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Certificate  
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Begins

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# Dean's Welcome

Thank you for taking the time to look through our second annual College magazine. I continue to take pride in our amazing students, our award-winning professors, and our cutting-edge academic programs. Columbus State University is a campus on the rise, and the College of Letters and Sciences is playing a key role in building on CSU's already outstanding reputation. Please enjoy the stories of accomplishment, service, and discovery that you will find within these pages.



**Dr. David Lanoue,**  
Dean

## College Receives Top Awards at Scholastic Honors Convocation



Faculty and students from the College of Letters and Sciences won several major awards during the Scholastic Honors Convocation in April.



**Dr. Anil Banerjee** (Chemistry), *above left*, was named CSU's 2012 Educator of the Year, **Associate Dean Pat McHenry** (*left*)



received the 2012 Faculty Service Award, **Dr. Joseph Francavilla** (English) was honored as the 2012 Faculty Research and Scholarship Award recipient (*left*), and Chemistry major **Claire Eunhye Cho** (*left*)

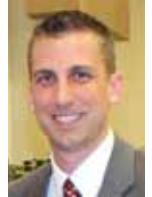


was awarded the 2012 Faculty Cup, CSU's top academic honor given to students.

## Annual College Awards Ceremony Recognizes Outstanding Alumni, Faculty and Students

The College of Letters and Sciences honored outstanding alumni, faculty and students at its annual awards ceremony in April. The three Alumni-of-the-Year recipients were:

- **Humanities** – **Doraine Bennett** (B.A. English 2003), a Columbus writer, editor and teacher. She has written 28 books for educators and children, and is the editor of the *Infantry Bugler*, the quarterly magazine of the National Infantry Association. She is also a sales representative for Delany Educational Enterprises, visiting schools and assisting media and literacy specialists with finding the books they need.
- **Sciences and Mathematics** – **Dr. Jason Harrison** (B.S. Biology 2000), a neurosurgery resident at Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center. He worked at the Columbus Regional Medical Center as a radiology technician while completing his studies at CSU. He received his Ph.D. in 2005 from the University of South Alabama, Mobile, where he found his passion in cancer research. After working with children battling brain cancer, he went on to get his M.D. in neurosurgery in 2009, also from the University of South Alabama.
- **Social Sciences** – **Deborah Eakin, Ph.D.** (B.S. Psychology 1996), associate professor of psychology at Mississippi State University. After graduating from CSU, she went on to get her M.A. (in 2000) and Ph.D. (in 2004) in cognitive psychology from the University of Kansas. She's currently Graduate Coordinator at MSU, where she oversees the Memory and Metamemory Lab. Dr. Eakin's current research interests include memory processes, cognitive aging, and cognitive neuroscience.



Inaugural **Faculty Fellow** awards were presented to **Dr. Kevin Burgess** (Biology) for outstanding research and **Dr. John Barone** (Biology) for outstanding teaching. Dr. Burgess has published cutting-edge research on DNA barcoding while also mentoring numerous undergraduate and graduate students. Dr. Barone nurtures good communication skills in his students through project-based learning, and assists them in presenting and publishing their research.

COLS' seniors who have attained high scholastic achievement (earning an overall GPA of 3.8 or higher) were also recognized during the ceremony.

**Below left:** The awards ceremony not only provides the opportunity to recognize outstanding achievers, it also enables alumni, students and their families to meet professors who have impacted their lives.



**Above:** Carole Rutland, Bill Yoe and Kay Saunders, members of the COLS Leadership Council, awarded the inaugural Faculty Fellowships.

### Letters & Sciences Today

Editor & Circulation Coordinator - Jill Carroll | Columbus State University  
College of Letters and Sciences, LeNoir Hall | carroll\_jill@columbusstate.edu  
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## DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

### Biology

- The Biology Department has developed three new study abroad programs – a spring break course in Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands led by **Dr. Jeff Zuiderveen** and two summer courses, one in Tanzania (Africa) led by **Dr. Julie Ballenger**, and the second course on Darwin and evolution at Oxford University, England, led by **Dr. Kevin Burgess**.

### Chemistry

- **Drs. Rajeev Dabke** and **Zewdu Gebeyehu** have published their research on chemistry experiments for undergraduates in several chemistry education journals.
- A group of nine students and faculty, led by **Dr. Samuel Abegaz**, visited Ethiopia in March 2012 as part of a study abroad course. The program was a life-changing educational experience, as students studied first-hand environmental issues in East Africa.



### Criminal Justice & Sociology

- The inaugural CSU-One Columbus Diversity Conference was held at the Cunningham Center in March 2012. The conference brought together students, faculty, staff and the Columbus community to discuss diversity issues.
- Last fall, members of CSU's criminal justice student organization, Gamma Lambda, attended the Region 5 Conference of the American Criminal Justice Association in Atlanta, winning 21 trophies in such competitions as physical agility and crime scene investigation.

### Earth & Space Sciences

- **Dr. Roger Brown** received a National Science Federation grant to investigate, in collaboration with researchers from other institutions, human-environment interactions and their effect on late prehistoric and historic-era Creek villages in the lower Chattahoochee River basin.
- **Dr. Clint Barineau** is working with CSU geology undergraduates and researchers at the University of Florida on an NSF-funded project to do geological mapping and isotopic dating on several large granite bodies in east-central Alabama. Their results will help improve the understanding of the geologic history of the southern Appalachians and ancient North America.

### English

- Faculty members **Sundi Rose-Holt** and **Dr. Judi Livingston** and two students, **Ashley Foy** and **Carolyn Pollard**, received scholarships through the Susan M. Cochran Memorial Endowment for Faulkner Studies to attend the annual William Faulkner conference at the University of Mississippi in Oxford. This fund was recently established by local surgeon, Dr. Thomas "Butch" Cochran (*pictured with*



*scholarship recipients*), in memory of his wife, Susan, who was a fan of Faulkner and other Southern writers.

### History & Geography

- The History & Geography Department launched its new Master's program in History this fall. The department is offering two graduate tracks, an M.A. in History and an M.A. in History with a concentration in Race, Ethnicity, and Society. For more information, visit <http://history.columbusstate.edu/mastersdegree/MAhomepage.php>.

### Math & Philosophy

- The 38th Annual Invitational Mathematics Tournament, sponsored by TSYS, attracted 114 students from 12 high schools in the region in Spring 2012. The contest is certified as a qualifying round for the state mathematics tournament. Schools competed in two categories, based on their enrollment size, and awards were presented to the top three teams in each category as well as the top-scoring individuals.

### Modern & Classical Languages

- The department's summer study abroad program in Cuernavaca, Mexico, continues to grow and attracted a record number of students this year under the direction of **Dr. Alyce Cook**.
- The placement rate for MCL students into graduate schools and/or high school teaching positions remains at 100%.
- **Dr. Joelle Bonamy** is working with her advanced classes on the translation of archival texts in the CSU Library that document the history of Columbus from a Latino perspective.

### Political Science & Public Administration

- **Dr. Fred Gordon** recently published a book, *International Environmental Justice: Competing Claims and Perspectives* (ILM Publications 2012), which links domestic and international environmental justice concerns. It employs international legal theory in discussing rights of indigenous groups, and evaluates strategies and processes for addressing environmental justice concerns.
- The MPA Program has a new student service group, which is open to all students who are interested in public service. Participants will seek opportunities to help people in the community, explore new career paths, and develop their professional talents.

### Psychology

- Two students, **Sadie Errickson** and **Rachel Cavitt**, are working with **Dr. Stephanie da Silva** on a study of the effects of Red-Dye 40, also known as Allura Red, on hyperactivity and learning in rats. Allura Red is a substance used in many children's foods, such as cereals and fruit-colored drinks and is present in commonly used red food coloring.

## FACULTY FOCUS

### *English Professor Receives USG Regents' Award*

Dr. Susan Hrach, professor of English at Columbus State University, has been named the recipient of the 2012-2013 University System of Georgia (USG) Regents' Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award. This annual award recognizes the most outstanding faculty from the 35 institutions within the USG whose expertise and research is in the area of teaching and learning. The selection committee was unanimous in its decision to honor Dr. Hrach.



**Susan Hrach, at front, poses with students during an Oxford summer study abroad trip**

A faculty member at CSU since 1999, Dr. Hrach attributes her success in part to the emphasis CSU places on teaching. "I am really proud to rep-

resent CSU because of the culture of teaching that exists here," she said. Dr. Hrach views the professors at CSU as nurturing this culture through small class sizes, through open discussion of best practices, and through workshops that aid faculty to rethink the learning process.

To be considered for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award, Dr. Hrach submitted an extensive portfolio highlighting her philosophy of teaching and her methods of improving student learning. In the introduction to her portfolio, Dr. Hrach states that, "Linguistic naiveté persists in Georgia and in the U.S., perpetuated by the dominance of English worldwide, yet it seems imperative – politically, economically, ethically – that college students begin to develop an informed understanding of the multilingual world."

In response to this concern, Dr. Hrach asks a series of questions to illustrate the kind and quality of reflection she is known for: "How can I help my students to gain deep awareness of their place in a complicated and busy planet? How can I prepare them to assume their roles as educated citizens of Georgia and of the world?" The focus of her work in the scholarship of teaching and learning is to develop undergraduate students' global awareness, which she says "takes root through a direct engagement in cul-



tural and linguistic discovery; authentic discovery demands that teachers and students pursue questions of real import as partners in learning."

The award letter to Dr. Hrach states that, "The [award] committee was most impressed by the strong letters of support that accompanied your portfolio. Your ability to use your discipline content as a means to teach critical thinking, and analysis skills, was clearly demonstrated through your pedagogical approach. Your ability to accurately assess a student's culture shock prior to travel and then ask them to address those issues prior to travel was a most innovative technique."

The award is especially appropriate in that, just recently, Dr. Hrach was appointed Director of the Teaching and Learning Center at CSU.

### *CSU Professor Researches Korean Unification Issues*



**Tom Dolan at the Party Founding Monument in Pyongyang, North Korea**

Dr. Tom Dolan, chair of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, travelled to both South and North Korea during the summer to conduct research on Korean attitudes toward national unification. His first trip, to South Korea, was a return of sorts, since he had lived and worked there in the 1980s and 1990s.

Because of Dr. Dolan's experience in military intelligence, the trip to North Korea was especially interesting. "Seeing things in person that I had only seen in magazine and satellite photos was amazing. When I worked in South Korea, I never dreamed that I would have a chance to visit Kim Il Sung Square, or visit the DMZ from the northern side," Dr. Dolan said.

His visit to Panmunjom, where representatives from the United Nations Military Armistice Commission meet

with their North Korean counterparts, was especially significant – he used to attend those meetings 25 years ago and his schedule in North Korea brought him back there on June 25, the anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War. It was also an opportunity to look across the border to the place 50 yards away where he had stood just a month before, on the South Korean side. "But I had to fly 25,000 miles to go those 50 yards."

"This trip gave me the opportunity to speak at length with certain North Koreans, including a North Korean Army officer, about reunification, to gain an insight on what North Koreans believe are the obstacles to it." Dr. Dolan is now analyzing the data he collected in over 200 interviews and surveys during his research trips.



# Student Focus

## Research Experience in the Costa Rican Rainforest

by *Jenise Santos (Biology major)*

The pathogenic chytrid fungus, *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, causes the disease chytridiomycosis, which is implicated in the decline of amphibian species world-wide. Among the species that have been affected by this disease is Bransford's litter frog, which is found in Costa Rica, Panama, and Nicaragua. During the summer, I participated in a research program at La Selva in Costa Rica through the Organization of Tropical Studies. I collected Bransford's litter frogs



and soil samples in the tropical rainforest in order to observe whether the soil or cutaneous layer of frogs contained anti-fungal bacteria that inhibits the growth or mitigates the effects of this deadly fungus. I spent two months in Costa Rica fully immersed in the rainforest and the culture of the people. Walking from the dorms in the rainforest to the laboratory I could see sloths, macaws, howler monkeys, toucans, capuchin monkeys, snakes, peccaries, and many other species. The biodiversity was just breathtaking. Through this experience I truly gained an appreciation and excitement for research.

## Internship with the Comprehensive Solider Fitness Performance Resiliency Enhancement Program (CSF-PREP), Fort Benning

by *Jamie Rains (Psychology major)*

CSF-PREP focuses on using concepts from positive psychology, clinical psychology, and sport/performance psychology to enhance functioning in Army soldiers. Classes are typically held each month, and are approximately forty hours each. In CSF-PREP, soldiers are taught a specific set of mental skills for building confidence, energy management, goal setting, etc., to enhance resiliency, so that they will be able to deal with the stressors of war more effectively. Through my internship, I was able to see how findings from positive psychology are applied

to help individuals obtain optimal functioning. My internship was invaluable, and as I move into graduate school I hope to take these concepts and apply them to research directed toward post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) treatments.

## Earth and Space Sciences Majors Participate in National Park Service Internships

During summer 2012, seniors in CSU's Earth and Space Sciences (ESS) program participated in U.S. National Park Service internships through the Geological Society of America's highly competitive GeoCorps program. ESS geology student **Alex Colon** got to canoe and hike through the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, collecting data on landslides triggered by floods and by the 2011 Virginia earthquake, and then worked with a GIS expert to create park geohazard maps. ESS secondary education student **Kate Lodder** (pictured below) worked as a park guide in Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah, educating visi-



tors about geology and astronomy, and capturing a solar eclipse and transit of Venus for CSU's Coca-Cola Space Science Center. ESS geology student **Danny Redding** (pictured on cover) interned in Badlands National Park, South Dakota, excavating, mapping, and working with paleontologists to identify 30-million-year-old fossils from a park quarry. These students competed with 122 geology undergraduate and graduate students across the U.S. for these 12-week paid internships.

## Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Updates

### New Robotics Certificate Program Underway

Columbus State University students from all majors can now take their first steps into the exciting world of robotics, automated systems and autonomous controls. In today's technology-driven job market, robotic systems are becoming prevalent in a wide variety of occupations. Robotic applications are being used in such diverse fields as law enforcement, surgery, film making, manufacturing, space exploration, environmental research and more. CSU now offers a Robotics Certificate, which is a seven-course program open to all majors and non-degree students. This stand-alone certificate does not require a student to be enrolled in a specific degree program at CSU. The program instructs students on the design, construction and programming of robotic and automated systems. Students from majors across campus, as well as working professionals in the community, will be able to enhance their knowledge and improve their marketability by attaining this certificate.



### STEM Honors Camp Launched

In June 2012, CSU hosted inaugural STEM Honors Camp, a two-week residential summer camp for rising high school juniors and seniors. The camp attracted 22 talented math and science students from across the state. Students



engaged in hands-on, active learning and research with university faculty and staff. Campers learned about career opportunities in STEM disciplines during lunchtime talks by scientists and engineers as well as during field trips to STEM-

related companies and natural sites, including Providence Canyon (*photo on previous page*). The goals of the camp are to: 1) educate and excite students about their options in science and mathematics, and 2) support CSU's larger initiative of recruiting, developing and graduating more high school science and math teachers over the next 5 years. The camp was partially funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation's Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, in addition to generous support from the Society of American Military Engineers, Pratt & Whitney, Cott Beverages, and Texas Instruments.

**UTeach Columbus Elements of Success: A Student's Perspective**  
by *J. Antoine Shade (Student President of WeTeach Columbus)*

Two Master Teachers + 45 UTeach students x supportive administration = one successful program. UTeach Columbus, an innovative math and science teacher preparation program modeled on the highly successful program started at the University of Texas, commenced at CSU in spring 2012. Students,



**UTeach student Vince Richardson engages students in his classroom**

with the support of Master Teachers Kenneth Jones and Gail Sinkule, have produced innovative lessons for Muscogee County schools, which not only challenge the students in those classrooms, but also redefine the common method of teaching. UTeach differs from other teacher prep programs in many ways, including the level of support for students and the way in which students shape the program. Our students have received scholarships and internships to support their academic endeavors. UTeach students have recently formed WeTeach Columbus, a registered student organization that is part of the national WeTeach network.

## Study Abroad Programs Change Lives

Students and faculty from the College of Letters and Sciences have many opportunities to study cultures and environments throughout the world. Three 2012 study abroad programs are highlighted here.

### English Department - Italy

Student Michelle Pokopac says "VIVA ITALIA!" after spending four weeks in Florence with professors **Susan Hrach** and **Pat McHenry** of the Department of English and **Kate Musgrove** of the Department of Theatre. The three professors led fifteen students to study literature and theater history in Italy this past summer. Students read ancient and medieval writers, including Virgil, Sappho, Augustine, Boccaccio, and Dante, and complemented their reading with visits to historically important sites. They walked the very streets in Ostia Antica that Virgil and Augustine knew; they traveled by bus, train, and funicular to see Boccaccio's house in Certaldo, now a center for Boccaccio studies; and they experienced the great Renaissance city of Florence more like residents than tourists. Student Heather Pavik says, "Walking down the street is like walking through a museum," and classmate Michelle appreciated seeing the city from the writers' perspectives. This was a joint program of the College of Letters and Sciences and the College of the Arts.



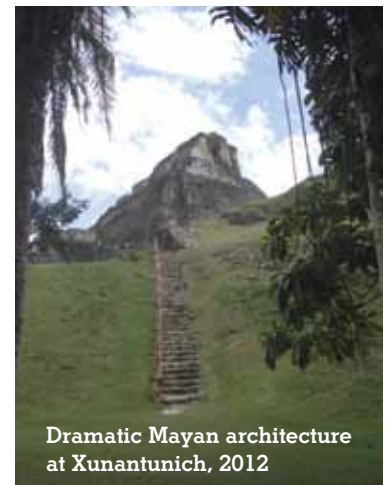
### Biology Department - Australia

A group of seven students and two professors spent two weeks in Spring 2012 exploring various ecosystems in north-eastern Australia, including the Great Barrier Reef and ancient rainforest of the Daintree. The group followed a specialized itinerary, developed by a local wildlife tour guide, which included snorkeling, croc-spotting and mangrove mapping during a river cruise, spotlighting for marsupials, and nature walks through giant "strangler" fig trees. During the course, students conducted mini ecology projects and collected data, which they analyzed and presented upon their return to CSU.



### History & Geography Department - Belize

In the spring of 2012, the Department of History and Geography successfully launched a new Study Abroad program, directed by **Doug Tompson**, the Department's Latin American specialist. A group of students and faculty (Drs. Tompson and **Amanda Rees**) traveled to Belize during Spring Break. The group visited ancient Mayan ruins, an Afro-indigenous Garifuna community, a coral reef research station, and many other sites. They studied a variety of topics relating to the history and geography of Belize, including European colonialism and African slavery; the role of migration in the social and cultural development of Belizean society; and contemporary issues such as climate change and sustainable tourism.



Dramatic Mayan architecture at Xunantunich, 2012



# Welcome to Our New Faculty!



Dr. Cliff Ruehl

## Biology –

**Dr. Cliff Ruehl**, Assistant Professor, joins us from the Department of Biology at East Carolina University. He specializes in zoology, and his research concentrates mainly on aquatic invertebrates and the interface of evolutionary biology, population ecology and community ecology.

## Chemistry –

**Dr. Daniel W. Holley**, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, teaches organic chemistry. He comes to us from the University of South Alabama where he held a post-doctoral position in the Civil Engineering Department studying the degradation of plastic pipes. Dr. Holley also worked as a post-doctoral researcher at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. Dr. Holley's research interests involve green chemistry and alternative energy.

**Dr. Kenneth L. Smith**, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, teaches organic chemistry. He joins us from Franklin, Tennessee, where he recently arrived from Shanghai, China, where he worked as the Principal Scientist for Hisun Pharmaceuticals & Shanghai Aryl Pharmtech. Dr. Smith's work at Hisun involved drug discovery and compound synthesis; patent, grant and technical writing; and English instruction.

## English –

**Dr. Shannon Godlove**, Assistant Professor of English, comes to us from Alfred University, where she was Visiting Assistant Professor of Medieval Studies. She has published several articles and has given conference presentations around the United States, as well as in England and Norway, on Anglo-Saxon and Old Norse literature.

## History & Geography –

**Mr. Brad Huff**, Assistant Professor of Geography, is a Ph.D. candidate at Florida State University. His dissertation is a study of a New Urban settlement in South Florida constructed to embody a conservative Catholic worldview. His interest in such settlements grew out of his previous experience as a commercial real estate appraiser. He will offer courses in Geography and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

## Mathematics and Philosophy –

**Dr. Minh Nguyen**, Professor and Chair of Mathematics and Philosophy, comes to CSU from the University of West Georgia where he was Professor and Interim Chair of the Department of Mathematics. He was a fellow of the Humboldt Foundation (Germany) and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. His research interests are Differential Equations and Applications. He has published more than 90 papers and monographs, and serves on editorial boards of several international journals.

## Political Science and Public Administration –

**Dr. Nicholas Easton**, Assistant Professor of Political Science, joins CSU upon completing his graduate studies at the University of Connecticut. After a career in politics and public service in both Florida and Rhode Island, Dr. Easton first began teaching in 1978, earning his Masters in Public Administration in 2000 and moving on to his doctorate while still working as a community organizer. His experience as an elected official, as well as in other positions of service in local politics, will bring the M.P.A. Program a new level of expertise.

## Psychology –

**Dr. Rose Danek**, Assistant Professor of Psychology, joins CSU after serving two years as a visiting assistant professor of psychology at Illinois Wesleyan University. Her research program encompasses several areas of cognitive psychology, including environmental information in decision making, visual attention, and correlational and incidental learning in information processing.

**Dr. Katherine White**, Assistant Professor of Psychology, received her Ph.D. from the University of Texas, El Paso. Her research encompasses several areas of social psychology, including stereotype priming and activation, antecedents of moral conviction, and the relationships among moral attitudes, prejudice, and emotion.



Dr. Minh Nguyen



Dr. Nicholas Easton



Dr. Rose Danek



Dr. Katherine White



Dr. Daniel Holley



Dr. Kenneth Smith



Dr. Shannon Godlove



Mr. Brad Huff

*Return Service Requested*

## Upcoming Events

**Friday, November 2, 2012 – 1:30 p.m.** *English Department Faculty Lecture Series*, featuring Dr. Courtney George. (Carson McCullers Center – 1519 Stark Avenue, Columbus, GA)

**Monday, November 5, 2012 – An afternoon with poet Dave Smith.** Q&A at 4:00 p.m. and reading at 7:30 p.m. (Carson McCullers Center)

**Sunday, December 16, 2012 – 2:00 p.m.** *Biddy Hammett speaks about local writer Carrie Falls Benson.* (Carson McCullers Center)

**Tuesday, February 19, 2013 – 5:00 p.m.** *A Celebration of Carson McCullers' 96th Birthday and the McCullers Center's 10th Birthday – drop-in, cake served.* (Carson McCullers Center)

**Friday, February 22, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.** *Reading by 2007 Marguerite and Lamar Smith Writing Fellow Mylene Dressler.* (Carson McCullers Center)

**Thursday, March 28 – Saturday, March 30, 2013** *Southern Literary Festival.* Hosted by CSU's English Department, Carson McCullers Center for Writers and Musicians, and the Columbus Public Library. \*Book readings are free and open to the public:

- Award-winning writer **Tim O'Brien (Friday, March 29, 7:30 p.m.** – Springer Opera House)
- Pulitzer Prize-winner and U.S. Poet Laureate **Natasha Tretheway (Saturday, March 30, 11:00 a.m.** – Studio Theatre, Riverside Theatre Complex)

For additional information, visit [www.southernliteraryfestival.com](http://www.southernliteraryfestival.com).

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(706) 507-8443

[James.Fogal@ColumbusState.edu](mailto:James.Fogal@ColumbusState.edu)

