

# Letters & Sciences Today



COLUMBUS STATE  
UNIVERSITY

College of Letters and Sciences  
Highlights Vol. 20 - Spring/Summer 2023

## Special Edition: Student Success



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*"Knowing is not enough, we must apply. Willing is not enough, we must do."*

*-- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*

I continue to be honored serving the talented faculty, staff, and students in the College of Letters and Sciences (COLS). I am impressed with the passion of our faculty and staff and proud when our students share deep appreciation for the exceptional education they receive from COLS faculty. For example, a former CSU student sent the following message about her successful experience with Drs. Zuiderveen and Holt, Department of Biology:



Dean Annice Yarber-Allen

Hello! I hope both of you are doing well! I just wanted to give an update on my journey thus far! I have been accepted into High Point University's Physical Therapy program & I begin my first semester this upcoming Monday! I am very excited and grateful for this opportunity, and it would be nonexistent if it weren't for both of you. At High Point, we will be conducting our anatomy lab with human cadavers!!! I'm beyond nervous but also very excited and I feel prepared thanks to techniques I learned with you all in your courses at CSU. Again, thank you so much! I hope you continue to take care of yourselves & provide knowledge to others!

Rayshon Foster, former CSU student

Consistent with the University System of Georgia's Strategic Plan 2024, student success is the cornerstone of the COLS culture. By creating a positive learning environment, our faculty instills a passion for learning, fosters creativity, and deepens critical thinking skills. Our curricula and educational activities provide equal opportunity to valuable resources to ensure that all students can be successful.

I once heard that a true education begins in the classroom but extends far beyond those walls through connections. Students are encouraged to build valuable relationships that will further serve them as they grow in their personal and professional lives.

This edition of *COLS Today* is dedicated to student success. Throughout this issue, you will read stories of our students' successes facilitated by the awesome faculty in the College of Letters and Sciences.

Enjoy!

## Letters & Sciences Today

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# Cover Story: Student Success

## The Center of Everything

In the College of Letters and Sciences (COLS), student success is at the center of everything we do. It's the reason we as faculty create new courses, revisit and refocus existing courses, adopt high-impact teaching practices (HIPs), organize field trips, and invite high-quality guest speakers to engage our students. We strive for student success through office hours, tutoring, and enrichment. We see students succeed through study abroad, collaborations, mentorships, internships, honor societies, scholarships, grants, career fairs, conferences, summer programs, and in-house

academic opportunities like Tower Day. And behind the scenes, faculty work hard at recruitment, retention, curriculum review, and removing barriers to education (such as adopting or creating Open Source texts). From campus classrooms and conference rooms to study abroad destinations all over the world, COLS faculty strive to ensure our students succeed, both here at CSU and as they embark on careers in their chosen fields of study.

Have a look at our departments in action, not just in this "student success" section but throughout this edition of *COLS Today*.

## Department of Mathematics

- Sandy Swan, a data minor student, completed a data analytics internship with Dr. Chip Reese, the Interim Vice President of the Office of Enrollment Management at CSU.
- In December 2022, Kiera King (**pictured right**), the first to earn the data analytics certificate from our program, received an Enterprise Payment Internship from Keybank in Cleveland.
- The Math Department helped initiate a new data analysis internship with the CSU Foundation office. This is a newly established collaboration between the Data Analytics program and the CSU Foundation office in spring 2023.
- In fall 2022 math major Kayleen Linge received a Student Research and Creative Endeavors (SRACE) grant to work on the project "General Relativity: A Mathematical Overview."
- In summer 2022, Manav Kotharia (Mathematics minor) and Gabriel Williams (Applied Mathematics-Actuarial) were accepted into the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program at the University of Nevada, Reno. The program is entitled "Big Data Analytics in Smart Cities." Ten students are accepted per summer.
- Dr. Kristin Lily supervised one data minor student, Justin Ludwig, in fall 2022 to finish a Data Analytics project for Columbus Fire and Emergency Station.
- Math faculty Elizabeth McInnis has helped the department organize the "Math Connection" (**pictured right**) to increase math students' sense of belonging and reduce their math anxiety by participating in math games or other social activities.



# Cover Story: Student Success (Continued from page 3)

## Department of English

- Jordan Allen, Student Government Association President and dual major in English and finance, was recently highlighted on *Watch the Yard: Black Greekdom's Digital Yardshow* in an article titled "Leadership Highlight: Columbus State University's SGA President Jordan Allen." In the article, available [here](#), Allen says, "Columbus State has molded me into the person I am today by providing me with a clear line of what I can become. By having access to many alumni within the surrounding area and soaking up the knowledge of their experiences, I can see exactly where I want to be and how I can get there. It has provided me with conviction, passion, and most importantly, a purpose."
- The Center for Career Design visited the English Convocation to promote microinternships and to show English Majors how to look for them and apply for them.
- Professional Writing Majors interned at a variety of places in fall 2022 and spring 2023: River Valley Regional Commission (Sandifer Griffin and Vincent Price), Travels by Donna travel agency (Tabitha Upton), *Southern Views Magazine* (Destinee Williams), CSU Strategic Communication + Marketing (Robyn Bennett, Riley Smoot, and Jordan Stafford), and *The Citizen of East Alabama* newspaper (Ashley Adamian, Jasmine Middleton, and Jasmine Stephens). Ashley Adamian says of her internship at *The Citizen of East Alabama*, "This internship helped me develop my writing skills and get a sense of what writing in the workplace can look like. It was an amazing experience."



## Department of Biology

- Alisha Kennedy was awarded a \$1,400 Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) Ladder Scholarship. Kennedy and Lance Crane (Chemistry) were the first students to be awarded from CSU. Both students received full scholarships to take the MCAT Ladder Full Preparation course.
- Columbus State University Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation Scholars -- Nevaeh Davis, Alisha Kennedy, and Elva Lucero -- attended and presented their research at the Louis Stokes Summit Annual Symposium Student Poster Session, which was held on Saturday, February 25. Nevaeh Davis was awarded second place in the undergraduate poster competition. Elva Lucero was awarded third place in the undergraduate poster competition. Alisha Kennedy was awarded the People's Choice Award in the undergraduate poster competition for her work on the synthesis and biological activity of *N'*-substituted benzothiazolium salts and their application as agents against ALS and the TDP-43 protein.
- Asia Hill, a CSU alumna, has been accepted into a Doctorate of Pharmacy program at South University School of Pharmacy in Savannah, Ga. Hill says of her professors, "I would like to express my deepest gratitude for your many contributions to my success at Columbus State. Your courses and mentorship have incredibly impacted me as a student."



### Department of Earth and Space Science

- A number of Earth and Space Science (ESS) geology students and faculty presented at the Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America in Denver, CO, in October 2022, a meeting which was attended by more than 5,000 geologists. Graduate student Brendon O’Keeffe and undergraduate Sabrina Fisher presented on an improved mineral separation process that was well received. A group of geologists at the Denver Museum of Natural History are currently paying Brendon and Sabrina to process rocks from Nevada and Utah for the purposes of extracting minerals that can be radiometrically dated.
- This spring, four ESS geology students and faculty presented at the Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America (Southeastern and Northeastern sections) in Reston, VA. Collectively, they presented the results of five different research projects.



### Department of History & Geography

- The Department of History and Geography hosted the Phi Alpha Theta regional undergraduate conference in April 2023 (see page 12). It’s the first such conference in the state of Georgia in many years.
- In fall 2022, faculty members Drs. Bryan Banks and Gary Sprayberry led a group of students on a field trip to the Alabama state archives in Montgomery to research the assassination of Albert Patterson in Phenix City.

### Department of Chemistry

- On Oct. 21, 2022, students from the Department of Chemistry hosted Columbus High School Girls in Engineering Math and Science (GEMS) to celebrate National Chemistry Week’s “Women Chemistry Trivia.” Gamma Sigma Epsilon and American Chemical Society collaborated with the Columbus community in the spotlight and sponsorship of “Women Chemistry Trivia.”
- The HIP of undergraduate research was emphasized all semester long and resulted in the production of in-person presentations at the fall 2022 Herty Medalist Undergraduate Research Symposium (HMURS) meeting in Atlanta, GA (**students pictured at left with faculty member Kerri Taylor, far right**) and the American Chemical Society Southwest Regional Meeting in Baton Rouge, LA. Students from Drs. Taylor, Banerjee, and Holley showcased work executed and gathered in the CSU undergraduate laboratories.





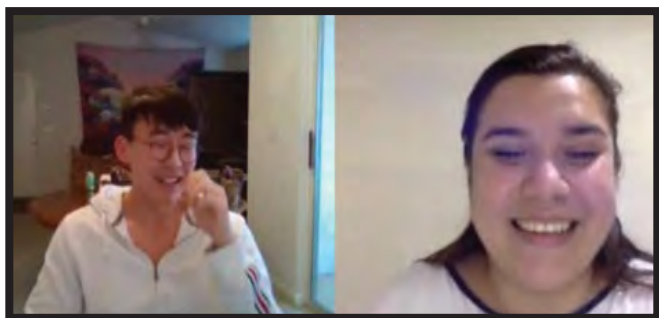
## COVER STORY: STUDENT SUCCESS (Continued from page 5)

- The Department of Chemistry partnered with the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) organization to transport their students to Valdosta State University on September 23, 2022, to meet Clarice Phelps (**CSU Chemistry students with Phelps pictured at right**). Phelps is the first Black woman to be involved in the discovery of a periodic element, Tennessine. This day trip consisted of a lunch, professional development by interviewing scientists in the region, and a keynote speech by Phelps.
- Lance Crane was awarded a \$1,400 Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) Ladder Scholarship. Crane and Alisha Kennedy (Biology) were the first students to be awarded from CSU. Both students received full scholarships to take the MCAT Ladder Full Preparation course.



### Department of Modern & Classical Languages

- Language students have access to the Webcape and Truenorth Placement Exams (both HIPs). These are Emersion Learning instruments used by the department to properly place students at the beginning of each semester.



- Another HIP is the use of Talkabroad Conversation Partners. Talkabroad is an immersive language experience, which connects the CSU student with a native speaker living in the country where the target language is spoken for a 15- or 30- minute conversation on a topic chosen by their professor and recorded (**Talkabroad partners pictured at left**).
- Spanish language students also have the opportunity to practice their language skills through regularly scheduled Tertulias: Spanish language Conversation Tables open to all CSU students, faculty, and staff.
- In order to align curriculum to the ever-changing needs of students, the department has become part of the eLanguage Consortium with Valdosta State and Clayton State. Additionally, the department has changed the scope and sequencing of material for lower-level Spanish classes and increased the number of lower-level online sections.
- The department has added Elementary and Intermediate language classes in Korean and in American Sign Language to meet student interest.
- The Spanish with Teacher Certification Track was recertified by the GaPSC in 2021 and the Program Advisory Council (PAC) for Teacher Education has been reconstituted. This collaboration with local K-12 faculty is designed to provide advice about the direction of the Foreign Language Teacher Education program.
- The department continues to offer two Study Abroad programs. Both the CSU in Mexico and the CSU in Spain programs are total immersion summer programs in which students live with Spanish speaking

## COVER STORY: STUDENT SUCCESS (Continued from page 6)

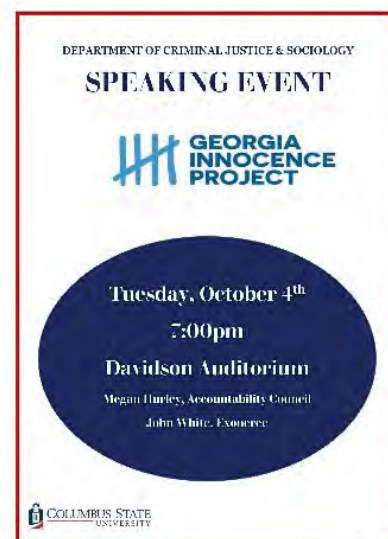
families, take a minimum of 9 hours of Spanish in formal classes offered by professors from the host institutions, and travel to cultural sites throughout the host country (**pictured at right**).

- The department continues participation in the COLS mentoring project, which is headed by the COLS Dean's office and assists programs in partnering upper division students with incoming majors or minors.
- The department awards two scholarships each spring: The Caryl L. Lloyd Memorial Scholarship and the MCL Study Abroad Scholarship.



### Department of Criminal Justice and Sociology

- Timothy Sabau successfully defended his honor's thesis "Sino-American Competition in the Field of Artificial Intelligence."
- The CSU Model United Nations Team attended the 2023 Southern Regional Model United Nations (SRMUN) in Charlotte. SRMUN prides itself on being one of the country's most prominent intercollegiate Model United Nations organizations.
- Shelly Hacker-Hall invited guest speakers to speak on various subjects to her CRJU 3169-Criminal Behaviors class, including Columbus Police Department's Lieutenant Carnes and Muscogee County Police Department's Chief Arp.
- On September 21, 2022, the Department of Criminal Justice and Sociology hosted a career fair with 24 agencies represented, including state and local agencies as well as private and non-profit organizations.
- The Department of Criminal Justice and Sociology hosted The Georgia Innocence Project (**flier at right**) on October 4th where students had the opportunity to hear from Megan Hurley of the Accountability Council and exoneree John White.



### Department of Politics, Philosophy, and Public Administration



- The Department of Politics, Philosophy, and Public Administration hosted a virtual panel discussion on Classified Information. This panel featured retired military officers with the Center for Truth in the Political Arena.
- On October 28, 2022, The Center for Global Engagement in collaboration with The Department of Politics, Philosophy, and Public Administration hosted a UN International Summit (**flier at left**).

## COVER STORY: STUDENT SUCCESS (Continued from page 7)

### The Epitome of “Create You” by Spencer White

Participating in the Guatemala Service Learning project in the spring of 2022 introduced me to TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages). During my time in the small town of Vuelta Grande, I served as an English language teaching assistant for children ages 5-14. This experience showed me how being a language teacher can build bridges of friendship and mutual understanding. It was the reward of a lifetime.

Upon returning to CSU, I enrolled in the TESOL certificate program. It was exactly what I wanted to do. In this program, I have been equipped with the knowledge I need to be a TESOL teacher. The program has not only given me the advanced linguistic understanding needed to be an effective language teacher, but it has also provided me with many opportunities for practice and application of the teaching methods that I have learned inside the classroom.

In addition to a certificate in TESOL, I will also graduate with a certificate in Latin American Studies, a certificate in International Studies, a certificate in Public Musicology, a Bachelor of Arts in Music and a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies. Truthfully, I took “Create You,” and I ran with it. No doubt as a result of the expansive and diverse education that I have received at Columbus State, I have recently been invited to serve as a Peace Corps English Teacher Volunteer in Colombia. Similarly, I am a semifinalist for a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship grant in Colombia. I also won the 2023 Faculty Cup, CSU’s highest student honor.



### CSU Chapter of National Chemistry Honor Society Inducts New Members

By Dr. Kerri Taylor

On September 1, 2022, the Department of Chemistry inducted eleven new members to the Mu Epsilon Chapter of Gamma Sigma Epsilon National Chemistry Honor Society.

With their induction, the following CSU students were recognized for demonstrating exceptional ability and interest in the field of chemistry: Alexis Alveraz, Kristina Armstrong, Ian Becerra, Harris Carlisle,

Rahul Clamor, Austin Clance, Sara Collins, Courtney Devera, Hilary Onbey, Imani Rogers, and Katelynn Powell. Active membership in the chapter requires students to complete a minimum of 16 credit hours in chemistry with a minimum grade point average of 3.3 in all chemistry courses and at least a 3.3 overall grade point average.

**Front row, L to R:** Dr. Kerri Taylor (advisor), Katelynn Powell, Harris Carlisle, Austin Clance (President), Kristina Armstrong (VP), Hilary Onbey, Courtney Devera.  
**Second row, L to R:** Imani Rogers, Alexis Alveraz, Ian Becerra (Treasurer), Rahul Clamor, Sara Collins (Secretary), Ms. Jaimie Gonzalez.





## COVER STORY: STUDENT SUCCESS (Continued from page 8)

### English and Geography Majors Take Service Learning Trip to Guatemala

A group of ten Columbus State University English majors and four Geography majors spent JanTerm 2023 (January 7-15) in Guatemala on a service-learning trip. Dr. Allen Gee and Dr. Eric Spears guided the group, who taught English to students in Vuelta Grande in the morning and spent afternoons installing energy-efficient ecological stoves in family homes. The trip was an initiative of the Donald L. Jordan Endowment, which graciously covered all student costs, including airfare. Foundations CEPA (Cultural and Educational Programs Abroad) and FUNCOLI (Fundacione Corazones Libres) partnered with CSU to make the trip a reality. The Mildred Miller Fort Foundation sponsored the Geography students.



**Left side, from left to right** Mackenzie Skeene and Alana Audia; **front, Daniel Fowler;** **middle, from left to right,** Jonathan Stringfellow, Parker Lindsey, and Cordelia Phillips; Kyla Penrod (in blue jacket); **back right side: from left to right,** Emma Roberts, Kailey Katzfey, and Cameron Cavitt.



Students with an ecological stove and its recipient.

### Earth & Space Science Students Travel to Iceland

In spring 2022, Dr. Clinton Barineau, Professor of Geology, led two students—Jacob Kimball and Mackenzie Coffee—to Iceland as part of a Study Abroad program. For seven days, the group explored most of the island, visiting Keflavik and Reykjavik (southwestern Iceland), Jokulsargljufur (Glacial River Canyon), Dettifoss (northeastern Iceland), Jokulsarlon Lake and the iceberg calving region where glaciers form (southeastern Iceland). As they traversed the country, students explored the volcanoes, geysers, waterfalls,

and active glaciers that created and continue to shape it, applying their knowledge of both intro-level and upper-level geology classes to understand the geology of Iceland. “The rocks and landscape tell a story 25 million years in the making,” said Dr. Barineau.



Students Mackenzie Coffee and Jacob Kimball at a geyser (left) and at a glacial outwash stream (right) in Iceland.





### Felicity Acosta's Semester Abroad at Oxford University

Fall semester 2022 was a time for growth for Felicity Acosta, a CSU math major. She spent the semester at Oxford University in England, studying differential equations and introduction to calculus, real analysis of sequences and series, and introduction to probability. The course work was “challenging,” she says, but she “grew as a student” as a result of the way the courses were taught: meetings with three different tutors followed by two weeks of independent work. In the process of doing the coursework, she realized she wanted to change her major at CSU from applied mathematical sciences to pure mathematics.

She also developed an interest in philosophy while in the UK after having “conversations . . . with joint philosophy and math students [and realizing] how connected these two subjects really are.” Acosta enjoyed the community she was a part of through various clubs, a church group, and Oxford's Math Institute. She also took advantage of day trips to other parts of England during her free time. The Oxford coursework “has already helped me prepare for my abstract algebra class I'm currently taking, future higher-level math courses, and (possible) future graduate courses,” Acosta says.



Felicity Acosta visiting Big Ben in London on a day trip, fall 2022.

### English Major John Pollock Attends Oxford University

During fall 2022, English major John Pollock studied “The Romantics” and “Satire in Contemporary Drama” at St. Catherine's College, the largest college within Oxford University. Between the two courses, Pollock wrote twelve 2000-word essays. “I was constantly reading and writing during my time abroad, which I think helped grow my skills both as a researcher and literary critic.”

Although he didn't expect much of a culture shock between British and American cultures, he found that “literally everything was different: the food, the sense of humor, the slang, the way people interacted with one another.” Because of these new experiences and because all of his coursework focused solely on British authors, Pollock began to see American literature differently: “It made me almost homesick for works that I could personally identify with via my nationality. . . . I definitely have, at least for the moment, reprioritized my interests towards a more American-centered field of literature.”



John Pollock visiting Stone Hedge on a day trip.



# STUDENT HONOR SOCIETY

## Spanish Honor Society Works with Latino Community

In fall 2022, Sigma Delta Pi (SDP) National Spanish Honor Society hosted the fall meeting and workshop panel of the Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO= <https://galeo.org>). Mayor Skip Henderson and city councilwoman Mimi Woodson attended along with other local public figures, CSU leaders, area high school students, members of the Student Government Association, and SDP students. Raquel Aponte is the student president of the campus SDP chapter.

Mayor Skip Henderson (tall man, center) and Mimi Woodson (far right) are surrounded by CSU students—including Adrian Peterson (far left), Speaker of the Senate—and area high school students at the fall 2022 GALEO event at CSU.



As a result of the fall 2022 GALEO event, members of SDP have come together with other members of the Latino community (under the guidance of Mimi Woodson) to form a new Latino Advisory Council which will be a branch of the Tri-City Latino Association. The mission of this new non-profit organization is to promote leadership and engagement of the Latino community in the Tri-City area. They will do this through education and leadership development opportunities. The organization is currently waiting on approval of its bylaws.

In addition to hosting GALEO in fall 2022, SDP held an induction ceremony for new members.

SDP and its faculty advisor, Dr. Bobby Nixon, are working with GALEO to bring an annual Leadership Series to CSU as well as hosting another GALEO event in fall 2023.

# HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY HOST UNDERGRAD CONFERENCE

## Phi Alpha Theta Annual Conference Held in Columbus

By Ryan Lynch

On 14-15 April 2023, historians from around the southeast descended on Columbus for the annual Georgia meeting of Phi Alpha Theta, the History Honors Society. While we say “annual meeting,” the reality is that it had been more than six years since a state meeting had taken place in Georgia, and Columbus State’s Department of History and Geography proudly provided leadership in the important effort to restart these conferences.

The state conference is focused on the presentation of outstanding undergraduate student research, and demonstrated CSU’s commitment to fostering high-impact practices (HIPs) in our classrooms and beyond. In the end, more than thirty student papers were presented on a wide array of topics, everything from military history to memory studies and the representation of the past in popular culture.

The event began in the Bo Bartlett Center with a banquet, social mixer, and keynote address by Dr. Doug Thompson of Mercer University. Dr. Thompson, a specialist in southern American history, spoke on the legacy of race relations in the South through microhistories of Richmond, VA and Penfield, GA.

On Saturday, a full day of student presentations (free and open to the public) was inaugurated by a second keynote address by Dr. Mary L. Dudziak, the Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Law at Emory University, who spoke about her research on the Korean War and US conflict since the 1950s. All of the student attendees also received a complimentary copy of Dr. Dudziak’s book, thanks to the outreach of the COL Richard R. Hallock Military History Endowment at CSU.

“These events can prove enormously formative for undergraduate students,” said Dr. Ryan J. Lynch, Associate Professor of History and the conference organizer. “They demonstrate to our students that our research isn’t just something that lives-and-dies in the classroom or once a grade is submitted. We can gain entirely new audiences by committing to sharing that work publicly.”

CSU students from across majors within COLS also participated by presenting research that engaged with aspects of the past, which included senior psychology major Alaysia Brown: “This was a great experience and was filled with a wonderful atmosphere. The people who presented and the panels I was able to see gave me

insight into topics that I had no idea about and made me want to further explore them.”

Dr. Lynch added, “The work our students are producing is outstanding, and they need to see the practical application and appeal it can have by sharing it publicly.”

The event was proudly supported by the College of Letters and Sciences, the Graduate School, the Center for Global Engagement, and the Historic Columbus Foundation, the last of which provided prize money for the best student presentations.



Dr. Ryan Lynch (middle) with participants.



Q&A ends a presentation on Saturday.



# ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

## COLS Alumni: On the Move



- Earth and Space Science (ESS) geology alumna **Cheryl Coker (Wilkes)** (pictured at left) recently took a new position as a Planner-Scheduler for Blue Origin, one of several companies working on commercial space flight. Cheryl is part of a team working on the new BE-4, reusable rocket engine. When completed, the BE-4 will power the New Glenn heavy-lift launch vehicle, carrying people and payloads into space. Cheryl graduated from CSU in 2012 and went on to pursue a graduate degree at Auburn. She is one of three ESS alumni who have gone on to work either for NASA or a private space launch company.

- Three ESS alumni secured jobs as geologists/ environmental scientists last year. **Ridge**

**Smenner** took a staff geologist job late last year with Sierra-Piedmont, an environmental consulting firm in Woodstock, GA. **Hays Slaughter** recently took a job as a junior exploration geologist with FreeGold Ventures Limited, a mineral exploration company in Nevada. **Brittany Plyler** took a job as an environmental specialist in the Division of Water Restoration Assistance, Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

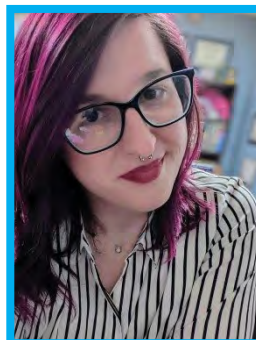
- **Donald Beaulieu** (pictured at right) received an engineering internship for summer 2022 in Baltimore, MD for Northrop Grumman. He was offered a full-time job from the same company, which he accepted. Previously, he had worked as a math tutor at the Academic Center for Tutoring at CSU for more than a year.



- **Dr. Rhea Debussy** (formerly Timothy Bussey) recently contacted Dr. Kimberly Gill (chair of the Department of Politics, Philosophy, and Public Administration as well as Interim Chair of the Department of Criminal Justice and Sociology) with updated information about events in her life:

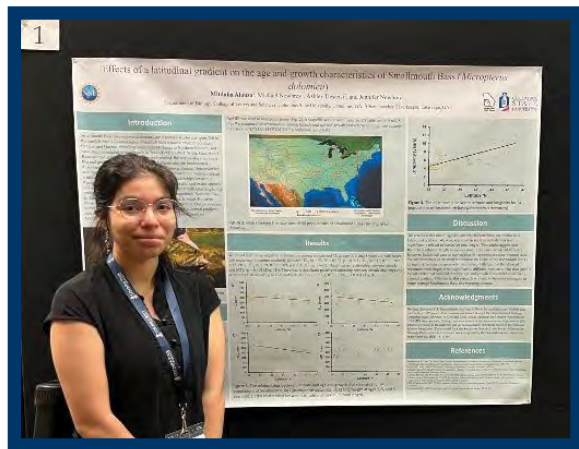
“As an alumna of both Columbus State University (‘12 BA in Political Science) and the University of Connecticut (‘14 MA and ‘18 PhD in Political Science; ‘16 Graduate Certificate in Feminist Studies), I wanted to reach out with something that may be of interest to you. I recently wrote an article, ‘Congress is Set to Codify Marriage Equality – But the Respect for Marriage Act has a Few Key Limitations,’ and the article was published by [The Conversation](#), which is a site for academics to write for a general audience.”

Debussy (pictured at right) is a Lecturer of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at The Ohio State University, as well as Director of External Affairs for EquitasHealth.

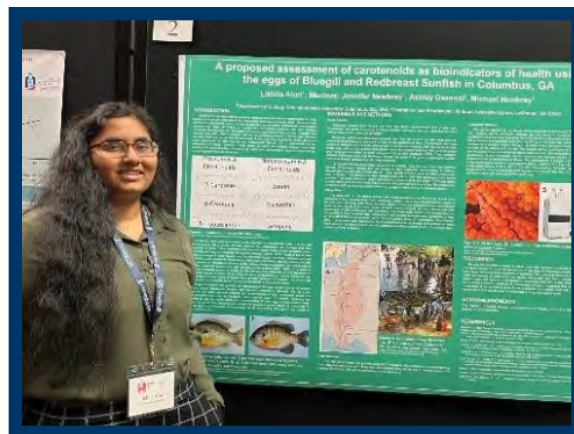


# TOWER DAY

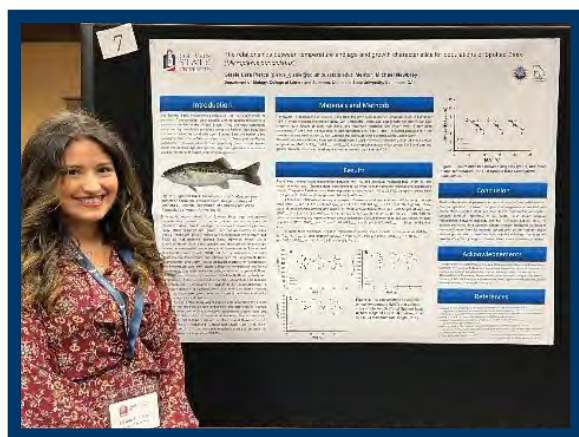
Tower Day occurs every spring and celebrates undergraduate research and creative endeavors in various disciplines. Below are representations of poster presentations developed by COLS STEM students.



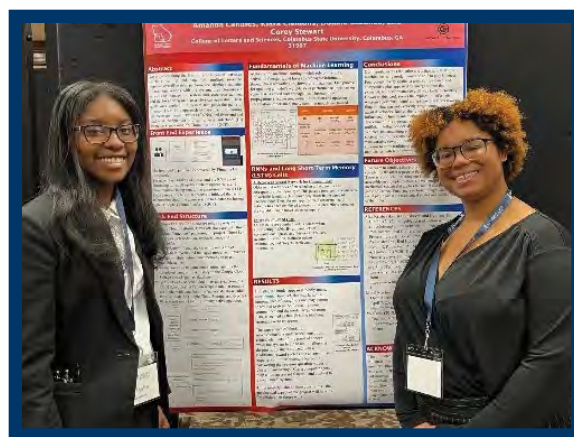
Mitdalia P. Alonso. Title: *Effects of a latitudinal gradient on the age and growth characteristic of Smallmouth Bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*)*. Mentors: Michael Newbrey, Jennifer Newbrey, Ashley Desensi. Major: Biology.



Likhita Aluri. Title: *A proposed assessment of carotenoids as bioindicators of health using the eggs of Bluegill and Redbreast Sunfish in Columbus, GA*. Mentors: Michael Newbrey, Jennifer Newbrey, Ashley Desensi. Major: Biology.



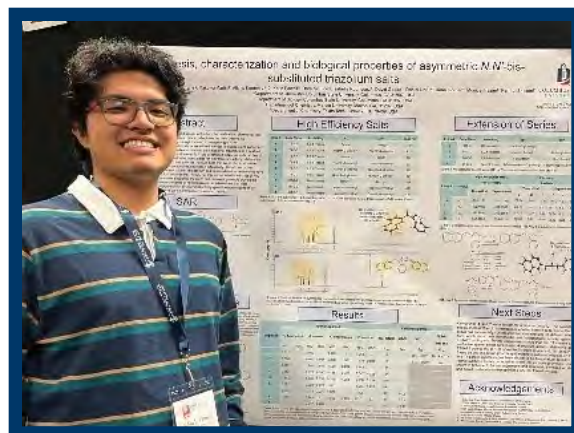
Gisele L. Pierce. Title: *The relationships between temperature and age and growth characteristics for populations of Spotted Bass (*Micropterus punctulatus*)*. Mentor: Michael Newbrey. Major: Biology.



Kiara F. Clemons (left), Amanda Candies (right), Donald Beaulieu (not pictured). Title: *Connect 4 Project*. Mentors: Monica Frazier, Corey Stewart. Majors: Computer Science and Cybersecurity; Math.



Back row: Samuel C. Kimball, Cory G. Mitchell. Right side: Joy N. Flowers, A'Naja Houston. Front (in red): Kayleen E. Linge. Title: *The Stellar Graveyard*. Mentor: Rosa Williams. Major: Earth and Space Science.



Rahul V. Clamor. Title: *Synthesis, characterization and biological properties of asymmetric *N, N'*-bis-substituted triazolium salts*. Mentor: Kerri L. Shelton. Major: Chemistry.





Create  
Success





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4225 University Avenue, Columbus, GA 31907

## CSU Alumna Wins Tulane University Teaching Award

D. Jelagat Cheruiyot, professor of practice in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology in the School of Science and Engineering at Tulane University, has won one of the Suzanne and Stephen Weiss Presidential Fellows Awards for Teaching. At Tulane, she teaches courses from the introductory to the graduate level.

According to Tulane's website, "Dr. Cheruiyot's field of research includes plants and animal interactions, elemental defense, biointeraction between elements and organic defense chemicals, and trophic transfer of elements."

As an International student, Cheruiyot first enrolled at CSU in 2000. She graduated from CSU with a B.S. degree in biology in 2004 and with an M.S. degree in Environmental Science in 2009. She received her Ph.D. in Biology in 2012 from Auburn University.

For her Ph.D., she "evaluated the toxicities of Co, Cu, Ni, and Zn against a generalist herbivore *Spodoptera exigua* and the trophic transfer of these metals." In addition, she determined if the "four metals were biotransferred or bioaccumulated from the diet to herbivore and predator."

A former student of Dr. Cheruiyot said, "To say that Dr. Cheruiyot has changed my life would be an understatement."

