

Letters & Sciences Today



COLUMBUS STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of Letters and Sciences
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In this Issue Dean's Welcome – 2 | Study Away and Abroad – 3-5 | In Memoriam – 6, 18
Cover Story – 7-9 | Internships – 10-12 | Events – 13 | Donor and Faculty Spotlights – 14-15
New Faculty – 16-17 | Retirement – 19 | Watch Party – Back Cover



Dean Annice Yarber-Allen

**"Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much."
— Helen Keller**

As we approach the end of the semester, it's hard to believe how quickly time has flown by. It has been a busy season, and your hard work has truly made a difference in ensuring our students have a great academic experience. I want to take a moment to acknowledge the incredible effort each of you has put in this fall. Your dedication has made a significant impact on our students' academic experiences.

There is excitement surrounding CSU's Better Together: 2030, a plan focusing on what matters most for Columbus State University's future. This initiative will propel us forward through hard work and intentional service to our students, each other, and the community we serve. Aligning our college with the new five-year strategic plan is crucial as we concentrate on four major areas: student success, responsible stewardship, community impact, and economic competitiveness. By prioritizing these areas, we can ensure that the university and the college meet our students' needs while contributing positively to our community and the broader economy. This alignment will guide all college initiatives and help us achieve our long-term goals.

We, indeed, are Better Together. I'm excited to share that we have recently joined forces with the Medical College of Georgia to establish the *Southwest Georgia Hub for Rural and Primary Care Workforce Training*. This initiative addresses regional physician shortages and provides CSU pre-medical students with essential support, including scholarships and training opportunities. Additionally, CSU received \$550,000 in congressional funding from Senator Ossoff to prepare a skilled workforce for the semiconductor industry. We will begin implementing the Paving the Way: Chips Manufacturing Curricula and Workforce Development initiative in partnership with the College of Letters and Sciences, the College of Education and Health Professions, and the College of Business.

Several pages of this edition of **COLS Today** are dedicated to the college's study away and study abroad activities. I am particularly grateful for the expertise of our faculty who lead these activities. Their commitment and knowledge ensure our students have enriching experiences that broaden their horizons and deepen their understanding of the world.

Thank you all for your continued dedication and passion. Enjoy the newsletter and your well-deserved break!



Annice Yarber-Allen, Dean

Letters & Sciences Today

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CSU Chemistry Students Visit Opo Coffee for Experiential Learning and Career Relevancy Workshop

By Kerri Taylor



Columbus State University's Introductory Chemistry Seminar, under the advisement of Dr. Taylor, visited Opo Coffee in Decatur, GA to gain immersive first-hand experience on the chemistry of brewing coffee. This "Coffee Chemistry" class demonstrated the use of digital refractometers to analyze the solubles concentration (strength) of brewed coffee, in order to calculate solubles yield (extraction) and inform adjustments to brew parameters to improve taste.

The Opo Coffee Training Lab is the only coffee training center in Georgia that actively administers the Coffee Skills Program of the Specialty Coffee Association. Jonathan Pascual, owner of Opo Coffee, is a certified trainer in that program with 18 years of professional coffee experience.

This immersive experience provides the answer to the question, "How will you use your chemistry degree?" This Introductory Seminar is meant to challenge the students' perspective by breaking the stereotype of a typical chemist. This course has elements like a speaker series, mentorship program and collaborative presentations to help students move into academic research and professional internships connected to CSU.

Dr. Taylor would like to thank the agencies that supported this unique experience. Columbus State University's (CSU) Faculty Center is the granting organization for the Experiential Learning Field Trip Grant. The Department of Chemistry helped provide the expenses related to the coffee class, transportation and student per diem.

Study Abroad

Study Abroad to South Korea



In summer 2024, Columbus State University organized a remarkable study abroad program in South Korea, offering 12 students a deep dive into the country's rich history, culture, and international relations. The program included visits to iconic sites like Gwanghwamun Square, Gyeongbokgung Palace, and the DMZ (the DeMilitarized Zone that separates North and South Korea), as well as engagements with key institutions such as the Global Knowledge Exchange & Development Center and the War Memorial of Korea. Students also experienced Korea's vibrant culture, from savoring traditional foods at local markets to participating in a serene temple stay. The journey concluded with a poignant visit to the United Nations' Memorial Cemetery, where students reflected on the enduring bond between South Korea and its allies. This transformative experience

highlighted the incredible potential of international educational exchanges in fostering global understanding and collaboration. This study abroad

program was led by Associate Professor Dr. Daewoo Lee of the School of Policy, Justice, and Public Administration.



Left side of picture (front to back): Lauren Austin, Kelly Britt, Zachary Brundidge, Sonya Mahon, Hallie Tanner.

Right side of picture (front to back): Danielle Blake, Hannah Boisvert, Daphne Bryant, Kyla Byrd, Janetta Crawford, Anderson Knap, Mason Martin.

Study Abroad to Seville, Spain



Dr. Bobby Nixon, Associate Professor of Spanish in the Department of Society, Culture, and Languages.



Photo taken below Alcázar (castle) in Segovia, Spain.

Eight CSU students traveled to Seville, Spain, with Dr. Bobby Nixon this summer. They lived with host families and took at least three classes in Spanish. The group visited

cities such as Segovia, Toledo, Cordoba, Granada, and the roman ruins of Italica. This language immersion program provided students with an exciting cultural experience.



Photo taken inside the Mezquita-Cathedral (mosque-cathedral) in Cordoba, Spain.

Starting at 12 o'clock, pictured are Jonathan Gaboury, Dr. Bobby Nixon, Liam McCahan, Carolann Funkhouser, Ana Dinis Pérez, Caylee Lawhorne, Alexis Toombs, Matthew Scott, and Riyan Morman. Photo taken in the sacristy of the Gothic Cathedral in Seville, Spain.



In Memoriam (Student)

Grant Martin

(February 21, 2000-July 20, 2024)

Grant Cole Martin lived a life that overflowed with creativity, service, and deep-seated joy until his passing in Atlanta at age 24 due to heart failure. Grant's legacy is one marked by faith, laughter, and an unwavering commitment to enriching the lives of others.

A graduate of Harris County High School, he graduated from CSU in May 2024 with a Bachelor's Degree in English Education. Because he missed his graduation ceremony in early May, the ceremony came to him at Emory University Hospital on May 25.

Born with a congenital heart defect called corrected transposition of the greater arteries, Martin first had heart surgery at age five and had been able to live a normal life until recently. In February of this year, his heart function began to decline, and he was put on a heart transplant wait list.

To those who knew him, Grant was a beacon of creativity and imagination. His passion for constructing intricate Lego masterpieces; immersing himself in the fantastical worlds of Star Wars, The Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter, and Dune; and leading epic Dungeons & Dragons adventures at the Baptist Collegiate Ministries resonated with all who had the privilege to join him. His zest for life was noticeable when he was in his favorite place of all, Disney World, or when he was spending time with Grace, his girlfriend and soulmate, exploring the depths of their shared dreams and aspirations. Grant's career goal was to become a high school English teacher.

To honor Grant's memory, the family requests that you donate to the Columbus Baptist Association, the Georgia Transplant Foundation, or the American Heart Association.



Columbus State, U.S. Army Collaboration to Help Train Future Robotics Workforce



Columbus State University has signed an agreement with Columbus-based U.S. Army Fort Moore that will allow the university to expand its Robotics Engineering program's academic and research capabilities into a 25,000-square-foot building on the post.

Using the building on Fort Moore will allow Columbus State the room for students to test and fly ground and air robotic systems—more commonly referred to as drones—in GPS-denied environments; these are areas in which GPS signals sent from satellites are unable to reach an earth-bound GPS receiver, ultimately leaving GPS-reliant technologies without function. The additional space at Fort Moore will also allow students and faculty to test and gain experience operating a 16-camera motion-capture and 3D

tracking system worth \$75,000.

"Fort Moore has been a steadfast partner with our [Robotics Engineering program](#) at Columbus State since its inception in 2019," explained [Dr. Mahmut Reyhanoglu](#) (pictured, next page), a professor of robotics engineering and the program's director. "This extension of that partnership will provide us the room to finally test the equipment we have already acquired and give us the space to provide real hands-on experiences to our students and researchers." Partnering with [Fort Moore's Maneuver Battle Lab](#) was a natural extension of the lab's mission to use robotics technology to keep America's soldiers safer while equipping them to be more efficient in their jobs.

Cover Story



"The Maneuver Battle Lab is extremely happy to team with Columbus State's Robotics Engineering program," said Chris Willis, director of Fort Moore's Maneuver Battle Lab. "This partnership allows us to expose CSU students to the Army's robotics needs, and it also allows us to potentially serve military dependents, veterans, and our local community at large."

Dr. Reyhanoglu expects to have everything ready in the new space by August. He also said this collaboration is part of his and the College of Letters & Sciences' long-term vision of a joint Robotics Innovation Center at Fort Moore, where the university can teach classes on the post and work alongside its military partners for students' learning, experimenting and research.

Since their inception, both the [undergraduate](#) and [graduate](#) Robotics Engineering programs have grown exponentially: the bachelor's program tenfold since its launch in 2019, and the master's program threefold since 2021. Dr. Reyhanoglu expects the program's undergraduate enrollment to climb to 100 students and graduate enrollment to 30 master's degree students within the next five years.

Based in the [College of Letters & Sciences' Department of Earth & Space Sciences](#), Columbus State's program hosts Georgia's only bachelor's and master's degree programs in robotics engineering.



At Columbus State, students prepare for careers in robotics, automation, hardware development, software development and machine learning. In addition to traditional bachelor's and master of science degrees in robotics engineering, its [accelerated Robotics Engineering program](#) allows exceptional students to complete both bachelor's and master's degrees in five years.

The university's suite of robotics engineering offerings also includes an [associate of science degree in engineering studies](#) and a seven-course, 21-credit-hour [robotics certificate program](#) open to all Columbus State students and others seeking to expand their knowledge in the field.

For more information about the robotics programs at CSU, visit the [Robotics Engineering website](#).

Cover Story

Placement of Graduates with Degrees in Robotics Engineering

CSU's Robotics Engineering programs have been maintaining 100% percent placement. So far, the Bachelor's and Master's degree programs have graduated 4 and 10 students, respectively, who are all established as engineers or scientists or pursuing advanced degrees.

The programs' placement data support the achievement of our Program Educational Objectives:

PEO 1 (Career Development): Graduates will be established as engineers or scientists or pursuing advanced degrees.

PEO 2 (Professional Practice): Graduates will be serving the society and their professions effectively and responsibly as role models, practical problem solvers, creative thinkers, and innovators.

In the table below, MSRE stands for Master's of Science degree in Robotics Engineering.

Name	Placements
Farima Hajiahmadi	Ph.D. student at Old Dominion University
Talha Ejaz	System Engineer at JBT Corporate Automated
Jason Brown	Consumer Safety Inspector at USDA
Onurcan Bal	Ph.D. student at Oklahoma University
Skyler Dexter	Construction Field Specialist at Southern Com
Shokoufeh Davarzani	Ph.D. student at Western Michigan University
Robert McLean	Manufacturing Engineer at Lockheed Martin
Natasha Barrow	Systems Engineer at L3Harris Technologies
Saira Gilani	AI Engineer at Orbital Engineering
Rehmania Younis	Software Engineer at Forescout
Noura Hammad	MSRE student at CSU
Cynthia Lopez-Jorden	MSRE student at CSU
Logan McFarland	MSRE student at CSU
Sean Gillette	U.S. Army

Internships

CSU Chemistry Students Develop Research Project on the Stability of Latent Prints

By Kerri Taylor, Victoria Oehrlein



Alyssa Schmitz and Presley Simmons standing outside the GBI headquarters in Decatur, GA.

Columbus State University Seniors Presley Simmons (Chemistry) and Alyssa Schmitz (Health Science) visited Georgia Bureau of Investigations' Decatur, GA and Midland, GA offices to gain immersive first-hand experience on latent fingerprint identification and debris testing of arson, respectively.

The team of Schmitz and Simmons has worked to discover a way for both the latent print and debris labs to test the same materials without damaging the evidence in the process. This problem revolves around a number of factors (temperature and contents) that impact the longevity of the fingerprints on glass before the prints deteriorate past the point when they could be tested. These students, together with the Department of Chemistry, are developing a series of experiments to assist Georgia Bureau of Investigations

with how to help split fingerprints for dual analysis. The intention is to help understand how to preserve the composition of the fingerprints so they can be studied for physical review purposes (latent print identification) and arson (heat and combustion). The students designed experiments that detail how to split fingerprints to help GBI study evidence on glass surfaces that are gathered from key crime scenes.

These talented CSU students presented their undergraduate work at the 25th annual Tower Day conference in April 2024. The students showcased the outcomes of their hands-on research and learning under the mentorship of faculty and community members (Dr. Kerri Taylor and Mrs. Victoria Oehrlein) in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) from CSU and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

Internships

Summer Studying at UVA

By Kennedy Buckner



Kennedy is a senior English Literature major and will be graduating Spring 2025.

This past summer, I completed an 8-week summer research program at The University of Virginia, located in Charlottesville, Virginia. The application process was rigorous, as I had to compose a thousand word essay describing my research interests and my future academic and career goals. From a pool of more than 35,000 applicants, I was selected and put into a research group with three other individuals who shared the same research interests. We were dubbed the LAMI, or Leadership Alliance Mellon Initiative, 2024 Cohort and started the summer by delving into the world of Digital Humanities, Gender Studies, Social Sciences, and Literature.

Under the direction of Dr. Alison Booth, Chair of the English and Digital Humanities departments at UVA, my cohort members and I created our own individualized study of our chosen research topic, mine being Black Southern Temporalities, or the intersection of time, space and memory in the south. At the end of our 8 weeks, our cohort and I traveled to The University of Pennsylvania, where we networked with other LAMI students from various universities and had the chance to discuss our research topics.

After our 2-day stay in UPenn, we took a train to Connecticut for the Leadership Alliance National Symposium conference where we, among a thousand other SR-EIP (Summer Research Early Identification Program) students, were given the opportunity to showcase what we learned over the past 8 weeks via an oral, poster, or essay presentation. My time at UVA was very rewarding and has primed me to pursue a PhD in Africana Studies at Columbia University next fall.

Internships

Interning at NASA

By Trinity Smith

I am a double major in astrophysics and biology with a minor in geology and will be graduating in May 2025. I want to pursue a career in astrobiology, where I study extremophiles and planetary analogs on Earth and see how they relate to other places in space. When I first enrolled at CSU, I was just an astrophysics major with a minor in biology. It wasn't until I spoke with a biology professor that I realized I was halfway to a degree in biology, so I picked up a BA in biology. Between these degrees, I've taken so many cool classes that I didn't know existed:

- Physics, Chemistry, and Geology of the Solar System as well as Quantum Mechanics, taught by Dr. Shawn Cruzen.
- Cell and Molecular Techniques, taught by Dr. Monica Frazier.
- Igneous and Metamorphic Geology, previously taught by Dr. Clinton Barineau.
- Astrophysics, taught by Dr. Rosa Williams.

In the fall of 2023, I was an intern at NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Ames Research Center in Mountain View, California. During my internship, I worked on a project titled "Ultrashort Pulsed Laser Treatment: A Novel Sterilization Method for Planetary Protection." In this project, I worked in a wet environment under the direction of Dr. Jessica Lee, where I performed microbial assays to assess how many microbes survived laser treatment. During this internship, I learned a lot about myself and my interests. I learned my true passions and gained so much confidence in that environment. Many firsts happened during my internship, and I'm happy to say that I made some



great friends to share those memories with. At the end of my internship, I submitted our abstract to AbSciCon (Astrobiology Science Conference), and it was accepted.

Because it was my first real conference, I didn't know about travel grants. When I returned to school in the spring, I realized that I couldn't make it to the conference on my own. If it weren't for Dr. Frazier, I would not have been able to attend. She pulled every string she

had to get me the funds to go. I thoroughly enjoyed myself at the conference! I co-presented with my principal investigator from NASA and got great experience and feedback. I made connections there with people in the field and potential grad schools. It was also my first time in the Northern US; I had so much fun. After graduation, I plan on starting grad school in the fall of 2025. I'm not sure where I'm going yet, but I know that's where I'm headed.

Events

Command College



CSU's Command College has admitted its 100th class to the MPSA (Masters of Public Safety Administration) program. The class has 26 members (identified and shown above). Photo caption lists class members in alphabetical order by last name, not by correspondence to picture.

In addition, Command College is opening two new educational delivery sites where students can take courses leading to certificates. One site is at the Cobb County Sheriff's Office and the other is at the Stockbridge Police Department.

Donor Spotlight

Community Shows Strong Support for Premed Students



Earlier this year, Dr. A.J. Jain (BS Bio '86; Founding Surgeon, Columbus Plastic Surgery) and his wife, Stacey, hosted a wonderful reception at their home to help promote CSU's Competitive Premedical Studies Program. The event, attended by many local physicians, CSU trustees, and other university supporters, was an opportunity to spotlight several premed students and share ways in which the community can support the program to help increase the number of students successfully applying to medical school and, ultimately, address the physician shortage in the state and nation.

Following the reception, attendees and others interested in supporting premed students have invested in the premed program by providing shadowing opportunities or making gifts (\$22,000 from 18 donors). These donations support student scholarships and a new 16-week MCAT prep course that 16 students are completing this fall. The Jains and other program supporters are making a significant impact on the top priority in CSU's new *Better Together: 2030 Strategic Plan* – student success.

Dr. Jain promotes CSU's Competitive Premedical Studies Program at a reception in his home.



Faculty Spotlight

Bits and Pieces—Faculty News



Natalia Temesgen

Earlier this year, **Natalia Temesgen** served as Writer/Producer of Season 2 of Hulu/Onyx's *Reasonable Doubt*. Natalia Temesgen is Associate Professor of Creative Writing (Screenwriting) in the Department of English.

Dr. Clinton Barineau received a \$70,000 grant from the American Chemical Society to explore chemical reactions between carbon dioxide and rocks from the Columbus area as a means of carbon storage. Dr. Barineau, Professor of Geology in the Department of Earth and Space Sciences, and his student research assistants hope the project's experimental results will lead to improved strategies for reducing carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. The grant provides stipends for both undergraduate and graduate students over the next three years.



Dr. Clinton Barineau

Dr. Anna Dimitrova received a grant from the Faculty Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning at CSU to take students studying French to "French – American connections in LaGrange, Georgia." The experiential field trip occurred Sept. 20. Dr. Dimitrova is a Lecturer of French in the Department of Society, Culture, and Languages.

Dr. Jeremy Newton will present *Managing an Undergraduate Focused Psychology Department in the Post-Pandemic World* as a Participant Idea Exchange at the National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology in January 2025 in Clearwater Beach, Florida. He is professor and chair of the Department of Psychology.



Dr. Anna Dimitrova



Dr. Jeremy Newton

New Faculty

6 Join College of Letters & Sciences' Faculty

This fall, the [College of Letters & Sciences](#) welcomes six new faculty members to five of its departments—including one new department chair and one Columbus State University alumna. They are among the 19 new full-time faculty joining the university for the 2024-25 academic year.

"Our class of new faculty represents the diversity of our college's various fields of study, which ranges from the humanities to STEM disciplines," said Dr. Annice Yarber-Allen, the college's dean. "I'm excited about the dedication they will bring to our classrooms, laboratories and many of our community partnerships and projects."



Rebecca Dunterman joins the faculty this fall as a lecturer in the [Department of Psychology](#). She is pursuing a cognitive and behavioral sciences doctorate at Auburn University and anticipates completing her studies later this year. This will be in addition to the master's in general experimental psychology and the bachelor's in psychology she earned at Western Illinois University. At both Auburn and WIU, she was a graduate research assistant and focused on cognitive processes and mechanisms across the adult lifespan, aging and anxiety sensitivity.

Ansley Felix '20 begins her role this fall as a lecturer and forensic science coordinator in the [Department of Chemistry](#). Her duties will include further developing the department's Forensic Chemistry program, expanding its partnerships with area forensic labs and co-advising its American Chemical Society student chapter. In addition to her bachelor's degree in chemistry from Columbus State (2020), she earned master's and doctoral degrees in chemistry from Emory University. She previously taught part-time at Kennesaw State University in its Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.



Brennan De'Ann-Braverman Gonzalez begins her tenure as a sociology lecturer in the [Department of Society, Culture & Languages](#). She is pursuing a doctoral degree in curriculum and teaching at Columbus State to add to her bachelor's in sociology from Auburn University and master's in social science with a concentration in sociology from Troy University. She previously taught courses at Columbus State while serving as an international programming coordinator for its Center for Global Engagement. Her higher education teaching experience also includes adjunct roles at Hondros College (Westerville, Ohio) and Troy University.

New Faculty



Patrice Kerner brings 25 years of public safety experience, leadership and teaching to her new role as an assistant professor in the [School of Policy, Justice & Public Safety](#). She has held many public safety-related positions throughout her career: U.S. customs agent, correctional officer, deputy sheriff, police officer, firefighter and EMT (Emergency Medical Technician). Her notable leadership roles have included deputy executive director of the Georgia Public Safety Training Center, director of administration of the Georgia Peace Officer Standards & Training Council, and director of the General Government & Public Safety Division for the Governor's Office of Planning & Budget; she also has served as CFO (Chief Financial Officer) and budget director for each of these agencies. More recently, Kerner worked within the University System of Georgia, for which she has evaluated and improved upon systemwide and campus-level administrative and fiscal processes. She holds a doctor of public administration and master's in criminal justice degrees from Valdosta State University, a master of public administration from Kennesaw State University, and a bachelor's in criminal justice from New Jersey City University.

Jeremy Newton begins his tenure as professor and chair of the [Department of Psychology](#)—a role he previously held at St. Martin's University in Olympia, Washington. His focus areas include memory and trauma, eyewitness testimony, interrogation and confession, cognitive psychology and psychology of the legal system. In addition to St. Martin's, he's held faculty and teaching appointments at Texas Wesleyan University and DePauw University. He holds a doctorate in psychology from the University of California, Davis, a bachelor's degree from UGA, and an associate degree from Middle Georgia State University.



Paul Vincent begins his tenure this fall as an assistant professor in the [Department of History, Geography & Philosophy](#), where he will teach classes in geography and geographic information systems (GIS). His academic interests include applying geospatial technologies to answer environmental questions and to help with community planning. Prior to Columbus State, he taught at Valdosta State University, where he worked with a wide range of undergraduate students in environmental geosciences. That work included community-facing projects where students led data collection and data analysis efforts. He holds a bachelor's in environmental science from the University of West Florida. His graduate work in geography and GIS includes a master's from the University of Arkansas and a doctorate from Texas A&M University.

More than 2,300 Columbus State students and 227 full- and part-time faculty and staff call the [College of Letters & Sciences](#) and its 10 academic departments and schools home. Faculty in many of the college's disciplines—from English and history to mathematics and the sciences—teach as part of the university's core curriculum. For a directory of and information about Columbus State's faculty and staff, visit columbusstate.edu/profiles.

In Memoriam (Faculty)

In Memory of Dr. Carey Scott Wilkerson

It is with great sadness that the Department of English announces the passing of our colleague Dr. Carey Scott Wilkerson, Associate Professor of English, who suffered a stroke in early July and died on Sunday, July 7. He was a beloved member of the English Department, where he taught composition, literature, and creative writing.

A highly accomplished writer, Dr. Wilkerson published books of poetry, fiction, and drama and wrote the libretti for several successful operas, including *Eddie's Stone Song*, *Odyssey of the First Pasaquoyan: An Opera in One Act* about Eddie Owens Martin, the creator of Pasaquan; and for an operatic adaptation of Carson McCullers's *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*, a staged reading of which was performed at Mallarmé Music in Durham, North Carolina, on August 3.

His plays were performed in Georgia, California, New York, Oregon, and at a number of venues in Germany. He received Columbus State's Creative Endeavors Award in 2018 and an Outstanding Teacher of Writing Award in 2017. He was nominated for the Pushcart Prize on two occasions and for the Georgia Author of the Year Award in 2022.

Dr. Wilkerson held a BA in English from Auburn University, an MA in English from Auburn University at Montgomery, an MFA in Creative Writing from Queens University of Charlotte, and a PhD in Creative Writing from Georgia State University. He began teaching at CSU in 2007 as an adjunct faculty member, later became a fulltime lecturer, and eventually a tenured associate professor. He is remembered by his students and colleagues as one of the kindest and most collegial members of the Columbus State community.



Lessons in Levitation

Carey Scott Wilkerson



Black Box Theatre Publishing

Retirement



The Man of Many Hats: Dr. Pat McHenry Retires

Dr. Pat McHenry's genius was that he served repeatedly and seamlessly in key CSU leadership roles, and he did so with humility and graciousness.

"Dr. Pat McHenry is a shining example of transferable leadership," said retired CSU President Chris Markwood. "His tenure at Columbus State has been marked by guiding multiple areas of campus through leadership transitions."

In his final position, McHenry served as interim provost and executive vice president, while also serving as a professor of English in the College of Letters & Sciences. Over the years, he has served in numerous leadership roles, including

- associate provost of the Office of the Provost
- associate dean of the College of Letters & Sciences,
- interim dean of the College of Letters & Sciences and of the College of the Arts
- interim chair in the Department of English, the Department of Art, and the Department of Mathematics and Philosophy

As associate provost, he led the charge to get rid of CSU's "probation and exclusion" policy which denied poorly performing students the ability to re-enroll at the university for a year or more. He replaced it with University Support Status, allowing poorly performing students the opportunity to remediate and enroll in courses. He provided further leadership through a number of committees on campus, including the Facilities Master Plan Steering Committee, COA Dean Search Committee, Capital Projects Task Force, and Arnold Hall and Howard Hall Renovations.

From 1997-2015, he organized annual trips for students, faculty and staff to attend either the Alabama Shakespeare Festival in Montgomery or Shakespeare Tavern in Atlanta so they could see *Love's Labors Lost* (1997), *Measure for Measure* (1998), *As You Like It* (1999), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2001), *The Tempest* (2002), *Julius Caesar* (2003), *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (2005) and many others.

As president of Bicycle Columbus, he co-wrote Columbus' 2010, 2013, and 2015 applications for national *Bicycle Friendly Community* designation of the League of American Bicyclists (awarded Bronze designation 2015, Honorable Mention 2013, 2010); hosted Georgia Bike Summit (2014), and received grants of \$1500 and \$5000 for bicycle advocacy; and worked with the City of Columbus to conduct a comprehensive Alternative Transportation Plan (2013).

McHenry holds a bachelor of arts degree from St. Ambrose College, a master's degree in English from Middle Tennessee State University, and a PhD in English renaissance literature from Ohio University. McHenry joined CSU's Department of English in 1996.



Presidential Election Watch Party, Nov. 5, 2024



About 60 students stopped by and had fun watching the election unfold at the Presidential Election Watch Party, sponsored by the School of Policy, Justice and Public Safety and the library.

