

Letters & Sciences Today



COLUMBUS STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of Letters and Sciences
Highlights Vol. 3 - Fall 2013

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Dean's Welcome

CSU History faculty bring a true civil-rights hero to campus for a day... A CSU Chemistry professor is internationally recognized as a Fulbright Scholar... CSU graduate students win first place in an EPA symposium... A best-selling author conducts a master class with Creative Writing students... A cohort of future medical students begins their studies. In other words, it's a normal semester in the College of Letters and Sciences—and it is fabulous. Read on, and if you're like me, you'll be amazed by the accomplishments of our students, faculty, and alumni.



Dr. Patrick McHenry,
Interim Dean

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College Faculty & Students Receive University Recognition



Dr. Clint Barineau was named CSU's 2013 Educator of the Year; **Dr. Nick Norwood** (English), *top left*, received the 2013 Faculty Research and Scholarship Award; and **Dr. Kimberly Gill** (Political Science & Public Administration), *left*, was honored with the inaugural William Chappell Graduate Faculty Award. Student awards were presented to Matthew Perry (Phi Kappa Phi Senior Award), *left*, Caleb Zuiderveen (Academic Recognition Award), *bottom left*, and Ben Long (Faculty Cup), *bottom right*.



Annual Alumni, Faculty and Student Awards

The College of Letters and Sciences recognized outstanding alumni, faculty and students at its annual awards ceremony in April:



• **Humanities** – Kristin Taylor (B.A. English, 2009), multi-media features and technical writer for UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund), based in New York City. Ms. Taylor shapes program and policy communications into accessible advocacy language on UNICEF websites and social media channels, and writes text for UNICEF exhibitions.



• **Sciences and Mathematics** – Dr. Christopher Wommack (B.S. Chemistry, 1993), family physician at Horizons Diagnostics in Columbus. Dr. Wommack is certified by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) for diabetes, heart and stroke management. He has served on the Credentials Committee and Epidemiology Committee at St. Francis Hospital, and he continues to volunteer at the Good Shepherd Clinic.



• **Social Sciences** – Chief George Turner (M.P.A., 2009), chief of the Atlanta Police Department. Chief Turner has extensive experience with dignitary and executive protection within the U.S. and abroad, and has received numerous commendations from the Secret Service and the FBI for his work on protective details with Presidents, high-level officials, and heads of state.

The 2013 Faculty Research Fellow is **Dr. David Schwimmer** (Earth & Space Sciences), a faculty member at CSU since 1978. Dr. Schwimmer's research interests include Paleobiology of Late Cretaceous vertebrates, Biostratigraphy and Taxonomy of Cambrian trilobites, and the philosophy of evolutionary science; in each of these fields he is nationally recognized. His publications include 2 academic books and 28 peer-reviewed articles. He has received 4 research grants from the National Geographic Society and a National Book Award, among many other honors.

Dr. Clint Barineau (Earth & Space Sciences) is the 2013 Faculty Teaching Fellow. He joined CSU's vibrant geology program in 2007 and instituted new courses and involved his students in primary research. He is deeply committed to undergraduate research and has mentored 12 research projects and senior theses. Dr. Barineau also involves his classes in research and routinely leads field trips to areas of his studies in Georgia and Alabama. His annual 2-week field trip to western states to study geological features is a student favorite.

Twenty-nine **COLS seniors** were recognized for their high scholastic achievement (earning an overall GPA of 3.8 or higher).

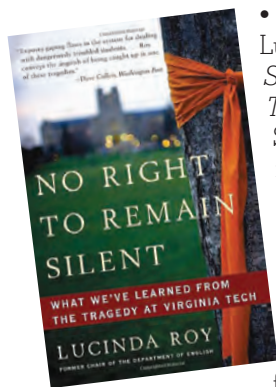


Letters & Sciences Today

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DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Basic Studies



- The First Year Experience hosted Lucinda Roy, author of *No Right to Remain Silent: What We've Learned From the Tragedy at Virginia Tech* in October. She gave a campus-wide speech, led a master class for creative writing students, and met with university personnel to discuss campus safety issues. Roy is an Alumni Distinguished Professor at Virginia Tech and was chair of the English Department before her student, Seung-Hui Cho, killed 32 students and faculty in 2007.

Biology

- The new **Competitive Premedical Studies Program** began this fall for select students (see story, page 5).
- A new partnership with John B. Amos Cancer Center, spearheaded by Associate Professor Monica Frazier, will expand opportunities for faculty and students to conduct cancer research in collaboration with the center's medical staff and provide services through the department's histology and tissue culture facilities. The collaboration will greatly enhance the training opportunities of students interested in medicine and research.

Chemistry

- The department recently joined an elite group by receiving accreditation by the American Chemical Society (ACS), the world's largest scientific organization. ACS accreditation makes our graduates even more competitive on the job market and at graduate schools.
- Professor Zewdu Gebeyehu has been selected as a 2013-2014 Fulbright Scholar. He will teach Ph.D. and M.S. students at his alma mater, Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia.

Criminal Justice & Sociology

- The **Thomas Keith Slay Memorial Scholarship Fund** has recently been established through a generous donation from The Grainger Foundation. The Grainger Foundation is an independent, private foundation in support of Columbus State University's mission "to empower people to contribute to the advancement of our local and global communities through an emphasis on excellence in teaching and research, life-long learning, cultural enrichment, public-private partnerships, and service to others". This donation was recommended by Brian Brock, Market Manager of W.W. Grainger, Inc.'s Columbus location. The fund will support select juniors and seniors pursuing a criminal justice degree at CSU. It honors Columbus Police Department Corporal Slay, who died in the line of duty in July 2013, for his commitment to law enforcement in our community. *Anyone wishing to contribute to this fund should contact Jill Carroll at carroll_jill@ColumbusState.edu or 706-565-7874.*



Earth & Space Sciences

- Environmental Science graduate students won first place at the 2013 Environmental Youth Symposium hosted in Atlanta by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Region 4, which includes 8 southeastern states. Their research, "Growing Our Way to a Cleaner and 'Greener' University," was conducted under Associate Professor Troy Keller. The focus of the event was Creating Action through Environmental Stewardship and Encouraging Climate Resiliency.
- Local veterinarian, Dr. Dennis Young (shown above), recently established the **Ramon G. Young Memorial Scholarship Fund**, in memory of his father, to benefit CSU students pursuing a B.S. in Earth and Space Science with a concentration in Geology.

English

- The Carson McCullers Literary Awards have been established to encourage and recognize outstanding writing at the high school and collegiate levels (see page 5 for details).

History & Geography

- The History & Geography Department and the Carson McCullers Center for Writers and Musicians were awarded grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and CSU's Faculty Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning to develop a year-long retrospective of America's civil rights struggle. The History & Geography Department and the McCullers Center hosted a national traveling exhibit about the Freedom Riders, civil rights activists who worked to desegregate interstate travel routes during the 1960s (see story - page 4). Programming also includes guest speakers and films that are part of the "Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle" series.

Math & Philosophy

- In addition to the annual Math Tournament for high school students, the department hosted the inaugural Calculus Contest to promote the study of Calculus among CSU students and regional high school students. The contest attracted 53 contestants.

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Modern & Classical Languages

• In summer 2013, the CSU in Mexico program, led by Associate Professor Alyce Cook, had its largest group of students to date study Spanish and participate in home-stays for 4-6 weeks in Cuernavaca, Mexico. In addition to classes and activities at the host university, students participated in excursions to Tepotzlan, Mexico City, Taxco, Teotihuacan, Cholula, and Cuetzlan (*pictured above*). They also taught afternoon English classes for children at a Cuernavaca community center.

Political Science & Public Administration

• Department Chair, Tom Dolan, offered his course "Problems of Modernity" at CSU's Spencer House in Oxford, England. The group examined issues surrounding transportation, medicine, food, water, and sewage in London and other cities (*above right, graduate students are pictured outside Parliament in London*).



Psychology

• Six psychology students completed internships last academic year at The Bradley Center, the Brain Center, Endocrine Consultants, and Milestones ABA. They worked with clinical psychologists in the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of patients with a variety of psychiatric diagnoses, and with children with developmental disorders and autism.

Command College

• The new Master of Public Safety Administration degree launched in fall 2013 and is designed for law enforcement and other public safety professionals. The program, which requires 5 semesters to complete, replaces the justice administration track of CSU's MPA degree that was offered through the Command College for 17 years.

CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST PART OF YEAR-LONG COMMEMORATION

Charles Person (*pictured on cover*), civil rights activist and one of the original thirteen Freedom Riders, delivered a public lecture at CSU on October 17 to launch the major exhibition of the Freedom Rides. The exhibit, co-sponsored by PBS and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, tells the powerful and harrowing story of the hundreds of men and women who risked their lives in 1961 to ride interstate buses into the South to challenge the failure to enforce U.S. Supreme Court rulings outlawing segregation on buses and at retail establishments. Enduring savage beatings, firebombs, and imprisonment, the Freedom Riders electrified the nation and helped inspire millions to get involved in the struggle for civil rights. At age 18, Person was the youngest of 13 original riders. He was among the most badly beaten riders in the Mother's Day riot at the Birmingham Trailways Bus Station. The gifted math and physics student enlisted later that year and spent the next 20 years in the Marine Corps.

Person's lecture and the Freedom Riders exhibit are part of CSU's year-long

Credit: © Corbis



commemoration of the civil rights movement. With grant funding, the History & Geography Department and the Carson McCullers Center for Writers and Musicians have planned a number of events for the 2013-14 academic year, including lectures, a film series, and field trips to historical sites. Event information can be found at www.ColumbusState.edu/history.

New Programs Unveiled

Competitive Premedical Studies Program Launches

The Competitive Premedical Studies Program, a new initiative of the College of Letters and Sciences overseen by Associate Professor Katey Hughes, welcomed its first students in August 2013. The program is designed to position more students on a successful path to medical school, helping to address the statewide and national physician shortage. The program's mission is to provide high achieving students with exceptional medical school preparation. Highlights of the program include free MCAT preparation, connections to current medical students and staff, mentoring by area physicians, and an environment that fosters a positive group dynamic among students with similar academic goals. The inaugural cohort of seven students includes four Georgia residents, two from North Carolina, and one from Ohio. The



program can accommodate up to fifteen freshmen each year who meet specific selection criteria. More information can be found at www.ColumbusState.edu/premed.



Carson McCullers Literary Awards

The Department of English is proud to announce the creation of The Carson McCullers Literary Awards, to promote and recognize writing by students at CSU and in local high schools. The awards are named for Carson McCullers who was born Lula Carson Smith in Columbus, Georgia, on February 19, 1917. Most famous for her novels *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*, *Reflections in a Golden Eye*, *The Member of the Wedding*, *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe*, and *Clock Without Hands*, McCullers was also a playwright and a short story writer. Her small but significant body of work includes five novels, two plays, twenty short stories, over two dozen nonfiction pieces, a book of children's verse, a small number of poems, and an unfinished autobiography. She died in 1967 at age 50.

Awards will be given in four categories: **The Brick Road Greear Prize for Poetry**, **The Paul Hackett Award for Creative Nonfiction**, **The Orlene Jones Poulsen Award for Fiction**, and **The Naartjie Multimedia Award for Expository Writing**. Each category will have four awards (two for CSU students and two for Columbus-area high school students): First Place includes \$150 and publication in Arden, CSU's award-winning literary journal; Honorable Mention winners will receive \$100. Entries are due February 1, 2014, and winners will be announced in early March. Visit www.ColumbusState.edu/English and click on 'Newsletter' for more information or select 'Carson McCullers Literary Awards Submissions' to submit entries.

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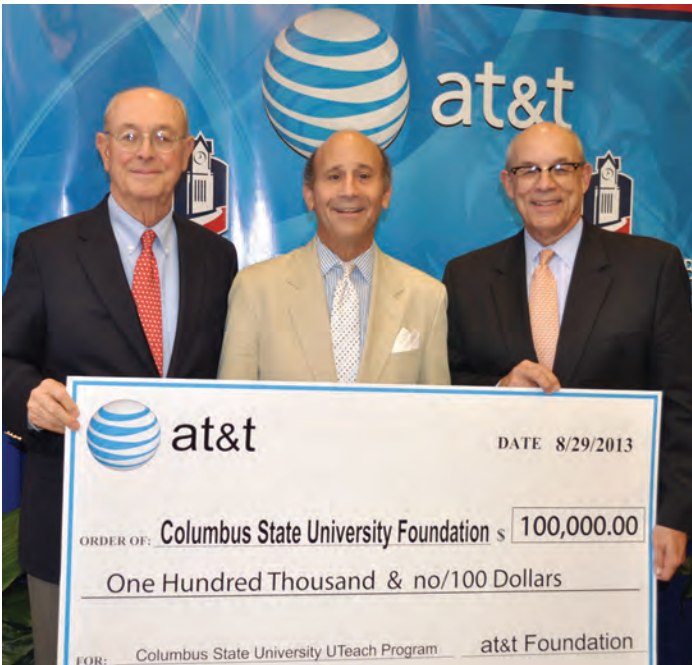
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Strides in STEM

(Science, Technology,
Engineering and Math)



(l-r) Jim Blanchard, a CSU trustee and local AT&T board member; CSU President Tim Mescon; and Terry Smith, regional AT&T manager.

The AT&T Foundation has contributed \$100,000 for CSU's UTeach program and STEM Honors Camp over the next two years. This builds on AT&T's previous \$25,000 contribution to support UTeach Columbus in 2012. UTeach is an innovative math and science teacher preparation program that aims to improve P-12 student learning in STEM, which will enhance our STEM workforce and boost the economy of our state.



Participants of the 2013 STEM Honors Camp stir up some fun with intern Kameron Griffin during a chemistry lab activity.

The STEM Honors Camp is a residential summer camp hosted at Columbus State University to encourage students' interest in STEM-related careers. Over 600 high schools from across Georgia are invited to nominate their best rising juniors and seniors for the program. Camp participants live on campus while engaging in hands-on STEM workshops, touring STEM-related industries, working on small group research projects and learning about college life.

Columbus Community Geography Center Benefits Regional Partners

Over the past year, the Columbus Community Geography Center (CCGC), a community-driven collaboration housed within CSU's Department of History and Geography and coordinated by Associate Professor Amanda Rees, worked with 16 community organizations on various initiatives in Columbus and surrounding counties. CCGC projects involved students from First Year Learning Community, Honors, and upper level geography and history courses. Working with local non-profit, community, and government organizations, the CCGC uses geographical thinking to research, map, analyze, and provide fresh and insightful perspectives on issues in the Columbus region. For more information, visit www.ColumbusState.edu/history.

Recent CCGC projects:

- Documented history of the African American commercial district in downtown Columbus over the first half of the twentieth century for web publication.
- Spatial analysis and report of food pantry locations and accessibility in Columbus.
- Food accessibility and community gardening roundtable discussion with community partners, including Mayor's Office, Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley, Parks and Recreation Department, Feeding the Valley Food Bank, Midtown Inc., Wynnton Neighborhood Network and Junior League, to conduct a SWAT analysis of food accessibility in Columbus.
- Historic driving tour narrative, brochure and map of Talbotton, Talbot County.



Students conducted urban geography fieldwork to prepare spatial reasoning lesson plans for youth in a Girls Inc. summer camp program.

Welcome to Our New Faculty!



Dr. Samrat Thapa



Dr. Andrew Puckett



Dr. Lavi Zamstein



Dr. Marlene Allen



Dr. Steven Gill

Chemistry –

Dr. Samrat Thapa, temporary lecturer, specializes in biochemistry and his research involves determining the oxidation levels of methionine 388 in thrombomodulin in smokers and non-smokers.

Earth and Space Sciences –

Dr. Andrew Puckett, assistant professor of physics, comes to us from the University of Alaska, Anchorage, where he served as director of UAA's Planetarium & Visualization Theater and assistant professor of physics and astronomy. His research interests include the discovery, tracking, and characterization of small bodies in our solar system through data-mining and observation.

Dr. Lavi Zamstein, assistant professor of engineering, comes to us from Santa Fe College, where he was an adjunct professor of mathematics. Dr. Zamstein's research interests include artificial intelligence and robotics, notably in reinforcement learning of mobile robots. He teaches electrical engineering and robotics and is developing CSU's robotics program.

English –

Dr. Marlene Allen joins us as an assistant professor, specializing in ethnic American literature. Dr. Allen's research focuses on African American literature, including African American science and fantasy fiction.

History & Geography –

Dr. Steven Gill, temporary lecturer, teaches World History surveys and an advanced course in European history. He is currently working on a project dealing with seventeenth-century royal servants who occupied a peculiar space and negotiated a unique position as English subjects in an era of rapid state formation.

Dr. Ilaria Scaglia joins us as an assistant professor specializing in Asian and international history. She teaches surveys of World History from 1500 to the present, as well as advanced courses in Historical Methods, International Relations, and Asian History.

Mathematics –

Dr. Guihong Fan is an assistant professor with research interests in Dynamical Systems and Applications in Biology and Epidemiology.

Dr. Houbin Fang, assistant professor, has research interests in math education. He has taught mathematics at international high schools for a number of years.

Modern and Classical Languages –

Dr. Bobby Nixon, assistant professor of Spanish, has research and pedagogical interests in Medieval and Early Modern literature and cultures of Iberia, oral theory, and critical thinking and composition.

Political Science and Public Administration –

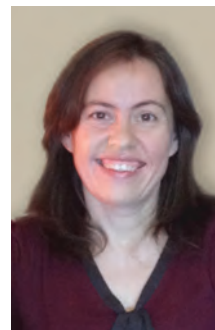
Dr. Thomas Simpson, lecturer in the Public Administration program, brings a broad background in public management to his teaching and research, having served as a City Manager in Grenada, Mississippi, as a public sector consultant, and as the Executive Director of the Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network. His research interests include public policy creation and execution.

Center for International Education –

Dr. Dorin Andrica is the Mildred Miller Fort Foundation Visiting Scholar in European Studies and visiting professor in the Department of Mathematics and Philosophy. He is from the Universitatea de Babe Bolyai, Cluj, Romania, where he is a professor in the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science. He has served as a visiting scholar in a number of universities around the world. His primary interests include Critical Point Theory and Applications, Nonlinear Analysis, Approximations Theory, and Elementary Mathematics.

Command College –

Mr. Tommy Freeman, lecturer, comes to CSU with 36 years of law enforcement experience. He served as Chief of Police in North Georgia for five years.



Dr. Ilaria Scaglia



Dr. Guihong Fan



Dr. Houbin Fang



Dr. Bobby Nixon



Dr. Dorin Andrica

Return Service Requested

Upcoming Events

February 1, 2014 – Submission deadline for the Carson McCullers Literary Awards (4 categories: poetry, creative nonfiction, fiction, and expository writing).
See page 5 for details.

Free public readings by visiting poets (part of the Georgia Poetry Circuit) at **7:30 p.m.** (location TBA):

February 3, 2014 – Andrew Hudgins

April 1, 2014 – Sandra Beasley

February 6, 2014 (to be confirmed) – 7:30 p.m.
The Col. Richard R. Hallock Lecture Series presents Ambassador Vicki Huddleston, foreign policy advisor and former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Africa in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, for a presentation relating to our national security (Blanchard Hall, Cunningham Center). Free and open to the public.

March 22, 2014 – 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Marathon Reading of Carson McCullers' *The Member of the Wedding!*: An Artbeat Event (Broadway and 11th Stage, Columbus, GA).

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