine arts. I'd like to do something in that field, and I've been thinking about getting a degree in sociology. It's very interesting to me, and I'd like to find out why people are the way they are."

Is track hard to juggle with academics?

"Oh yes, it's very hard. I think that's something that a lot of student athletes have problems with sometimes. But my coach understands, and is very familiar with the term 'Student Athlete,' not 'Athlete Student,' and he holds study halls so if we have a C or lower he has us study for 90 minutes each day [of practice]. It's difficult after three day track meets and then going to class on a Friday. It's all about time management and taking care of our body, keeping focus and studying hard enough."

The next track and field meets are April 9-11 in Knoxville, Tn. A full schedule and posted results can be found at csucougars.com.

Cougars Up to Bat

Spotlight on the CSU Baseball Team

Akil Charles

Staff Writer

Photo: Akil Charles



Mike McGinnity pitching

CSU Baseball has been doing well, with a season record of 23 wins, 10 losses as of April 2. The most recent game at the time this was written was against Auburn University at Montgomery, which CSU won 12-3. No points were scored in the first inning by either team. CSU was up to bat first and Brendan Collins was struck out, followed by Mike McClellan hitting a double play that

caused three more outs. Auburn's first inning was also uneventful in terms of score.

The first points came in CSU's second inning. Chris Daniel's single allowed Dustin Averett to run from second base. Three more runs were scored by CSU before Jackson Oliver was out after a grounder to first. Auburn's first runs were scored after CSU had already scored three more times.

At the bottom of the third inning, both Tremayne Hardin and Josh Thompson were batted during different plays. CSU scored three more runs in the fourth inning and once each in the seventh and ninth innings. Auburn's next and final point of the game came when Tremayne Hardin hit Conner Smith in.

The CSU Cougars' conference games against Georgia Southwestern started badly on Fri. the 3rd, with a loss 10-8. However, CSU recovered and had back to back victories over GSW on Sat. the 4th with a 2-1 win in the first game and 5-3 with the second game. The first game Blake Edwards was batted in for a run during the third inning and Blaine Miller had an unearned run in the fourth. The second game CSU had runs batted in for the third (Ihle), fourth (Edwards), seventh (Averett and Daniel), and eighth (B. Collins) inning.

CSU will go on to play Tuskegee on April 8 and Montevallo for three consecutive days starting April 10. The next home game will be against Albany State on April 15. For more information on games and schedules go to csucougars.com.



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FITNESS: USING YOUR SMARTPHONE TO STAY IN SHAPE

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