

# THE Saber

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# THE Saber

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 The Columbus State  
University Saber

## EDITOR'S LETTER

**Pictured** Logan Ragan, exiting SGA President, rests after planting a new tree on main campus outside. The event was part of a sustainability project. PHOTO: Raylyn Ray

**Say Hello** to your incoming Editor-in-Chief, **Raylyn Ray**, who will take over in fall of 2018.

## GRADUATION

**DATES:** All ceremonies will be held at the Lumpkin Center.

## College of the Arts and Business:

Friday, May 18 at 4 p.m.

## College of Education and Health Professions:

Sat., May 19 at 10 a.m.

## College of Letters and Sciences:

Sat., May 19 at 3 p.m.

**Hey y'all**, how the heck are ya? Good? Did you survive finals? Are you here for summer classes? Are you visiting the campus for the first time? I bet you're looking for a good scoop. Allow me to give it to you:

Columbus State is a great place to grow, and learn, and become who you were meant to be. I know this because I accomplished all of those things during my time here, but it wasn't without the help of dedicated mentors, kind friends, and respectable colleagues. College is challenging, and you have to work hard to make the grade, but it's easier if you have help, and for those who have helped me up the road—especially when the center was not holding—thank you. If someone has helped you find your way, thank them.

I was editor-in-chief when I wrote this, but like many others before me, I'll be moving onward, as a new leader is settling in. Raylyn Ray, congratulations on your new position as editor, and best of luck to you in your future endeavors. Reader, Ray likes to be called they, so please remember to be respectful of their preferred pronoun. If you want to know how to address people with non-binary identities, there's an article on page 28 that explains how to do so. Stay woke.

Staff, you have been absolutely amazing, and I cannot wait to see what you accomplish next semester and beyond. Special thanks to my friend and colleague Toni Stauffer for giving me motivation and inspiring me to challenge myself everyday. Also, thank you Bobby Lindsey and the entire department of student affairs for helping us with coordination. Cougar Copy Center, we couldn't publish without your professionalism and punctuality. And thank you, reader, for doing what you're doing right this moment. It's been an honor and a pleasure.

- Scottie DeClue, Editor-in-Chief

**P.S.** Congratulations graduating class of 2018. Good luck out there, and *laissez les bon temps rouler*.



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PHOTO: Bo Lewis

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

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**Special thanks to** Toni Stauffer for all your hard work at The Saber, and congratulations on your graduation and other accomplishments.

# NEWS FLASH

## CARSON MCCULLERS CENTER FOR WRITERS AND MUSICIANS EVENT

The first annual Carson McCullers Literary Festival was held April 20-21 at the Bo Bartlett Center. Designed to primarily be a celebration of creative writing, the festival featured public readings by authors Brad Watson, winner of the Harper Lee Award; Jonathan S.E. Perkins, a nationally recognized slam poet champion; also, novelist and essayist Melissa Pritchard.

### 2018 COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY WINNERS

#### POETRY

**First Place:** Justin Briley "Being Poor"

**Second Place:** L'Anita Heiss "Imitation of Pope: A Lecture on Growth, Delivered in Four Minutes"

**Third Place:** Olivia Ivings "Sarasota"

#### FICTION

**First Place:** Justin Briley "A Cold War"

**Second Place:** Amy Crawford "Stale Cigarettes"

**Third Place:** Rachael Mockalis "Rue and the Wolf"

#### CREATIVE NONFICTION

**First Place:** Toni Stauffer "Mother"

**Second Place:** Renee Simmons "On My Deathbed"

**Third Place:** Lindsay Allday "Batman's Bridge"

#### EXPOSITORY ESSAY

**First Place:** Edna Robinson "Beauty Becomes the Beast"

**Second Place:** Lauren Miley "Postmodern Style in 1980s Novels"

**Third Place:** Justin Briley "Crow, Tongues and Masculine Striving"

#### SCREENWRITING

**First Place:** Ira York "Red Eyes"

**Second Place:** Kristen Broyles "Ice Cream Altercation"

**Third Place:** Tanner Coleman "Death's Pep Talk"

## CSU POLICE HOSTED ACTIVE SHOOTER AWARENESS LECTURE SERIES

On April 23-24, CSU Police presented four sessions of the University System of Georgia Plan-Prepare-React program in an Active Shooter Awareness Lecture Series on Main and RiverPark campuses. Open to faculty, staff, and students, the free program was designed to facilitate civilian awareness and preparation for active shooter incidents on campus. Topics for the presentation included a discussion on what constitutes an active threat, the identification of response options to an active threat, and an introduction to law enforcement's response to active threats.

## CSU FOCUSES ON SUPPORT FOR MILITARY-AFFILIATED STUDENTS

In its first ever "Green Zone" initiative, CSU is providing extra support for military-affiliated students—a group that makes up about 15% of the student body. With

a \$2,500 grant from the Aurora Foundation, CSU's Military Enrollment department trained 14 faculty and staff members on the unique issues and concerns faced by military-affiliated students. The national average for veteran drop out is 88 percent, and the department hopes to reduce that rate by providing specialized services to help veterans adapt to civilian and college life.

## CSU HOSTED DEMOCRATIC GUBERNATORIAL DEBATE

On April 24, CSU hosted a Democratic Gubernatorial Debate in University Hall at 7 p.m. Televised live and open to the public, the debate was part of an ongoing series of political forums hosted in partnership with WRBL-TV and PMB Broadcasting. The series was sponsored by AFLAC and TSYS. Professors from CSU's political science department, and reporters from WRBL served on panels questioning the candidates. Communication students assisted in the production of the telecasts. Events featuring candidates involved in a run-off will be scheduled between the primary and run-off elections. Nominees of each party will be invited back for a Gubernatorial Debate in October.

## CSU POLICE WELCOME NEW OFFICER

Columbus State University's Police Department has welcomed the addition of a new police dog named Duk. Members of the media were invited to meet Duk on Friday, May 4. Officer Duk has the rank of Lieutenant and is an ambassador of good will to promote safety on campus. Partnered with Sergeant Jon Erickson, the year and a half old golden retriever will be working in education and narcotics detection for a drug free campus. Duk is predicted to become the most popular officer in the department.

## CSU STUDENTS TO PAY SAME TUITION FOR THE 2018-2019 ACADEMIC YEAR

Columbus State University students, as well as all other students in the University System of Georgia, will pay the same tuition for the 2018-2019 academic year as the current 2017-2018 academic year, after the Board of Regents set annual tuition rates for all 26 colleges and universities at a zero percent increase.

With the elimination or decrease in some fees at Columbus State University, the move means that overall costs of going to CSU could actually go down for some CSU students next year. The University System has been able to limit tuition increases to an average of 1.8 percent annually over the last five years and continues to offer some of the lowest tuition rates among peer public higher education systems. Out of the 16 states that make up the Southern Regional Education Board, the USG remains the sixth lowest state in tuition and fees for four-year institutions.





# UPCOMING



USG is also saving students \$19 million a year with its free online textbook initiative called Affordable Learning Georgia. More than 219,300 students from across the system have benefited directly from the program, which has grown rapidly. Just two years ago, the University System was ranked No. 1 in the nation by national publisher OpenStax at Rice University for saving students the most money with free online textbooks. Tuition rates for each institution can be found here: [http://www.usg.edu/fiscal\\_affairs/tuition\\_and\\_fees](http://www.usg.edu/fiscal_affairs/tuition_and_fees).



## PAYMENT DEADLINES CHANGED FOR FALL SEMESTER: JULY 20, 2018

In order to improve services to students, the Office of Enrollment Services has moved payment deadlines up to allow for more time to make payment arrangements and to use the online payment option. The change should also ensure that all of the administrative responsibilities of students are fulfilled so that they will have access to funds for books and other expenses. The new fall payment deadline is Friday, July 20 for all courses to be registered. Those students using financial aid must submit their FAFSA and all related verification forms by June 15.



## \*CSU CLOCK TOWER RECALIBRATED TO CHIME MORSE CODE

In a bold move that has never been done at any other university, CSU has installed a remote-controlled bell system in the clock tower, which it will use for a weekly "Cougars Crack the Code" challenge. Every Monday at noon, the bells will chime a secret message in Morse code. Students will have until midnight the following Sunday to email what they think it says to [landers\\_rudy@columbusstate.edu](mailto:landers_rudy@columbusstate.edu). Prizes for successfully cracking the code will vary and will be announced every week on [www.columbusstate.edu](http://www.columbusstate.edu).

The brainchild of the new bell system and corresponding challenge is the CSU computer science department, which aims to awaken talent that non-computer science majors may not have realized they had. "There's a stereotype about all computer programmers being geeky and male. People either think that, or they think that programming is just a lot of brain work without any fun," said Python professor Rudy Landers. He continued, "We want more diversity in our program. We want to attract more creative types. You can teach someone a set of rules, but you can't teach them creativity. Everyone on the main campus can hear the clock tower. We're trying to reach out to those students who haven't settled on a major." Landers added that though Morse code isn't a computer language, the kind of logical thinking that it takes to use it is a transferable talent.

The \$5,800 bell system will be paid for by student activity fees. To cut costs, many of its parts were 3D-printed by Customtech Solutions, Inc.

\*Satire by Cole Trahan, Incoming Managing Editor

### EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT – 10:30 P.M.

#### NO SHAME THEATRE

Every Friday evening, the Springer puts on No Shame Theatre – an uncensored evening of original performance that allows anyone to participate. Sign-up begins at 10 p.m., and 15 5-minute performance slots are available each week. Admission costs \$5, and alcohol is served. The No Shame theatre is on the east side of the Springer on 1st Avenue.

### EVERY SATURDAY MORNING – 9 A.M.

#### MARKET DAYS ON BROADWAY IN UPTOWN

Need fresh produce, baked goods, or general artisan wares? Visit downtown Columbus on Saturday mornings to experience Market Days. Over 100 vendors line the streets with their handmade goods. Free to attend. This event ends around noon.

### FRIDAY, MAY 18 – 7 P.M.

#### UPTOWN CONCERT SERIES: ALLMAN BROTHERS TRIBUTE

The streets will be closed off for this free event held on the 1200 block of Broadway in downtown Columbus. Bring your lawn chair, blanket, and friends for a night of music and fun. No coolers or outside food is allowed, and alcohol may be purchased.

### SATURDAY, MAY 19 – 10A.M. TO 4 P.M.

#### FANFEST

Summer Reading Kicks off with FanFest on Saturday, May 19 at the Columbus Public Library. Join us for our annual Multi-Fandom Mini-Con with balloon twisters, cosplay, crafts, food trucks, vendors, and more!

### SATURDAY, MAY 19 – 4 P.M TO 11 P.M.

#### PAWS HUMANE BARKS & BLUES

The third annual Barks & Blues Festival is a popular concert event held at the CSU Woodruff Park in downtown Columbus. The Neal Lucas Band will perform, and both food trucks and alcohol will be at the event. Bring your dogs for the costume show held at 6:30! Admission is free.

### MONDAY, MAY 28 – 10 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

#### MEMORIAL DAY AT THE NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM

Join the NIM for a day of activities, including ceremonies, self-guided tours and more. Admission is free, but donations are always appreciated. The National Infantry Museum is located at 1775 Legacy Way, Columbus.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 2 – 8 A.M. TO 9 A.M.

#### THE DONUT MILE

Join Crossfit CSG for National Donut Day and the inaugural Donut Mile. This run will have athletes eating a donut every 400 meters over a 1 mile course. \$25 with a t-shirt, \$10 without a t-shirt. Crossfit CSG, 1234 Broadway, Columbus.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 2 – 11 A.M. TO 11 P.M.

#### 5TH ANNUAL LGBT PRIDE FESTIVAL

The theme of this year's Pride is powerful-hate will not win. Flags and t-shirts available. Enjoy performers, vendors and speakers. DJ Tammy Lamb will also perform. For more information, please call (706) 580-6239. Located on Broadway in downtown Columbus.



# CHANGING OF THE TIDES: SGA ELECTIONS

*Elections are over, and there's a new crew here to represent you*

STORY BY IVEY MILAM  
PHOTOS BY BO LEWIS

After two months of waiting, Columbus State University students can now welcome their 2018-2019 Student Government Association members. The applications, which were open between February 18 and March 23, were filled out by an assortment of students, and campaigning and voting occurred from March 27 to April 11. A day later, the school's new student government was announced. The new members will officially assume their roles after being sworn in at the Forum on April 26, 2018. Here is a look at CSU's rising student voices.



## WILLIAM MICHAEL

William Michael, a political science major who is minoring in business and computer science, is our new Chief Justice. He currently competes on CSU's track and field and cross country teams and is from Mountain Park, Georgia.

"I feel like I am qualified for the position of chief justice because I am in the process of learning the legal system for a career," Michael said. "Being a freshman, I will be able to hold the position for an extended period of time, so I can learn how to effectively put the most in the role of chief justice. All I as a student want to do is better the campus while I'm here and want my voice heard... There are things around campus that can use some leadership and to continue what the current administration has put into place."

## CHRISTOPHER OSWALD

Our Vice President of Financial Affairs will be Christopher Oswald, a rising junior. He is a general business major and is also a member of CSU's cross country and track teams. "My interests also extend into politics and history," Oswald said. "Typically, I like to stay up to date on current events and ideas to see patterns and use it as a means to open discussions of ideas with others."

**Q** What made you interested in a position in SGA? What about the particular position you chose?

One day a friend talked to me about joining the student government, which I hadn't even considered. Following that I went to some of the Forum meetings and learned what they were doing around campus and thought it would be an interesting endeavor to be a part of.

I chose my position primarily because I am a business major, so being the Vice President of Financial Affairs fit well with the information I know and am going to learn.

**Q** What are your goals for SGA? How do you think you will benefit the organization and the entire CSU community?

My goal is to fulfill my duty to the best of my ability, but to also take part in growing the appeal of the school to current and future students. There are also transparency goals that I have in mind, but I can't say that there are specifics on that yet.

The SGA could benefit from my dedication to others, and the same stands for the student body. It has to do with having respect for those you are working for and with.

**Q** What do you think you will gain from your time with SGA?

Experience with budgeting and accounting, as well as a better understanding of the student body

and the functions that registered student organizations perform.

**Q** How do you feel about your upcoming official inclusion as a new member of SGA?

It is a nervous sort of excitement – the desire to do well and the fear that you won't. I am still looking forward to it though, and kind of expect it to be something that I can enjoy and be proud of.

**Q** What do you want the students to know about you and about your efforts?

Something to know about me is that I am open to discussions, whether it involves my new position or not, it will allow me to better understand the experiences of someone else and hopefully use it to make better decisions.

## MERCEDES DICKERSON

Mercedes Dickerson, a junior and political science major with a Spanish minor, is our new Vice President of Student Affairs. Dickerson was born in Schweinfurt, Germany due to her father's service in the military. Some time later, she, her parents, her three older sisters, and their two puppies moved to Columbus and then Harris County where she attended Harris County High School. During her senior year of high school, she dual

enrolled at CSU. In high school, she was the president of 4-H for two years as well as the reporter for and president of the Technology Student Association. One pivotal period in her life was when she studied abroad in Mexico, something she was able to do after graduation.

"My purpose in life is to help people," said Dickerson, "so I am going to go to law school and pursue a career as a civil rights attorney. I strive to use my political science and law degrees to become involved in politics, so I can represent my people and help them as much as possible...I have many ideas and plans for Columbus State University which is why I would make the most excellent choice as a Student Government Association representative."

**Q What made you interested in a position in SGA? What about the particular position you chose?**

I wanted to be involved on campus and help other students, so I felt like SGA was the best option for me to do that. I was also in student government and held other leadership positions in high school. As far as my position, I chose the Vice President of Student Affairs because I think it will allow me to make the best impact at this time.

**Q What are your goals for SGA? How do you think you will benefit the organization and the entire CSU community?**

My main focus will be providing an efficient way for the students' voices to be heard and educating them on what is happening throughout the school and SGA. I also want to develop a strong relationship with the rest of my student government.

**Q What do you think you will gain from your time with SGA?**

I aspire to be a lawyer and politician someday, so I think SGA will help me develop more leadership skills and give me a small preview of what my career will be.

**Q How do you feel about your upcoming official inclusion as a new member of SGA?**

I am excited and nervous. I am not completely sure of all of my duties yet, but me and the rest of the team already have a great connection. Everything will become better with time.

**Q What do you want the students to know about you and about your efforts?**

I want the students to know how open I am to serving them. No matter how big or small the issue is, they should feel open to talking to me or anyone in Student Government. I honestly want people to become more involved and communicate with each other.

## WINSTON BLACK

A criminal justice major, senior Winston Black is our 2018-2019 President. "A few of my aspirations are graduating college and becoming a better leader through developmental experience and opportunity," Black said. "Most of all, I want to become a well-rounded lawyer who will make a difference on Earth. I believe I would be the best person for SGA President because I have the energy, charisma, and confidence that is needed to get people involved and active at school. I am very approachable and interact very well with all crowds of people. I am hungry for the opportunity to gain more knowledge and lead our student class into better semesters to come."

**Q What made you interested in a position in SGA? What about the particular position you chose?**

I became interested in SGA because I wanted to invest more into our university's most valuable assets, which are our students. The reason I chose my particular position is because I believe with my help I can help others truly evolve into better leaders. I also believe that I will have the ability to facilitate an environment where creativity and positive progression will overflow from our cabinet!

**Q What are your goals for SGA? How do you think you will benefit the organization and the entire CSU community?**

One of my main goals would be to bring a new style of collaboration when dealing with leadership. Another goal that I have is to boost event and workshop awareness. Achieving these two goals will empower the student body and CSU by increasing student interactions with other students and faculty. It will also bring leadership to a new level at CSU and possibly increase event workshop attendance.

**Q What do you think you will gain from your time with SGA?**

I believe I will learn a lot about understand how people work and how to work as a team with others. I also hope to learn new skills of leadership that I may not possess yet.

**Q How do you feel about your upcoming official inclusion as a new member of SGA?**

I am very proud to have been elected as the SGA President. I look forward to serving the students of CSU just as I would for myself.

**Q What do you want the students to know about you and about your efforts?**

My goal is to treat this task as official as possible. I vow to be diligent in my efforts of creating a better environment for learning and also in my efforts of bringing more collaboration, excitement, and leadership to campus!

WILLIAM MICHAEL,  
CHIEF JUSTICE



MERCEDES DICKERSON,  
VP OF STUDENT AFFAIRS



CHRISTOPHER OSWALD,  
VP OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS



WINSTON BLACK,  
PRESIDENT





# SPRING REFLECTION: CSU SPORTS

*Coaches talk pros and cons about the 2018 spring season*



BY SYDNEE WILLIAMS AND TONI STAUFFER  
GRAPHIC BY DANI ALCIDE

## BASEBALL

Coach Greg Appleton has been more than pleased with the performance of new catcher and freshman Robert Brooks who Appleton said has had an outstanding season and exceeded their expectations so far.

Appleton feels next season will be better for the team. "I think the Rollins series was big for us, because we found a way to win on the road against a good opponent. To this point, we have had an outstanding season with big opportunities in front of us."

He said next year's team will have a lot of players returning for the 2019 season and the large senior class has a lot of talent.

"I feel we can improve in all areas. Our goal is to improve as the season progresses, so that we will be playing our best at the end of the year," Appleton said.

## TENNIS

When asked who stood out this year, coach Evan Isaacs said he couldn't pick out anyone in particular and that it had been completely a team effort. He said everyone stepped up their game this year. Ranked #2 in the nation for men's singles, K.P. Pannu had a good year, according to Isaacs. He said Beatriz Lopez also did well this season and has earned the #3 spot in the nation for women's singles.

"We put together one of the hardest schedules in the country this last year to test our players and get them ready for the national tournament. They have played well for the most part," Isaacs said. "The men have had many ranked wins this year, but one that stands out for both teams is when we played Lynn

University down in Boca Raton. The winds were howling at 30 plus miles per hour, and it was real tough conditions. Both teams came out of the matches with victories."

When pressed for details of next season, Isaacs said he still trying to get through the rest of this one.

"I think we played well, but nowhere to the level that I think they can play at," he said. "...I just want our teams to get locked in mentally and fight for every single point.

We cannot help what just happened on the last point. It's always about moving forward and getting the next point."

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

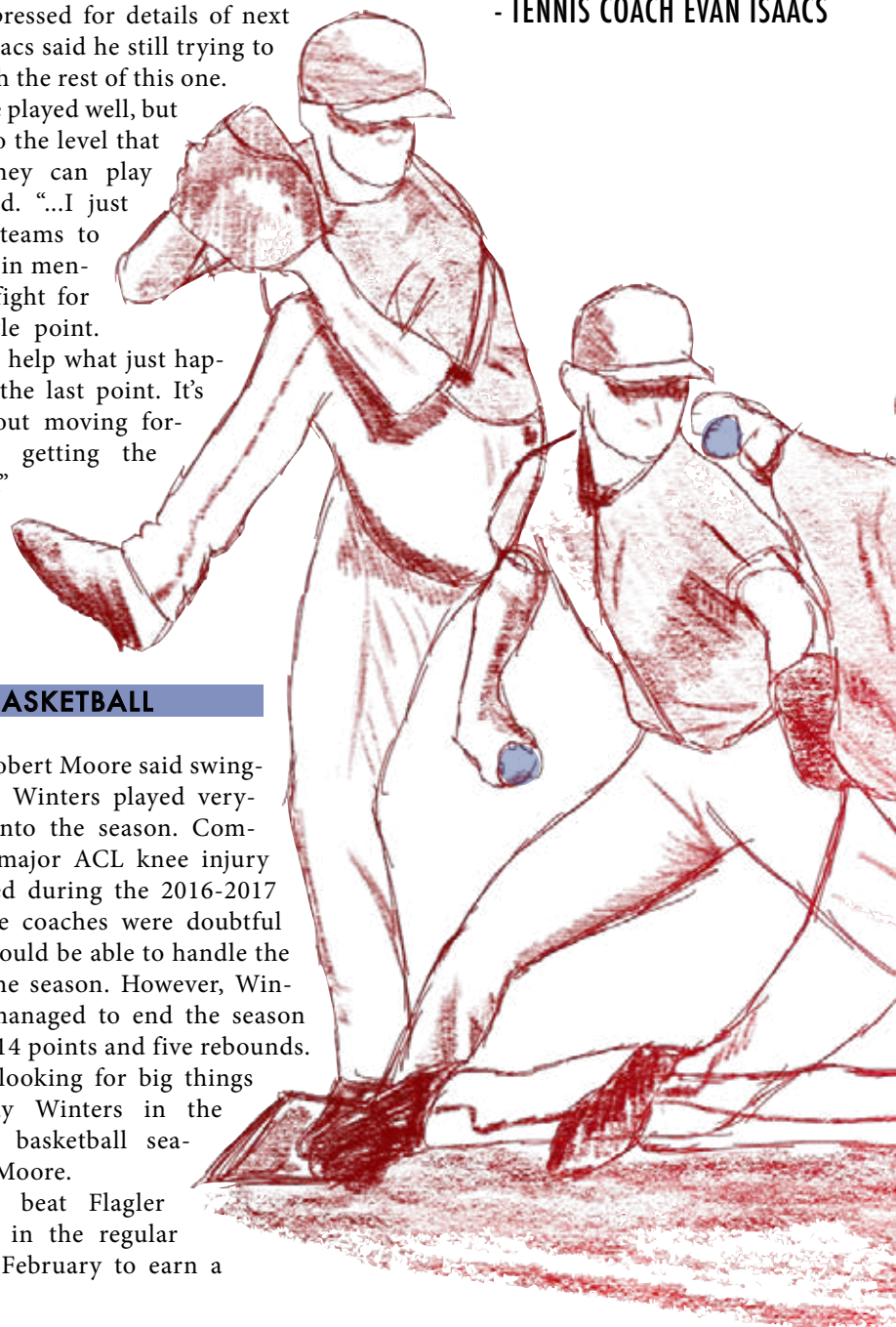
Coach Robert Moore said swingman Rudy Winters played very well late into the season. Coming off a major ACL knee injury he obtained during the 2016-2017 season, the coaches were doubtful his knee would be able to handle the grind of the season. However, Winters still managed to end the season averaging 14 points and five rebounds.

"We're looking for big things from Rudy Winters in the 2018-2019 basketball season," said Moore.

The team beat Flagler University in the regular season in February to earn a

**"WE PUT TOGETHER ONE OF THE HARDEST SCHEDULES IN THE COUNTRY THIS LAST YEAR TO TEST OUR PLAYERS AND GET THEM READY FOR THE NATIONAL TOURNAMENT."**

**- TENNIS COACH EVAN ISAACS**





spot in the Peach Belt conference tournament for the fifth straight season for their biggest win.

"We did not meet my expectations or our team goals for the 2017-2018 season. We learned a lot about ourselves..." Moore said. "We are looking to become a better defensive team and to strive for excellence on and off the court the entire season. We have to become more consistent in our play on the court to be successful."

Moore said that the team members can improve their strength and conditioning and that they are currently doing weight training and conditioning drills four days a week at six in the morning. "The guys are improving every day and working hard," said Moore.

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

According to coach Jay Entlich, several team members excelled this year. Sophomore Riley Clark went from scoring just a few goals last season to scoring 17 this season. He said center back and freshman Madeline Goodfellow started every game and played more minutes than any other player. He said Flo

Spano was named First Team All-Conference coming off the bench as their first substitute.

In their second match of the year, the team played Grand Valley State University, a team they had never beaten previously, and who had ended CSU's season for the past two years. CSU won 5-1.

"It was a major statement game for us," said Entlich. "We felt like it was a monkey off our back at the time."

However, Entlich feels that the team still underachieved. "We had a really talented team that did not meet our team goals of winning a conference tournament championship, and we did not win a southeast region championship," he said.

"When we needed to win big games, we lost. So in our opinion, we did not have a successful season."

Entlich said the team is looking for redemption and getting back on track.

"We have games against several teams that we lost to this past year, so we are circling those games in our schedule," Entlich said. "We have so much to prove and we need to get back on

the winning track. It will be nice to be the underdog in quite a few games this next year, so we will have a lot to look forward to."

The one thing Entlich feels the team can improve on moving forward is to win when it matters.

"We lost several games that we needed to win late in the season, so we need to be able to compete in November and late October," he said. "We have a lot of growth ahead of us."

## GOLF

Coach Mark Immelman said that the golf team's performances have been solid but that they can always improve and perform fundamentals more efficiently. He wants his golfers to perform well in both the classroom and on the practice range and course.

One golfer that stands out is Jordan Doull, who came in as a first semester freshman and shot some sensational scores early.

"Since then, he has continued to work hard and improve, so he has exceeded our expectations on all fronts-physically, mentally, and emotionally," said Immelman.

The co-ed team finished second in the Peach Belt Conference Tournament, but it is the upcoming NCAA Super Regional tournament that is most critical and will define their post-season aspirations. Currently, CSU is at the #3 spot for the southeast region in the NCAA with a possibility of advancing to the finals, which will be held May 21-25 at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at the Fighting Joe Course in Muscle Shoals, Alabama and are hosted by the University of North Alabama.

*Not all coaches were available for interview due to team schedules, but some other CSU teams to watch are Cross Country, Track & Field, Softball, and Women's Basketball.*



**Students:** remember that CSU home games are free to attend with your valid student ID card.



**Check** the CSU Athletics page for information on game times and other statistics.



As Columbus gets ready for a big election season, students and the rest of the Columbus State University community should remember that their votes have potential to decide who takes the offices of Mayor, City Council, School Board, and even Governor. As the next mayoral candidate could heavily impact the future of CSU and the community, voting decisions should be ones that are well-informed.

As of March, there are six candidates running to take the position currently held by Mayor Teresa Tomlinson. Tomlinson, who has served two terms, says she will continue to serve the Columbus government until the 2020 election cycle when she hopes to run for office at the state level.

Those officially registered in the 2018 mayoral race are Skip Henderson, a former Columbus Councilman who gave up his seat to run for mayor; Beth Harris, a former member of the Muscogee County school board; Zeph Baker, the pastor and CEO of Spirit Filled Ministries, who also ran in 2014; Danny Arencibia, a finance manager; Charlie Roberts, a TSYS operations analyst; and Winfred Shipman, Jr., whose listed occupation is God/Jesus.

The six mayoral candidates (except for Winfred Shipman, who was unable to be reached) responded more or less to a prompt that contained questions about how their potential mayoralship might impact the future of Columbus State. Candidates were asked to introduce themselves, their occupations, their qualifications for mayor, their political platforms, and asked to introduce their overall campaign statements. Finally, candidates were asked to explain how they might grow and maintain a positive relationship between Columbus State and the city government.

Voters may cast their ballots for the mayoral race starting Monday, April 30 through Friday, May 18, and advance in-person voting will be at the Community Room of the Columbus' City Services Center off Macon Road at 311 Citizens Way. Runoff races for state or local offices will be Tuesday, July 24.

An entire list of candidates for all elections, which includes their contact information, may be found at [www.columbusga.gov/elections](http://www.columbusga.gov/elections). To register to vote, visit [www.columbusga.gov](http://www.columbusga.gov) and click on the "register to vote" link.

# TIME IS ALMOST UP

*Columbus' mayoral election is looming, so get informed*

BY SCOTTIE DECLUE  
PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CANDIDATES

**Need to register?**

Visit [www.columbusga.gov](http://www.columbusga.gov) to find out how to hit the polls.



SKIP HENDERSON

The following excerpts are responses verbatim from the mayoral candidates. Candidate Winfred Shipman could not be reached for a personal statement.

## SKIP HENDERSON

Columbus is my hometown. I am from here. My wife of 35 years, Karon, is from here. We have raised two children here. Everything and everyone most important to me has been provided by this community. It seems natural to give back to the area that has given me so much. I have served in leadership positions in civic and charitable organizations, the Better Business Bureau, and City Boards and Authorities. I was elected to serve city-wide on the Columbus Council in 1997 and have served the citizens in that capacity until this past February, when I resigned to run for mayor.

While serving, my fellow Councilors elected me to serve as Budget Chair for the past nine years.

With the growing pressure on the city's resources and the demand for services increasing, it is critical that our new mayor possess leadership, vision, and – most of all – experience.

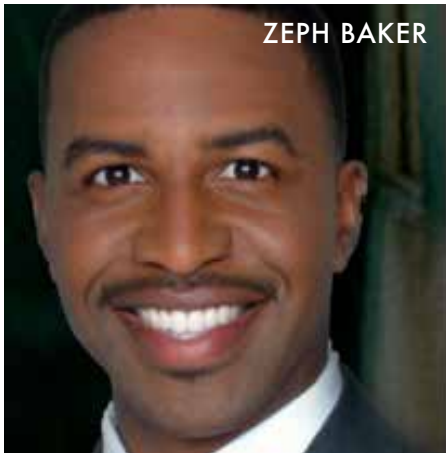
My vision for Columbus includes focusing on many key issues. A few of them are

creating an environment where people feel safe, creating more and higher paying jobs, a unified community that draws strength from its diversity, and for those living below the poverty line...opportunity.

To accomplish these objectives, we must leverage our existing partnerships, such as – Fort Benning, The Chamber of Commerce, and CSU. Our partnership with CSU has been particularly important to the growth of Columbus. You only have to look at Uptown, where the increased presence of CSU and its students has been a key driver of the vitality and economic success of that area. The Fine Arts program, music program, film certificate program, nursing program, and others are going to drive the future of this community.

I attended CSU in the early '80s, when it was Columbus College. Then, it was a local college with mostly non-traditional students. Now, it is a vital, regional University educating and shaping future leaders. Our challenge as city leaders is to create an environment where these graduates will want to build their dreams, their families, and their





ZEPH BAKER



VOTE:

**MAY  
22**



DANNY ARENCIBIA

lives. I intend to engage these future leaders and other young leaders of our community in regular communication to partner in building the Columbus of the future. Please visit my web site, [skipforcolumbus.com](http://skipforcolumbus.com), for more information on my plans to move Columbus forward.

#### BETH HARRIS

My name is Beth Harris, and I am campaigning to be the next Mayor of Columbus, Georgia. I am a former high school teacher. I was a commercial graphic artist for the majority of my adult life. I served as the Graphic Designer for the City of Columbus immediately prior to becoming a high school Graphic Arts Technology teacher at Harris County High School. I am currently a semi-retired freelance book editor. I am a former elected school board member. I sat on the budget review committee and the personnel committee. I also served as inspirational leader for two years. Until I decided to run for Mayor I was a member of the Mayor's Board of Honor. My resumé, bio, and Platform can be found on my Facebook Campaign page, "Beth Harris for MAYOR."

I know the value of CSU in our community; the depths and outreach of the many programs, and the jobs it provides. A prepared workforce is vital to the sustenance of a community. Columbus State University has formed a root system in the educational viability of our Columbus. I will always support

the mission and values of Columbus State.

I believe that the City and CSU already enjoy a good relationship. I will strive to strengthen the articulation between the students and the community. There are many opportunities for the university and the City government to highlight and showcase the accomplishments of the students, programs, and faculty. I will participate in the positive growth, and welcome the opportunity to assure CSU has what it needs to continue its success whenever possible.

I have seen firsthand how the continuing education promotes youth activities. The adult continuing education is instrumental in improving the lives of our citizens. This quality university in our City is one of our biggest attractions and best assets.

#### ZEPH BAKER

I am a native of Columbus. I graduated from Carver High School and received my Bachelors of Science in Biology, from Columbus State University. I am a social services professional. I own and manage residential and outpatient service centers that provide care to the elderly and mentally ill. I am recently married after being a Widower for thirteen years. I have three children, a daughter who is a high school senior, and two sons in college, one at Georgia State University and one at Columbus State University.

Education is at the heart of my vision to move Columbus forward. When I talk about

job recruitment and economic development, Columbus State University as well as other local institutions of higher education are a part of the bedrock upon which I am building our future. Unlike some of the other candidates, I have a fresh, new perspective that I believe is congruent with the mission and vision of Columbus State University. While others have failed to properly engage Columbus State University as a real partner, I am certain we can build a better Columbus partnering with Columbus State University, the region's leading academic institution and it's graduates. And one final note, I believe in the promise of Columbus State University so much so that not only am I an Alumnae, but I have entrusted the academic readiness of my eldest child to the care of Columbus State University. I believe in Columbus State University and I am asking Columbus State University to believe in me, a product of Columbus State University. I have been prepared by the best because I have been prepared by CSU.

My plan for growing and maintaining a better relationship with Columbus State University is simple. I will include Columbus State University in my governance and leadership. While the roles and responsibilities of Columbus State University are unique and specific, it is precisely its unique resources that I feel can be a major asset to the city of Columbus. I will begin by engaging the bright minds of Columbus State University to assist with best practices research and a systemwide analysis to ensure our city is operating in the new millennium.

Furthermore, it is my plan to seat members of Columbus State University's student leadership, along with faculty members on the Stakeholders Advisory Council, a proposed council of citizens, students, business owners and executives that will meet and discuss trending ideas, concerns, and opportunities, as well as traditional and nontraditional solutions, to ensure full inclusion in the growth and prosperity of Columbus. Furthermore, I am looking at ways that we can engage Columbus State University as a primary partner in addressing many of the City's needs in areas of workforce readiness, recreation, senior services, and diversity and inclusion. As an integral part of our City's sustainable growth plan, I am confident that the relationship between Columbus Consolidated Government and Columbus State University will grow stronger and more productive under my leadership as Mayor.

### DANNY ARENCIBIA

My name is Danny Arencibia, and it has been pressed on my heart to lead our great city into its next chapter. For twenty years I have been serving my community, putting that community first — and doing so with little recognition. Why? Because I never was in it for any of that. When it was time to go out to the homeless, when it was time to clean and better the homes of those that couldn't do it for themselves; I rolled my sleeves up and got to work. That kind of service when done for a photo op — ceases to be the kind of genuine altruism needed in our community. That is the type of mayor I'll be; one that doesn't merely show up when the cameras are rolling.

I have been a manager of finance for three years at one of Columbus's most respected dealerships. Tasked with securing millions of dollars in prime simple interest loans, and providing budgetary analysis for millions of dollars in assets to a Fortune 500 company. My overall campaign statement is simple: Stop politics, start community. Only when we decide to put aside our differences and focus on what we can do, and what we will do together - only then will Columbus reach its full potential.

I would be honored for the CSU community to consider me their number one candidate. I am here to fight for every one of you. I promise above all else to make sure that EVERYONE has a place at the table. Regardless of what your last name is, your financial status, your race, religion, creed, or sexual orientation. Irrespective of how quickly you entered into your postgraduate program or how many times you have changed your majors. Every student represents a voice to be heard and is deserving of a seat at the table taking Columbus forward.

The relationship between Columbus and CSU is vital. Every student should feel em-

powered to engage in bettering our community. Every student should feel a sense of belonging. Every student should thrive in an environment where their community is fighting for them to want to stay here, raise a family here, and retire here. A key priority for the mayor's office will be to continue working with CSU in searching for more advancement and growth expansion opportunities within our city limits.

I think it's high time this city started honoring the creativity and electric spirit of our youth. Supporting our vibrant film and theater community, assisting Campus Nerds with Nerdacon, and launching new city-wide events such as a possible Harry Potter literary convention. This campaign wants to help locate the necessary resources to give this city's heart its pulse back. If we don't have you guys excited for a future here in Columbus, we have nothing.

I will personally work with students on issues that matter to them. National movements such as Black Lives Matter, Time's Up, and gun safety issues will have an ear for action in the mayor's office. Your generation is making a difference, and you are an incredible example to us all.

### CHARLIE ROBERTS

My name is Charles Edwin Roberts. I am 40 years old. I hold a B.S. in Information Technology from the University of Phoenix and a master's in Information Security and Assurance from Capella University, and starting April 2nd, will be working toward a second master's in information assurance and security from Strayer University. Currently, I am an Operations Analyst Lead at TSYS down at the main campus downtown. I work with a product called OnBase, which is a robust enterprise content management software suite.

My political platform is simply this, clean out any corruption that exists within government, foster better relations with Fort Benning and CSU as they both are a big part of what makes Columbus what it is. Lastly, my political platform is to give a voice to the voiceless, regardless of race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status. Everyone from those that live in Green Island Hills, to those that are homeless should have a say in their own government.

I would love the CSU Community to consider me as their number one candidate because I believe that even they should have a voice within local government. As this town continues to grow, the younger generation will grow up in this town. They are vital to the continued growth of Columbus. Columbus needs their ideas to improve all areas, not just North, South, East, or West Columbus, but every area of Columbus.

In order to make Columbus the best town that it can be and to hopefully stop the best young people from leaving this town, it is imperative



CHARLIE ROBERTS



WINFRED SHIPMAN



BETH HARRIS

### Need to register?



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that Columbus State have the full support of the Columbus Consolidated Government. To grow and maintain that positive relationship, I would love to set up a meeting with not only the head staff at CSU, on like a monthly or bi-monthly basis, but also set up a meeting with the Student Government Association at Columbus State, as they will have a better understanding of the happenings at the school and will be able to provide better ideas and/or feedback from the student community as to what we as the Consolidated Government might be able to do to make Columbus the best that it can be.



# BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

*Professor Natalia Temesgen sells out Artbeat theater event*

STORY BY BRI WILLIAMS  
PHOTOS BY BO LEWIS

This April, several students and Columbus locals spent their night walking through the historic Lion House located in downtown Columbus during an event called “Behind Closed Doors: An Immersive Night of Original Theatre.” The performance, which was a collection of single-act plays, sold out two nights in a row. Columbus State University professor Natalia Naman Temesgen organized the event for Artbeat, which is a three-week long experience that showcases artistic creations and celebrates art in Columbus.

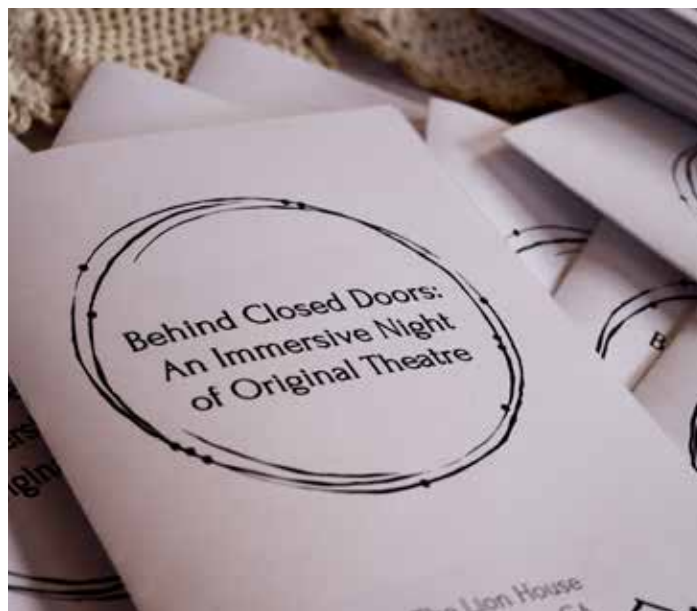
Playwrights Sally Baker, Becky Becker, Mason Gillespie, Garrett Norris, Jonathan S.E. Perkins, Jim Pharr, and Temesgen herself were commissioned for “Behind Closed Doors.” Each playwright selected a room in the house in which to create the setting for their new play.

Temesgen said she put on the event because she is dedicated to helping the theatre community in Columbus. The production was entirely local, as it was held in a historic Columbus home and featured six local playwrights and their local actors. Some of these actors are CSU theatre students. Jasper Howell and Nicholas Rulon, students at CSU, said they were proud to be apart of such a unique and successful theatrical event.

The seven plays went on simultaneously in their respective locations throughout the house, and guests were divided into four groups and sent from act to act. Every ten minutes, four groups were able to experience the plays one after the other while walking through the beautifully decorated rooms of the Lion House. Tickets were free and easy to get, but very limited. Nearly 200 years old, more than 100 guests packed the greek revival home over the course of the weekend.

Temesgen premiered her play, “Rovena’s Trap,” on the main staircase in the house. The star of the play, actor Tamara Curry, successfully delivered her monologue to what appeared to be a captivated audience. Curry said she was excited to bring Temesgen’s original character to life and performed flawlessly in the short play according to several who attended. Temesgen recruited her students to be a part of the event as tour guides, stagehands, house management and box office crew. While walking through the house, guests were greeted by the students who offered wine and plates of refreshments.

As the plays came to an end, the guests moved to the backyard adorned with statues and alluring lights. Guests were able to drink wine and engage with each other after a night of theatre. Putting on an original play in a house for so many guests may have been a daunting task for Temesgen, the other six playwrights, and the actors; however, the two nights went beyond perfect for all involved.





CLASSIC  
CARS ARE  
ALL THE  
RAGE IN  
CUBA

# COUGARS IN HAVANA

*How CSU students and professors experienced study abroad in Cuba this spring*

**STORY BY MARIAH JACKSON**  
PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CSU & STUDENTS

Travel to Cuba had been banned since the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 until President Barack Obama lifted some embargo restrictions in December 2014, which enabled some Columbus State University faculty and students to travel there this past spring. After a lengthy process of proposing the program, planning the excursions and recruiting students, professors Illaria Scaglia and David Thompson took five CSU students to Cuba.

Thompson said that some of the students had never traveled out of the country before. The process to activate this new program took five years, and according to the Center for Global Engagement, the average program takes about a year of planning and preparation. But fortunately, after Obama lifted restrictions, Scaglia was able to make the CSU-

in-Cuba program available to students of all majors and classifications.

Havana, Santa Clara, Trinidad, Santi Spiritus and Cienfuegos were some of the places that the group went. The program centered around the history of Cuba, and on the leisure trips, students learned about the cities they were visiting and the historical context behind the art seen around each town, such as the vintage cars. Freshman political science major Terrence Walker said that he only recalls sitting for one lecture, but not in a classroom setting. Another student, Phillip Vongsavang, sophomore history major, explained the reason behind the array of vintage cars. "The ban of exports from the U.S. forced Cubans to take care of the old cars that they had, and the vintage cars are mostly



#### **Want to Study Abroad?**

Contact the Center for Global Engagement on Main Campus.



used to impress tourists,” Walker said. “My favorite part was the classic cars. I really liked being in the classic cars.”

During the trip, the group lived in Cuban homes, and Scaglia described the homes as Cuban bed-and-breakfasts. They were housed in Havana the first couple of days where they had their first experiences with their Cuban hostess. “It was fantastic staying there,” said Vongsavang. “Yeah, she was very welcoming and always happy to answer questions.”

“Cuba is a poor country, but very rich in culture,” Scaglia said, explaining that the place seems to be stuck in colonial times. She pointed out how structures built during the colonization of Cuba can still be found across the island. Scaglia added that Cubans are highly industrious, and take pride in their ability to build things by hand. She said that while walking on the street, there were stands where people sell unusual equipment, such as screws that hold scissors together.

Vongsavang said that his favorite location was the mountain trail called Topes de Collantes, which was significantly

long to hike, but not very technical. The trail their group took was a 14-mile hike going up the mountain and back down, and some tourists descended by horseback, as a stable was built on the peak to assist hikers with getting back down.

When studying abroad, safety and costs are the most important factors for both students and parents. Scaglia said that safety was not an issue during this trip. “It was an ongoing joke on the trip that Scaglia was our Mother Hen,” Vongsavang added. Walker said that when he was “on a mission” to get ice-cream for her, she told him that she thought she would have to file a police report when she hadn’t seen him for an hour. The group stayed together at all times and never went anywhere without a Cuban guide.

Unfortunately, Scaglia is leaving CSU and has accepted a new position at Aston University in Birmingham, U.K. Although she is departing, Scaglia says that the program will continue. Students interested in this trip can go to the Center for Global Education for information on this program.

A CUBAN  
KESTRAL  
FINDS  
A NEW  
PERCH



UM... NOPE

CSU STUDENTS  
AND TEACHERS  
DESCEND  
THE TOPES DE  
COLLANTES





**S**tudent debt has been part of history in America going as far back as loans became available for secondary education. With America being one of the world's leaders in student debt, many citizens are afraid of the astounding amount of financial aid needed in order to earn a degree. In a nation where degrees are essential to many careers and where simultaneously, college is becoming more and more unaffordable for the average middle class family, what can be done to soothe the citizens' fears and decrease debt for young adults?



VER

"I would consider it a growing crisis because its been increasing throughout the years. As far as a solution goes, I don't think there's a perfect one. Some people want to completely make it tuition free, some people want to cut it in half, some people want to deal with the problem head-on. I think that there's a good idea from each side and I hope that this will start to decline over the next few generations."

Sierra Moon  
Sophomore



BA



"I think they are making a business out of our education. So they are not helping us get further. Instead, they are banking on us not making it, if that makes sense. Failing the class, having to take it again, going higher and higher... they are banking on us getting successful in as long a time as possible. It's depressing honestly."

Venessa Diokpara  
Junior



"If I could go back in time, I would plan better and look for other options instead of just doing loans, look for more scholarships and work some before to raise money to minimize the amount of debt I have to take. So I really hope that the new generation of students coming to college can change their ideas in how they should pay for their fees. America is supposed to be the greatest country in the world. If we're so great, if other countries have lower amounts of debt than we have, why don't we have the money to make our tuition free?"

Eseosa Osunde  
Junior



TIM



**STORY BY**  
**VIVIAN DUNCAN**  
**PHOTOS BY**  
**ABBIE LLOYD**

"I think there is a crisis. I think that in the United States especially, they realize that as students, we have to take out the loans because college has become necessary and has to get paid for. And if you look at tuition rates, they just keep increasing. This is something we need to do, so why is it just getting harder? I definitely think it's something that Congress actually needs to worry about, so I don't understand why there's nothing being done about it. I just feel like they don't care. Then again, they are the government and they argue about everything, so..."

Rachela Girard  
Sophomore



"I think there's a heavy crisis, but I don't think there's necessarily one individual solution. I think that there's multiple solutions that could be taken by the nation, by individual colleges, and by the students themselves, but it just depends on the student's current financial situation: whether they have the opportunity to work, how much their parents are contributing, and also how the university is set up and how they handle their fees. So, the amount of solutions we have are nearly endless, it just depends on what we want to implement and how those will work together."

Elijah Neundorfer  
Junior



# STUDENT DEBT



"They have social welfare programs that pay people, plus a lot of people there don't go to college, just like a lot of people here don't need to be in college. I know there's a solution, but nobody wants it. The solution is to quit making so much debt available and to only admit students based on their ability to achieve. But it's part of the social welfare program, and they add the debt to it, but then. Who at eighteen can resist a few thousand dollars to spend? Because they have not been educated about economics and they don't know about debt. Their parents are all in debt, they all owe, and all have credit card debt, I certainly do. I'll die in debt. When I graduated,

I had zero debt. Everybody had zero debt, because debt wasn't available to students. You're being played, all of you are being played, you idiots, you don't care, you're living for the moment."

Donald Cope  
Professor







CSU STUDENT  
RONNIE GARCIA  
POSES AT IRON  
BANK COFFEE  
WITH THE "PUERTO  
RICO STRONG"  
ANTHOLOGY





A ROUGH  
LAYOUT  
SKETCH OF  
ONE OF  
GARCIA'S  
COMICS

## ILLUSTRATED IDENTITY

*How this American Puerto Rican drew her way to success*

STORY AND PHOTO BY TONI STAUFFER

Ronnie Garcia, 23, a military brat, moved around a lot as a kid. Born in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, she grew up in Columbus after moving here with her mom. She always wanted to be an artist. "I always had this specific vision, either for studio art or like comics in the newspapers." However, she couldn't see herself being a big studio artist, and at the time she didn't consider comics to be serious enough to be an actual job.

As a kid, Garcia thought she wanted to be an astronomer or a marine biologist, but both of those required a lot of math; after failing her first math test in the third grade, she nixed those ideas. In high school, through the online community, she discovered there were more possibilities for art than she imagined, and what she had once thought to be a silly idea became a dream and now a reality.

Garcia is currently a first-year post baccalaureate art student at Columbus State. She earned her B.F.A. in digital art from the Santa Fe University of Art & Design in New Mexico. Next year, she hopes to be accepted into the master's program at The Center for Cartoon Studies in White River Junction, Vermont. "I applied for it and my mom

asked where's Vermont?" Garcia recounted, laughing. "I said I actually don't know." She has since educated herself on Vermont's location, but even if she gets accepted into the program, there will be financial roadblocks. She is trying to find scholarships and is researching living options for the area. She may have to defer a year, but she is determined to attend. For now, Garcia is preparing by taking classes at CSU.

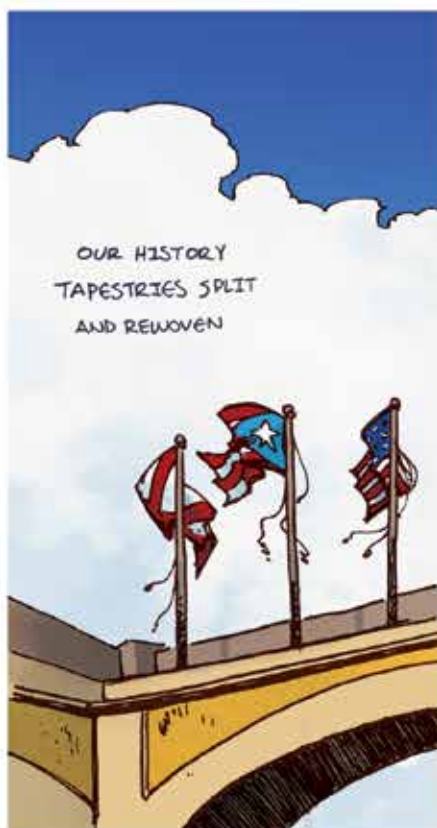
Being Puerto Rican-American, Garcia has always been at odds with her heritage. Growing up, she never felt American enough, or Puerto Rican enough, due to the lack of a Puerto Rican community in Columbus and the inability to visit Puerto Rico more often due to financial constraints. However, in the last few years, she has reconnected with her heritage. "I'm Puerto Rican even if I don't meet their stereotypes of what Puerto Rican is supposed to be," she said.

Garcia feels deeply about the suffering and devastation in Puerto Rico caused by Hurricane Maria. She wanted to help and got the opportunity when Marco Lopez, an editor of a new anthology to benefit Puerto Rican victims of Hurricane Maria, invited her to submit work. She isn't sure how Lopez found her, but

suspects it was through her active presence on Twitter. Either way, she is glad that he did. Not only was she able to contribute to a cause she cares about, she has also been able to gain more exposure as a Latina artist since her comic "Here" appeared in the anthology, titled "Puerto Rico Strong."

"It's a general overview of the history of Puerto Rico, what it has been through as an island, and what it went through during the hurricane--how the entire community of Puerto Rico, whether they are from the diaspora or they are from the island, everyone came together to make the recover process as smooth and quick as possible," Garcia said. "It's also nice to be validated. Yes, you are Puerto Rican and we want you to tell your narratives."

Other comics in the anthology cover a wide variety of issues such as identity, and the current political and economic climates. All proceeds go to the relief efforts. Featured in The Washington Post and other outlets, "Puerto Rico Strong" has done so well that it's going into a second printing and can be found either at local comic shops, or online through Barnes and Noble bookstore and Amazon.







GARCIA IS CURRENTLY A STUDENT AT COLUMBUS STATE POST B.S.



# COLLEGE COMPARISON

*A look at other schools in the region*

BY HAYLEY MAINE

ILLUSTRATION BY TERRANCE HARRIS

**H**ave you ever wished there was an easy way to know if the college you're going to is right for you? If you answered yes, you're definitely not alone. In the city of Columbus, there are over six colleges to choose from. However, all differ in what they offer you for that precious tuition you choose to spend. The Saber has compiled data on Columbus State University, Columbus Technical College, Strayer University, and The Rivertown School of Beauty to show you a price and benefits comparison. This way, you can know you're making the right choice in your education, and getting the biggest bang for your buck.

## COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

With an average in-state tuition of \$6,134 per semester, this is the university you're most likely attending now. Columbus State offers dual enrollment classes to high school students, international and veteran student benefits, friendly environment, study abroad grants and scholarships, and ROTC opportunities. Students can come here to receive an associate, bachelor's, or graduate school degree. Some of the majors offered include art, biology, chemistry, computer science, early childhood education, English, health and physical education, information technology, liberal arts, mathematics, nursing, political science,

and sociology. As of 2017, the college had an average graduation rate of 30%. This university operates on two campuses: a main campus located on University Avenue and another downtown campus located in Uptown Columbus. The university also has several sports teams for both men and women, including soccer, golf, and basketball.

## COLUMBUS TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Columbus Tech's average in-state tuition comes in at \$2,704 per semester. They offer dual enrollment courses to high school students, are almost exclusively a financial aid institution, and specialize in technical and certification programs. In addition to this, they offer GED and veteran services. Their 100 academic programs are split up into three areas: business and general studies, health sciences and nursing, and professional and technical services. These programs include welding, accounting, barbering, nursing, culinary, and criminal justice. They also delve into live work, which is the act of combining your living space with your workplace such as with for-hire plumbers and mechanics. Live work includes air conditioning technology, carpentry, and cosmetology. As of 2017, their graduation rate was 26%

## STRAYER UNIVERSITY

Strayer University is traditionally an online university, but it has campuses across the country including one in Columbus. Their average tuition runs at \$1,450 per course for 40 courses or 120 credit hours. Here, you can earn a certificate or an associate, bachelor's, or master's. Some of the majors offered at Strayer include business administration, science in information systems, criminal justice, nursing, and applied science in management. As of 2017, their graduation rate came in at 27%. Additionally, Strayer is running a campaign offering a "Strayer Tech Pack" to students who enroll in one of their online bachelor's programs. In the package, they will receive a brand new laptop and Microsoft Office software to aid in earning their degree.

## RIVERTOWN SCHOOL OF BEAUTY

Coming in at an average in-state tuition of \$1,597 per semester, Rivertown School of Beauty is a little different. It is the leading institution instructing students in cosmetology, barbering, skin care, aesthetics, and nail classes. As of 2016, their graduate rate ranked in at 77%. They claim to have the most modern facilities and have been instructing students at their institution for 40 years.



# EXPERIENCE KALEIDOSCOPE

*Review: an exemplary musical event that stunned a crowd*



BY HAYLEY MAINE  
PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CSU

With 240 individual performers, music played across a variety of instruments, and a nearly packed RiverCenter theater, the 2018 “Kaleidoscope” program was an event to remember.

“Kaleidoscope” stunned the audience with its grace, fluidity, and sound as everyone sat in the room and broke the no-clapping rule after the first performance.

“Kaleidoscope is the showcase of the entire school,” said Scott Harris, director of the Schwob School of Music. “Every kind of voice, instrument, and ensemble will be used during the performance, and it is a display of the magnificent talent we have here at the Schwob School of Music.”

With such complex workings and a large cast, Harris said that it took a lot to organize the event. “Logistics is the biggest piece of it. Transitions have to be almost seamless, as each group will only be on stage for three to four minutes at a time. We have a dress rehearsal to practice navigating the stage in darkness.”

All of their hard work definitely paid off, as audience members were in awe at

each transition and each change in the theme of music. From opera singers to percussions to drums, the whole theater was buzzing with positive comments.

“It was awesome. Fabulous!” one woman, G.G Whaley-Wong, commented.

“It was amazing. I’ve never seen a production that well put together, and the orchestra itself was amazing. The individual studio sessions were great. I’ve never seen anything like this in the area before,” Joseph Boykin said.

As for this reporter, “Kaleidoscope” had me on the edge of my seat, anticipating the wonder of the next performance that would arrive after each period of darkness. I stared in awe at the violinists and tapped along with each bang of the drums. It was truly a magnificent performance, and Director Harris said there’s only one thing he wants out of next year’s show.

“We’d love over the next few years to have the house packed out with the whole community in attendance to support the students. This show is not only a way to seal the deal for prospective Columbus State University students, but it is a showcase of the wonderful talent we have here at Schwob.”





# LOST ART OF THE LUTHIER

*How master guitar maker Frank Schley IV serves the Chattahoochee Valley*

STORY & PHOTOS BY SCOTTIE DECLUE

“It’s pretty messy in here right now,” Frank Schley, luthier and owner of Silvan Guitars said as he opened two large plywood doors leading into his guitar-building workshop—he was in the process of completing several projects. Indeed, there were many things strewn about the place inside Schley’s historic textile warehouse turned guitar-building studio, but most of those items would be foreign to the average person.

Strange tools for woodcutting with odd names and shapes, various clamps and assorted fasteners, large machines with bands and saws for cutting and filing, bits and pieces of acoustic and electric guitars, and even drawings of instruments yet to come were just a few of the items seen lying around on the lower level of the shop—it feels just like an artist’s studio.

“I’ve got a lot of neat things in this place that I think you’re going to like,” said Schley as he began the tour of his facility.

Those with a love for music, guitars, history, woodworking, craftsmanship, or art in general will find themselves in luck when they visit Silvan Guitars on 6th av-

enue in downtown Columbus. Schley is partnered with Georgia Quarter Guitars owned by Jason Burr and is a UGA psychology graduate who pursued his passion for luthiery and returned to his hometown to see his dreams become a reality.

“I picked up the guitar my freshman year of college,” Schley said about his time at UGA. “Senior year came fast, and graduate school was staring me in the face, and that kind of degree really needs to go to the next level, but I was ready to move forward.” A Brookstone graduate, Schley apprenticed with a guitar maker in Athens for a little over a year after earning his bachelor’s degree, and eventually made his way back to Columbus to open his luthier shop where he performs services like building custom guitars, doing small repairs, and providing general tune-ups, or setups as he calls them.

But Schley’s guitars are by no means ordinary, as he specializes in the importation of rare and exotic woods, some of which have stories of their own to tell. In the back corner of his workshop, a storage area is filled to the brim with cuts and

planks of extraordinary timber.

“You are looking at a recovered piece of plywood from a German mauser factory that was in Berlin during WWII,” Schley said of one of the pieces. “This would have become a rifle, but now it’s going to become a stratocaster.” Among the Berlin plywood were a plank of Hawaiian timber from Koa, curly and birds-eye maple from Maine, Californian redwood, Honduran mahogany, and one other type of wood that individuals with an affinity for historic Columbus might find particularly interesting – reclaimed antebellum heartwood pine from a dam that used to be on the Chattahoochee River.

“The riverwood is used to build the Damcaster, which is one of mine and Jason’s signature telecasters,” said Schley. “I have about 20 guitars-worth left of this stuff, and it really gives a unique look, feel, and sound to the instrument.”

Built during the Civil War to power the Eagle & Phenix textile mills, now apartments on Front Avenue, the dam was constructed with pre-revolutionary heartwood pine. The city removed the dam in 2012 to return the river to its natural state after the structure no longer served a functional purpose; this resulted in the recovery of thousands of feet of river wood. Schley insists that the softness of the wood paired with the hard finish he applies to the exterior creates a unique sound.

“Wood that you buy at Lowe’s or Home Depot, well, you can build guitars out of that stuff, but it is overprocessed, and it makes the instruments low-quality in both tone and feel,” Schley said. “The riverwood has been pressurized from being submerged, and after sitting underwater for a century, it’s really just the perfect material for this type of carpentry.” For Schley, carpentry and the act of building the final product is secondary to the design process, as he says that tailoring his custom build to fit the individual preferences of each client comes first.

“Every musician has different needs with their guitar,” Schley said. “The look, the feel, the sound –it’s all unique to each person, and it’s all customizable. I spend time with each client determining those needs, and we make it a collaborative process. And that happens upstairs.”

Upstairs in the shop is where Schley’s office and showroom is located. There is a sitting area around a Persian rug with several Silvan guitars on stands, a small office for Schley to conduct his business, and a



cubby area that serves as a library of raw materials, which clients use to build their guitars. In addition to the scent of freshly cut wood, the shop smells strongly of coffee, as Schley's warehouse neighbor is local coffee roaster and owner of Fountain City Coffee, Jud Richardson.

"When we are in the design process, I bring my clients up here to pick out materials," Schley said about the studio. "We have a lot of tropical wood here like ziricote and cocobolo, and I make sure that the materials are fair trade. Did you know that some wood is endangered?" Schley asserts that he takes extra caution to identify the exact source of the wood to avoid ethical issues. "You really need to be sure, and there are ways to find out –to trace it."

In addition to servicing and building guitars, Schley also spe-

cializes in revitalizing vintage guitars, and has a selection of refurbished Sinclairs and Harmonies that are available for purchase.

"We rebuild them from the ground up," Schley said of the restoration process. "It is extensive. We rebrace the back, refret the neck, finetune the truss rod, sand, finish, and are meticulously careful in doing so." Schley claims his restoration style both increases playability of the instruments and improves the quality of the sound. "You get the sound of a Taylor or a Martin, but for a fraction of the price."

Schley is hosting an open house on May 19 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. to showcase some of his work. The event will be located at his guitar workshop at 1245 6th Avenue in downtown Columbus and is open to the public.

OPEN HOUSE: SATURDAY, MAY 19 10 A.M. TO 6 P.M. // 1245 6TH AVENUE, COLUMBUS





# HELP! I'M TRAPPED IN COLUMBUS

*Have no fear – there's plenty to do around here for a memorable staycation*

**C**alm down. It's going to be alright. Yes, Columbus turns into an oven for a few months every year, and the air-conditioned sanctuary that is Peachtree Mall only has so much to offer before you've seen it all and find yourself at Walmart. Like the songs of sirens, mirages on blacktop roads beckon you to swerve into them – to plunge into those phantasmic waters. You have to snap out of it! Look, you're not going to the beach this year!

The final stage of grief is acceptance. Look around you; Columbus is where you'll be for the next few months. Witness the urban sprawl. Hear obnoxious radio ads from people who "wanna see ya in a Kia." Voices from your TV tell you robotically that you need "some fresh bread in your life." Soon, it will be the Bang Bang Lady trying to lure you to her fireworks warehouse in the middle of nowhere.

This is your life now, but there's still hope. You don't have the funds for a hotel, but the evacuation routes your friends took to abandon you can still take you somewhere awesome within a tolerable two-hour drive.

## Little Five Points

If you're not a nature lover, you might not be impressed by what you've read so far. You don't need a lake or a canyon or a cave. What you need is a jungle- the kind made of concrete! Atlanta has a lot to do, from its massive Georgia Aquarium to Six Flags (technically in Austell, GA, but

close enough). To go slightly off the beaten path, take a visit to Little Five Points, a quirky little shopping area close to the heart of Atlanta.

Malls, the former habitats of extinct teenage cliques are like, sooo dead. They're just not as exciting as they used to be due to the lack of visitors, the resulting lack of stores, and the abundance of online options that make them look boring in comparison. It also probably doesn't help that you're not a teenager anymore! You miss the feeling you used to get from that hangy-outy, window-shopping experience when it was still new to you. You miss feeling like you were in a grand museum of cool stuff that was okay to touch. You need to check out Little Five Points!

All of the stores at Little Five Points are weird, and if you ask me, that's awesome. There's Criminal Records, which is full of vinyl records- something that could only thrive in a big city! There's also a new-agey shop, Crystal Blue, which is full of pleasant things such as gemstones and incense; a vintage clothing store called Psycho Sisters; and my favorite, Junkman's Daughter- an emporium of unique gifts, naughty humor, original works of art, and a staircase disguised as a giant shoe. The last time I went to Little Five Points, there was a

Cheshire Cat-themed store with a real black cat meowing at me through the window, but it wasn't open yet. Oh well, I'm sure some good luck made it through the glass!

To help you decide whether Little Five Points is exciting enough to justify braving Atlanta's traffic, visit [littlefivepoints.net](http://littlefivepoints.net). Also, beware that parking will probably cost you; it's a busy area in a big city. For more information on parking, visit [atlplusmobility.com/about-parking/little-five-points-parking](http://atlplusmobility.com/about-parking/little-five-points-parking).



## Providence Canyon State Park

So here's the funny thing about Providence Canyon- it's man-made! Why would someone dig massive trenches into the middle of nowhere? Well, it was an accident. According to [gastateparks.org](http://gastateparks.org), the canyons are a case of extreme soil erosion from bad farming practices in the 19th century. Apparently, environmental degradation can be beautiful! Different colors of clay canyons against a background of green trees and a serene blue sky are a sight to see. If you enjoy hiking or camping, check this place out.

For more information, see [gastateparks.org/ProvidenceCanyon](http://gastateparks.org/ProvidenceCanyon). Also, if you're a stargazer, the Coca Cola Space Science Center periodically holds astronomy nights at Providence Canyon to take advantage of the much lower light pollution. To see their astronomy night schedule, visit [ccssc.org](http://ccssc.org). Just be sure to watch your step in the dark, because, you know... canyons!





## Callaway Gardens

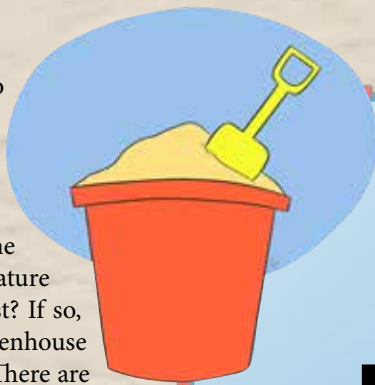
Ah, man-made beaches. There's something so comforting about knowing that a strong current won't drag you out past a drop off point and feed you to sharks. Callaway Gardens' beach has sand, just like a real beach, and who doesn't love sand? But wait, there's more! The beach is only one of many attractions at this sprawling, green nature resort! Have you ever wanted to visit a rainforest? If so, you might like the butterfly center- it's a huge greenhouse filled with tropical plants and exotic butterflies! There are too many fascinating attractions at Callaway to list them all here, but some others include an acrobatic circus, an authentic pioneer log cabin, beautiful hiking trails, bird shows, and a charming little chapel in the woods that gives organ concerts on weekends from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit [callawaygardens.com](http://callawaygardens.com). Also, be aware that every Fourth of July, Callaway Gardens hosts its Star Spangled Beach Party that has live music, circus performances, and its own stunning fireworks show on its beach. Also be aware that because it's so popular, the crowd is always huge, so it's a good idea to show up early to get a good parking spot.

## Desoto Caverns

Perhaps the hot weather makes you want to split a timeshare with a bear for a nice, insulated cave in which to hibernate. You can't hibernate at Desoto Caverns, but you can go into a massive cave that's a comfortable 60°F year-round! While you can't sleep in the cave itself, overnight camping is allowed outside. There is also an abundance of fun attractions such as a maze, gem-panning, go-karts, paddle boats, and more! I've gone to Desoto Caverns three times in my life, and thinking about it makes me want to go back. This may be silly, but out of all the things to do there, what really gets me excited are gem-panning and crystal-digging. They're extremely satisfying for some reason, almost like picking boogers, except they're pretty rocks. I'm sure you'll agree with me when you give them a try!

For more information on all the fun you could have at this fun little tourist trap, visit [www.desotocavernspark.com](http://www.desotocavernspark.com).

By the way, in the cave, you get to experience complete darkness, followed by a light show! Now, because CSU is diverse, I should mention that the narration over the light show has been the Biblical creation story every time I've gone. Regardless, a light show in a cave is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.



# EMERGENCY SUMMER BUCKET LIST

**Enjoy the Riverwalk and related attractions such as Whitewater Express and Blue Heron Zipline Adventure.**

*Explore the Columbus Botanical Garden (and consider bringing picnic food!).*

**Go ice skating at the Civic Center on public skate days.**

*Go bowling, play laser tag, or rock the arcade at Stars and Strikes.*

**Splish-splash at the mini water park on Psalm Road.**

*Bike-ride, skate, or walk on the Fall Line Trace.*

**Explore an international grocery store such as Oriental Food and Gift Center at 3656 Buena Vista Rd.**

*Hike, bike ride, play disc golf, picnic, or just hang out at Flat Rock Park. It has a national park feel.*

**Make use of CSU's Recreation Center, especially the rock-climbing walls and the pool!**

*Visit The Columbus Museum.*

**Go roller skating at Hollywood Connection.**



**BY COLE TRAHAN**  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY ASHLEY PETERSON  
PHOTOS BY COLE TRAHAN, TONI STAUFFER





# WHAT ARE YOUR PRONOUNS?

*A linguistic perspective on  
non-binary pronouns*

BY DAMARIS CHAVIRA  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY MADI STEELE  
PHOTOS BY RAYLYN RAY

**Did ZE  
enjoy ZIRSELF?**



**THEY laughed.**

Language has the power to create or destroy. Once a target is acquired, this double-edged sword can bring people together, or tear them apart. It is a familiar sword—solid, reliable—and it has been wielded for centuries. However, the steel has aged, and chinks have formed. It will not last much longer. At long last it is time for change.



Subjective    objective    possessive    reflexive

they    them    their(s)    themselves

ze    zir    zir(s)    zirself

xie    hir    hir(s)    hirself

ey    em    eir(s)    eirself

xe    xem    xyr(s)    xyrself

Certain language mechanics have never changed. The English language has binary pronouns, which are the pronouns “he” and “she.” In a world where perception of self is ever-changing, having two pronouns to express one’s identity is not enough. This cultural shift created gender identity.

Gender identity is when an individual identifies with a gender that may or may not correspond with their birth sex. In a world with numerous types of gender identities, there have been only two pronouns commonly used to express one’s identity, so people naturally felt excluded. Thus, to feel included, the LGBTQIA+ community created non-binary pronouns. Understanding and using these pronouns is the first definitive step toward understanding and embracing the language of those within the LGBTQIA+ community. Change is not a process that occurs overnight. The LGBTQIA+ community is a living, breathing example of this concept. These pronouns have been met with opposition and scorn from some, but also acceptance and support by others.

“When we make these pronouns we can’t force people to use them because how you speak is your personal choice,” said Seon

Jeon, Ph. D., an associate professor at Columbus State University who specializes in linguistics.

“I think that language,

unfortunately, is more of a ‘bottom-up’ approach,” Jeon added. “People like it and use it, and then it becomes a movement. But you can’t enforce a movement from the top. If people use it, it becomes part of language.”

Jeon noted key similarities between the different sets of pronouns that will help them be incorporated into the English language.

“For example, the possessive pronouns all have an ending of ‘s.’ And then the last column are reflexive pronouns all have ‘self’ added to the words, and are added to the subject pronoun,” she said. “I can tell these pronouns are not randomly created and are based on the existing pronouns.”

She also noted a similarity for the pronoun ‘ey,’ explaining its origin might come from the pronoun ‘they,’ by removing the ‘th.’ This pattern continues with ‘em,’ ‘eir,’ and ‘eirs.’ By strategically basing these non-binary terms on their predecessors, the LGBTQIA+ community created pronouns that flow seamlessly into sentences. “I think people will pick it up very easily,” Jeon said.

Being asked to practically learn a new language can be daunting. However, the LGBTQIA+ community is not asking for perfection. What people are asking for is an open mind and understanding. The LGBTQIA+ community, just like everyone else, is struggling with a sense of identity and belonging. They want to be respected and accepted, a crisis that everyone experiences at the point of that double-edged sword.



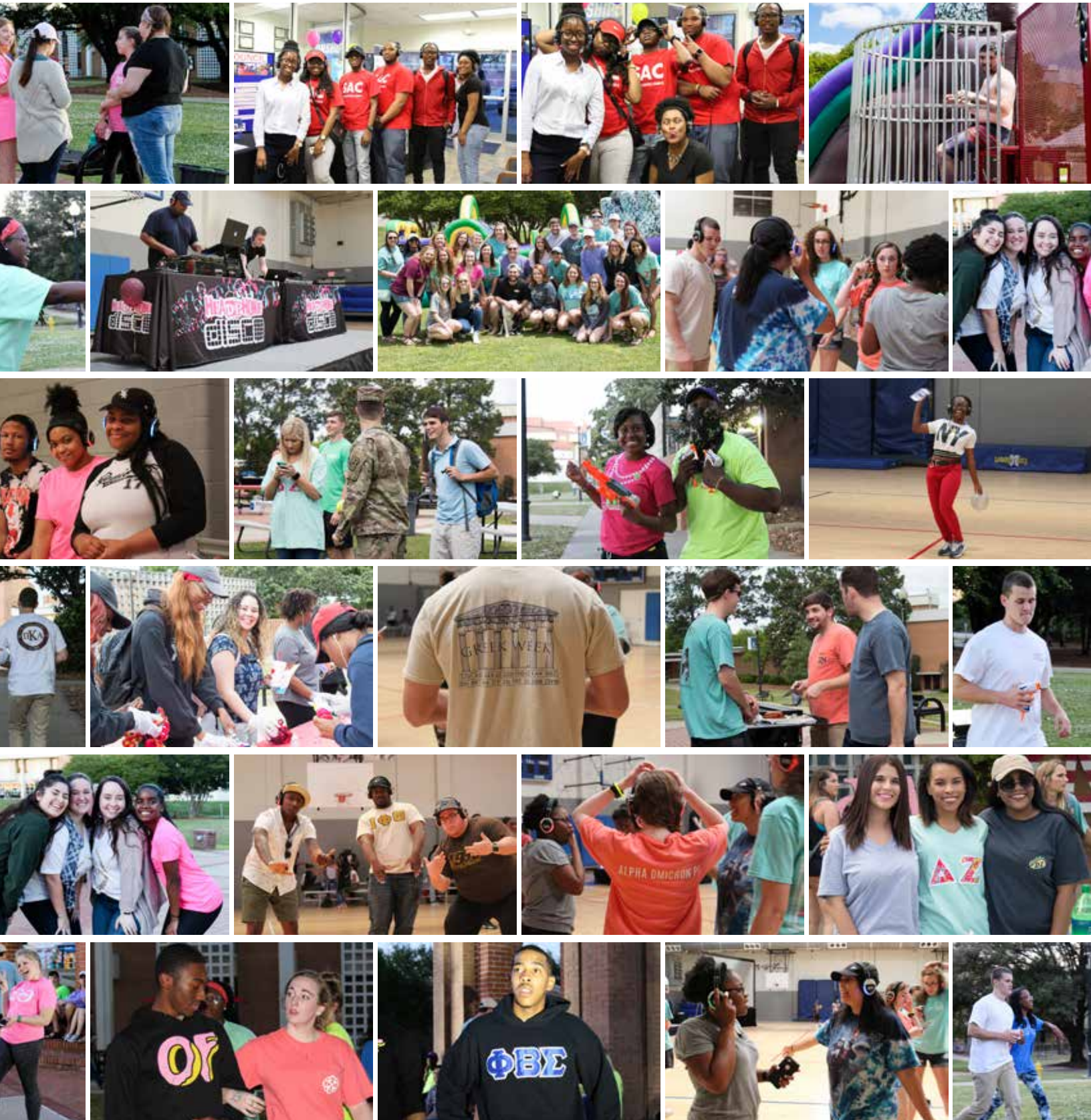
That's EIR pen.



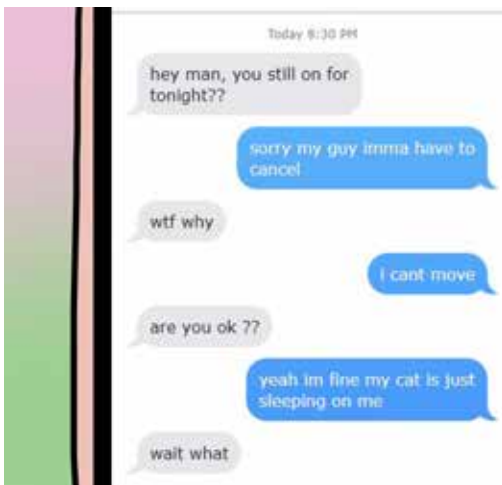


# GREEK WEEK

*Photos from Greek Week Events,  
including Silent Disco, Nerf War,  
and the Delta Zeta, Sigma Nu Mini Carnival.*







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