

# Letters & Sciences Today



COLUMBUS STATE  
UNIVERSITY

College of Letters and Sciences  
Highlights Vol. 4 - Winter 2014

## **Event Horizon Comes to CSU**

(page 10)

**Welcoming Dr. Dennis Rome, Dean**  
(page 2)

**New Masters of  
Science Program**  
(page 3)

**Inheriting The  
Nyack House**  
(page 13)

**Our Students Shine**  
(page 5)

**Building Upgrades  
Enhance Campus**  
(back cover)

**Also in this Issue** President's Farewell - 2 | Recent Events - 4 | Alumni Awardees - 8

UTeach Graduate Spotlight - 9 | Faculty Excellence - 11 | Department Spotlight: English - 13 | New Faculty - 15



## New Dean's Welcome



**Dr. Dennis Rome**

It is an absolute honor and privilege to serve as the Dean of the College of Letters and Sciences and I extend my very warm thanks to the faculty, staff and students in our College and University for their vote of confidence in my leadership. As former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt famously said, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." It gives me great pleasure to watch the dreams of our students, faculty and staff unfold in our College as we prepare our students for personal and professional success.

One of the highlights of my job so far has been the opportunity to meet the very fine and talented people of Columbus -- many who have CSU connections. What is most impressive about these visits is the high level of benevolence and the unyielding willingness of alumni to give back to CSU. In the pages that follow, you will read about this fine tradition and how through your giving and the hard work of our students, faculty and staff we are creating the premier College of first choice for students throughout the great state of Georgia. I thank you for helping strengthen the legacy of our wonderful College and institution in all you do.

## Saying Farewell to Our President



CSU President Dr. Tim Mescon is retiring from CSU this year to become the inaugural Senior Vice President and Chief Officer for Europe, the Middle East and Africa for AACSB International—The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business—where he will be helping to position business colleges in those areas of the world for excellence and growth.

The restructuring of CSU colleges in 2010, under Dr. Mescon's leadership, resulted in the formation of the College of Letters and Sciences – a monumental change and a turning point for the university. We sat down with Dr. Mescon to discuss his memories of the College and what he sees going forward.

***The university has grown in many ways during your time here. The College of Letters and Sciences didn't exist before you arrived. What were your experiences in developing and growing the College?***

"First of all, I'm very proud to have Dean Dennis Rome here. He brings great energy, great experience, and the fact that he was a tenured faculty member at a globally-renowned university, Indiana University, was very important. He has great senior administrative experience in the Wisconsin system. He brings a fresh set of eyes to Letters and Sciences, which is our largest college here in terms of enrollment and graduates.

"You'll notice, a lot of the focus of our time, energy, and effort on the main campus of the university is on facilities that accommodate and support the needs of Letters and Sciences... all incredibly critical. The College needed some attention... We're excited about Dean Rome working with the department chairs, the faculty, to map the strategy going forward for the College and how these new and reinvigorated facilities tie into that."

***Aside from the renovations that are happening, what are some of the aspects of the College of Letters and Sciences that you're excited to see in the future?***

"Yesterday, I viewed a presentation on the newly-expanded Master of Science program in the College of Letters and Sciences and we're super excited about this because now it extends the reach of that program across all of the sciences: environmental science, geosciences, biology, and hopefully chemistry. Maybe in the future, astronomy or space science. Already we're seeing a great buzz about that program and we're really excited about that."

***Speaking of growth in programs, we started the Competitive Premedical Studies Program in Letters and Sciences last year. What part did you have in that?***

"Well, our Provost was very supportive in launching this competitive premedical program and it came from a concept and idea that Dr. Kathleen Hughes brought to him. Incubating innovation and creativity among faculty

### Letters & Sciences Today

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is a hallmark of engaged universities. She had a great idea, passion and energy. The Provost, the College, the University are all resourcing this program, and I think it's an important strategy because it recruits increasingly more academically competitive students who know upon matriculation that they're looking to go to medical school."

***Considering the College of Letters and Sciences, which includes the humanities, sciences, and social sciences, what do you think makes it so important to the university?***

"Letters and Sciences represents the cornerstone of any strong university, and so continuing to recruit talented, aspirational young faculty and resource them appropriately, connect them with our greater, global strategy to bring those messages to our students as the students take them abroad and embed them with those programs. It's pivotal to the heart and soul of the university. We're committed to reinforcing the importance, the value, the strength of the Letters and Sciences as the core preparation for all of the Baccalaureate students at our university."

***Students who study abroad have so many great experiences, and many study abroad programs are through the College of Letters and Sciences. What has***

***your experience growing the study abroad program and the Center for International Education been like?***

"Well, first of all, Dr. Neal McCrillis has done a great job, but I have to commend our students. Within the last six years, they committed to support our International Fee. It is that fee, which is underwritten by the students, which created that fund of scholarship support that helps offset the costs that students incur in travelling abroad. At the same time, our faculty have gotten more excited about it. We've done some great renovations and improvements at our Spencer House in Oxford. We've cultivated new partnerships around the world, and faculty have done that. And, what we're doing is now being recognized this fall by NAFSA with the Senator Paul Simon award as one of the top International Education Programs in the nation. It's a collective effort, and I don't think we're done yet. Dr. McCrillis knows that our goal is to see 5% of our students studying abroad every year, which is a huge number, but we're well on our way."

***Do you have any parting words you'd like to share?***

"I'm very excited about the future of the University. We're in great hands academically, with Dr. Hackett, our Provost, and our Deans. I'm looking forward to following the great successes of the University."

## New M.S. in Natural Sciences Program

The College of Letters and Sciences now offers a Master of Science in Natural Sciences in three different tracks – Biology, Environmental Sciences or Geosciences. This two-year program emphasizes development of a broadly-based scientific background as well as research skills necessary to design and conduct original research.

Students will have access to broadly-trained faculty with diverse areas of expertise with Southeastern, National and International research programs, well-equipped laboratories as well as access to protected natural areas, and a wide variety of study abroad courses that allow students to conduct research projects abroad. They will also be considered for a graduate assistantship that provides tuition and a competitive stipend. For additional information, please contact Dr. Kevin Burgess, program director, at [Burgess\\_Kevin@ColumbusState.edu](mailto:Burgess_Kevin@ColumbusState.edu) or visit <http://gradschool.columbusstate.edu/cols/natural-sciences/naturalsciences-ms.php>.



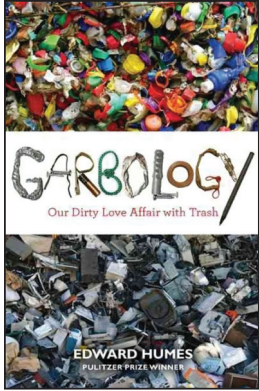
**Samantha Worthy (on left), a graduate student in the MS in Natural Sciences Biology Track, gathers plant data at her research site in Ecuador.**



## RECENT EVENTS

### "We're Trashy People": Garbology Author Ed Humes Visits Campus

What do we do with our volumes of paper, to-go containers, and plastic water bottles that are designed to disappear? This year, the Department of Basic Studies at CSU was curious about this issue and decided to spread



that curiosity and the understanding of trash via the 2014 Common Reading. Every year, a book is selected by the department to encourage

cross-disciplinary studies and to promote academic excellence; it is distributed to freshman students for incorporation into their first-year courses. For 2014, the department chose *Garbology: Our Dirty Love Affair with Trash*, by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Edward Humes. As is customary for the Common Reading, Humes was invited to campus to speak on his book and answer questions.

Humes spoke to a packed house of students, faculty, and staff, eschewing their lunch hour for the rare opportunity to hear an award-winning author speak. Humes won the Pulitzer in 1989 for his investigative stories on the American military, and afterward turned to nonfiction books such as *No Matter How Loud I Shout: A Year in the Life of Juvenile Court* and *Mississippi Mud: Southern Justice and the Dixie Mafia*. His writing is immersive, meticulously researched, and, above all else, exciting to read.

His speech was no less exciting. Humes spent time researching the Columbus area, so not only did he share research and examples from *Garbology*, but also closer-to-home examples of a dirty trash addiction. "We Americans are a very trashy

people," Humes stated. "It's a habit... not unavoidable." Here in Columbus, especially, we are very trashy people. Compared to the national average of about 24%, Columbus only recycles 5.5% of its waste. "I see an enormous opportunity in this," Humes said of our low rates. Where other cities may be closer to the national average or above it and struggling to increase their recycling by even one more percent, Humes sees the potential for explosive growth in recycling initiatives in Columbus.

And where does Humes see this push for cleaner living beginning? At Columbus State University. Humes shared stories of several universities across the nation that have been at the forefront of recycling technology for their campus and the communities that surround them. With just a little push, Humes believes, we could see Columbus State University completely change its trash habit for the better.

### Dept. of History and Geography Brings *The Bird* to Campus

Earlier this fall, Dr. Gary Sprayberry of the History and Geography department and Mr. Joseph Miller of the English department, worked together to bring a travelling exhibit from Georgia State University to Columbus State University, along with some special guests. The exhibit covered the history of one of the longest-running underground newspapers of the late 1960's and early 1970's. *The Great Speckled Bird*, based in Atlanta, Georgia, was founded in 1968 and ran through 1976, never missing a single weekly issue.

*The Bird*, as it was commonly called, published articles on music, politics, and the counterculture of the era. At its height, it was the largest paid weekly newspaper in Atlanta, a real victory for an anti-war rag published in a city where pro-war sentiments were painted on the sides of buildings and on billboards. Known for its distinctive typeface and colorful covers, it wasn't difficult to spot *The Bird* from a distance--something that also made it difficult to circulate.

For being so politically progressive,



*The Bird* faced pushback from more conservative community members and institutions. It was banned from several high schools, and even forbidden in the offices of the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, though it was reportedly popular among AJC journalists. The biggest obstacle for *The Bird* came in 1972, when the office was firebombed. No one was hurt in the attack and the perpetrator was never found. Despite much equipment and paperwork being destroyed, the next issue of *The Bird* was released only days later.

Dr. Sprayberry hosted a speaker panel (pictured above) at CSU with Tom and Stephanie Coffin, two of the founding members of *The Bird*, and Steve Wise, who joined the paper in its second year and played an important role in its success. Dr. Sprayberry led the discussion, while the three panelists shared memories of that exciting era. Afterwards, audience members were allowed to ask questions, including some from faculty and locals who experienced the newspaper firsthand.

"Having former staff writers for the *Great Speckled Bird* on campus was a highlight of my time at CSU," shared Dr. Sprayberry. "I've spent the last fifteen years researching and writing about the 1960s, so to have the opportunity to meet and talk with people who wrote for one of the best underground newspapers in the country was a transcendent experience." He was not alone in his excitement, as the speakers also met with history majors and writers for CSU's own *Saber* newspaper to discuss their experiences.

This event was made possible by an Interdisciplinary Initiative Grant from the Faculty Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning and the hard work of Dr. Sprayberry and Mr. Miller. The entire GSU collection of *The Bird* is digitized and available online.



## Student Spotlights

### Griffin Rides to India with Chemistry

Kameron Griffin, a senior Chemistry major on the Professional Track, has a long list of accomplishments for just an undergraduate. Not only does she balance a full schedule of difficult Chemistry courses with her responsibilities as the president of Honoris Causa--the award-winning student organization within the Honors College--she also conducts research alongside professors. One such project was recently published in the *Journal of Chemical Education*.

"It took probably a year," Griffin said of the research. "We tested a new method for examining how many minerals are in vitamin tablets, a method that uses electrochemistry that's more efficient and cost-effective." Griffin's interest in the project was sparked by her professor, Dr. Rajeev Dabke. "I was interested in it because Dr. Dabke was interested in it. I thought it must be exciting if he's so excited." Griffin cites her professors as being sources of encouragement and support.

"I have to do my honors thesis this year, and I went to Dr. Jackson [the chair of the Department of Chemistry] and told him I needed help figuring out what I wanted to do, because there aren't any faculty here with a focus on Biochemistry--which is what I want to do--and he put me in touch with new faculty before they'd even arrived... The faculty are all very involved and they all really care," Griffin explained. "You're never alone. You never have to do anything by yourself."



**Kameron Griffin, second from left, braved new experiences during her study abroad trip to India.**

Her trip to Bangalore, India was no exception. The eight Chemistry students who traveled to India were accompanied by Dr. Anil Banerjee, a native Indian, and Kimberly Lawrence, the Study Abroad Coordinator for the Center for International Education. This was the first time many of the students had visited India and, for Griffin, the first time she had truly been outside the United States. "He

would get us into situations that took us out of our comfort zones," Griffin said of Dr. Banerjee. "We visited a couple of Hindu temples and participated in Hindu ways of worship. It was awesome."

"The single most exciting thing I did in India didn't even involve chemistry," Griffin said. "We went to this Hindu temple called the Bull Temple, and there were street vendors there. One of them was carving elephants out of marble and we spoke to him. He was very good at speaking English. He told us he'd learned it from the tourists, along with French, so I began to have a conversation with this Indian man, in India, speaking in French. It was very multicultural."

Griffin is excited to see the Department of Chemistry grow, hoping to see a focus in Biochemistry added to the curriculum, but she's also excited to see where it is today. The B.S. Professional Track was recently certified by the American Chemical Society, an impressive accomplishment for a small program at a relatively small institution. Griffin hopes this will give her an edge when applying to graduate schools and for jobs in the field. With the experiences, skills, and support she has received from the Department of Chemistry, she should have no trouble finding future success.

### Harstad Rocks Out with AIPG

Rylleigh Harstad is a senior at CSU, but she wasn't always a geology major. When she came to CSU, Harstad was a biology major and intended to pursue veterinary school. In May of 2012, though, she was convinced by her boyfriend to travel out west with Professor Clint Barineau. "I just fell in love with it," she said of her trip across Yellowstone National Park, the Grand Tetons, and other Western vistas. "It was incredible... We were living out of vans for two weeks, camping; it was a lot of fun." Dr. Barineau conducts this 15-day trip every May for graduate and undergraduate students studying geology, meteorology, astronomy, and other courses.

Since joining the Department of Earth and Space Sciences, Harstad has made a name for herself. She has presented research both on campus and off at several geology conferences, including a trip to Arizona in September 2014, paid for by the American Institute of Professional Geologists as part of a new student chapter award, which CSU's chapter won. Her senior thesis is focused on the Appalachian Mountains and a fault line located near Alexander City, Alabama, and is supported by Dr. Barineau, a renowned scholar on Appalachian geology.

"He's an incredible professor. Our professors are absolutely amazing. If they weren't here, I wouldn't be here," Harstad shared. "I will be staying here for my Master's. People ask me why I'm not going elsewhere, and I tell them it's the professors. This is my first choice for my Master's degree, and if there was a doctoral program under Dr. Barineau, I would do it."

The CSU AIPG student chapter was started in 2011 by several geology majors who have since graduated and



are pursuing jobs in their field. Since then, the students in AIPG hold bake sales and other fundraisers to help sponsor their research, and they make semesterly camping trips for an opportunity to experience the camaraderie of the group and the world they study. Their 2014 Student Chapter of the Year award was built on the framework of this community. "The application process was very long," Harstad shared, giving thanks to the hard work of the



**Rylleigh Harstad receives the inaugural AIPG student chapter award presented to CSU**

president who came before her, Salvador Espinosa.

They were informed of their win at their first meeting in fall 2014, where they were surprised by both the Georgia section and national presidents of AIPG who came to the meeting unannounced, carrying an award plaque and a check for \$500 for the student chapter. Dr. William Frazier, the faculty advisor

and chair of the Earth and Space Sciences department, was also present. "All of us in the Department of Earth and Spaces are proud of these young people," Dr. Frazier shared. "They worked very hard to earn the award and it was well deserved. It is an honor not only for the students but also for our department, the College of Letters and Science and for CSU."

The students hope that this award will help the organization grow both in size and ability. Their most limiting factor certainly isn't enthusiasm (speak to Harstad for even a minute about her work and you'll be blown away by her excitement), but it may be their equipment. The geology research lab at CSU is in need of some reinvigoration. "Some of the equipment is as old as the university itself," Harstad said. "We would love something like a mass spectrometer, but those can be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars." If they win the award again next year, they may be able to take all four of the chapter's officers to Alaska for the annual AIPG conference, which will definitely take more than just a few bake sales.

## **Premedical Practice Makes Perfect for Browning**

Now in its second year, the Competitive Premedical Studies Program at CSU is poised to join the forefront of university programs in the region. While still a best-kept secret among many students at CSU, some students have already begun taking advantage of the program. One such student, Brittney Browning, was among last year's inaugural freshmen cohort.

"I knew before coming in to my freshman year that I wanted to be a part of a pre-med program," said Browning, "and that's one of my main reasons for choosing CSU." Even though CSU's program is relatively new, it is very selective. With a maximum of fifteen slots each year for incoming freshmen, the university has already seen students coming from as far as Ohio looking for the resources and opportunities that pre-med programs offer. Browning comes from much closer to Columbus, moving here from Douglasville, Georgia.

Along with her commitments to the pre-med program, Browning is also involved with the CSU Servant Leadership program and is a member of the Honors College.

She is also looking to become more involved with AMSA, the American Medical Student Association. Within the past year, Browning has also volunteered with Columbus Regional Healthcare and MercyMed. Over the summer, she participated in research coordinated by Emory and Georgia Tech (**pictured at right**).

How can one student take on so much early in their studies? Two words: faculty support. "The support is amazing.

Whenever I need to talk to Dr. Katey Hughes, the director of the program, I can always come and talk to her. Her door is always open. The same goes for Dr. Cindy Ticknor [Interim Dean of the Honors College]. They're always willing to talk and help you out and lend a helping hand. The support comes in handy."

Browning's level of involvement and vision for the future of the program make her stand out as one of CSU's finest. With her mind set on a future as an OB-GYN or pediatrician, Browning has already made herself known to doctors and physicians in Columbus and Atlanta through her extensive volunteer experience. For all medical school hopefuls, though, the MCAT is always a source of stress. The pre-med program provides many advantages, including free MCAT preparatory classes and a senior-year stipend. While Browning has taken advantage of the opportunities presented to her and networked, she knows that the future of the program depends on community support.

For more information on the program, and how you can get involved, visit [premed.columbusstate.edu](http://premed.columbusstate.edu).



## **Brown has His Eyes on the Stars**

The Coca-Cola Space Science Center (CCSSC) has been a special part of CSU and the Earth and Space Sci-

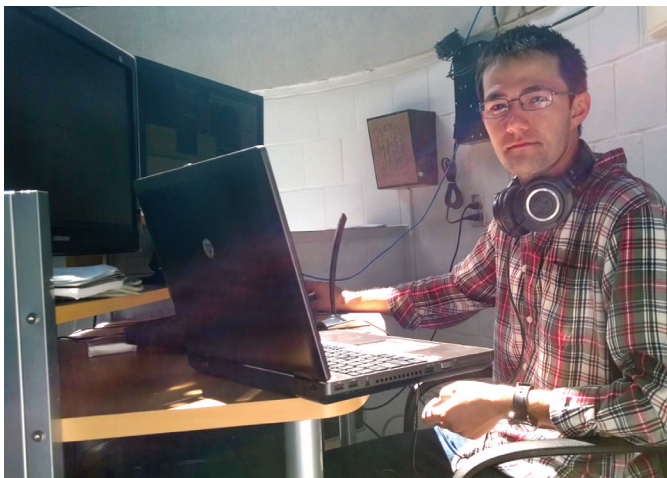
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ences Department for years, but it recently garnered significant attention. In July 2014, the CCSSC hosted the annual student government meeting for the University System of Georgia, including the Board of Regents. At the same time, CSU Astrophysics and Planetary Geology major, Johnny Brown, was conducting a remote live observing session for graduate students from the American Museum of Natural History.

"I was a little nervous, I'm not going to lie," Brown said of his experience leading the observing. The CCSSC leads remote observation sessions often for students around the world. The unique equipment on-site allows for staff members to webcast their telescope feed to anyone interested in viewing, even hobbyists. The American Museum of Natural History, though, was a special occasion. Brown was focused and dedicated to his presentation of the moons of Saturn when another special observer entered the room.

"The Chancellor of the University System of Georgia was very impressed, I was told," Brown said. The Board of Regents was led on a tour of the facility, which included, unexpectedly, Brown's own webcast. While the stress of being viewed by both the Chancellor and professional astrophysicists could be high for most students, Johnny Brown wasn't too concerned. He believes not only in the training he's received while working at the



**Johnny Brown studies the solar system at the MeadWestvaco Observatory inside CSU's Coca-Cola Space Science Center.**

CCSSC, but also in the dedication and support of his professors and the center's staff, and most importantly in the equipment at the observatory, which is state-of-the-art. Their solar observing technology is at the forefront of an exciting field of study.

More information about the Coca-Cola Space Science Center can be found online at their website, [www.ccssc.org](http://www.ccssc.org), including information about upcoming events, ways to contribute, live-casts of their observation telescopes, and lesson plans for teachers anywhere in the world interested in sharing the exciting discoveries being made here in Columbus, GA.

## Spotlight on New Faculty: Dr. Carolina Peláez-Morales

Dr. Carolina Peláez-Morales brings expertise and experience to the Department of English this year. After completing her Modern Languages undergraduate degree in Colombia, Dr. Morales headed far north to Eastern Illinois University where she studied English Literature as the only international student in her program. From there, she attended Purdue University for her doctorate in English as a Second Language, a subject she was intimately familiar with, and Second Language Writing, or L2 Writing.

"I'm very open about who I am, where I come from.



I don't want to conceal or hide that I'm a non-native English speaker," Dr. Morales explained. "I've gone through the process of learning the language formally, and for my freshmen I think that motivates them in a way of saying it is possible for them to become proficient."

Dr. Morales teaches introductory composition, grammar, and linguistics in her first semester at CSU. Her formal education in English gives her expertise that many native speakers may not have. "Part of choosing ESL as a focus was personal," she shared. "In terms of my research interests, it isn't about ESL per se, but about writing in ESL. Your experiences shape who you are, and for me, going into literature and writing brought my understanding of language from being an ESL teacher to being an English educator."

Composition education is different all over the world, and Dr. Morales explained that it is far more important in the United States than in many other countries. "The emphasis on writing that we have in the U.S. is stronger than anywhere else, and outside of the English speaking world we don't have required classes in writing in our native languages. I never even took a writing class in my undergraduate coursework. L2 Writing isn't just about learning English, it's about learning composition."

While composition, grammar, and linguistics don't sound very exciting for most, Dr. Morales believes they allow students to bring their education outside of the classroom into daily experiences. "The only way this makes sense," she says, "is if you try to see language as it's used around you, and you develop that awareness. You see a phenomenon and you think 'What can I learn about that?'"

Dr. Morales describes her students as dedicated to learning. Even when she feels the classes are challenging and students may be struggling, they demonstrate positive attitudes and a commitment to the coursework. This atmosphere of dedicated learning, combined with the supportive and welcoming faculty of the English Department, has made Dr. Morales excited for her future at CSU.



# HONORING LETTERS AND SCIENCES ALUMNI

## UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AWARDS

### Col. (Ret.) Barry Creed – 2014 Distinguished Alumnus in Military Service

Col. (Ret.) Barry Creed recently retired after 32 years of government service, including military and civil service. He is an ROTC graduate of CSU and earned two Bachelor of Science degrees through the university, a B.S. in Criminal Justice in 1978 and a B.S. in General Studies in 1984. In addition, Creed earned a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Troy University as well as a M.S. in Strategic Studies from the Army War College. Creed is also a Vietnam era veteran, serving in the United States Air Force from 1971-75. Upon graduation in 1978, Creed was a patrolman with the City of Columbus Police until 1983, when he was commissioned as a Military Police Officer. He served in numerous military police active and reserve units prior to and during his tenure in the federal civil service work force. He retired from the Army Reserve after 30 years in 2011. Creed held several positions in different divisions of the Department of Defense, culminating as the Deputy Chief, Force Analysis Branch, Joint Staff J31 in Norfolk, VA.

Prior to his appointment to government service, Creed served as a Virginia State Trooper and was an adjunct professor of Criminal Justice with St. Leo University at Fort Eustis in Newport News, VA.

Creed served with the U.S. Army through both Operation Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom. For his service, he received several awards and commendations, including two Bronze Stars, one in 1991 and another in 2009.

### Dr. Peter Rumm – 2014 Excellence in Alumni Achievement

Peter Rumm, M.D., was an ROTC graduate of CSU who earned his Bachelor of Science degree, magna cum laude, in 1981. He earned his Medical Doctorate from the Medical College of Georgia School of Medicine in 1986. Afterwards, he served as a Physician, Service Chief, Hospital and Clinic Commander, and Epidemiologist for the U.S. Army in Europe and abroad, including serving in Germany and Panama, from 1986 to 1999. During this time, Dr. Rumm also received his Masters of Public Health from the University of Washington, graduating in 1997. While at UW, he published award-winning research on child neglect and abuse. Dr. Rumm currently serves as Chief Clinical Director in the Division of Surgery for

Orthopedic and Restorative Devices at the FDA, as well as part-time editor of reports and policies for the U.S. Surgeon General. Before beginning work with the FDA in 2007, Dr. Rumm worked for three years at Drexel University as the director of the Center for Public Health Readiness and Communication, dealing with terrorism, flu and disaster preparation, and risk communication. He has also served on the National Advisory Committee on Children and Terrorism.

Dr. Rumm has received tremendous honors for his work in the medical field, including over 30 military or public health commendations, medals, and awards.

## COLLEGE ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS

### Humanities – Christy Grigsby (B.S. English Secondary Education, 2007)

Ms. Grigsby has taught English at Early College Academy of Columbus since 2009, and she was honored as the school's Teacher of the Year in 2012-2013. She also collaborates with CSU's English Secondary Education program to help mentor future teachers. Her teaching excellence has been recognized at the local, state, and national levels. Ms. Grigsby was recently selected as the National Council of Teachers of English 2013 High School Teacher of Excellence Award winner. She was chosen by the Muscogee Educational Excellence Foundation to attend a prestigious professional development program at Harvard University in July 2014.



Dean Dennis Rome, center, recently presented alumni achievement awards to Col. (Ret.) Barry Creed, left, and Dr. Peter Rumm, right.

### Sciences & Mathematics – Dorothy Cheruiyot, Ph.D. (B.S. Biology, 2004)

Dr. Cheruiyot received her M.S. in Environmental Science from CSU in 2009 and completed her Ph.D. in



Biological Sciences at Auburn University in 2012. She taught several classes at CSU from 2006-2012. Dr. Cheruiyot is a Biology and Environmental Science high school teacher at Brookstone School in Columbus. She is also the head coach for Cross Country and assistant coach for Track and Field. Since her childhood in Kenya, she has been passionate about running and has supported many charities, including House of Heroes and the Soldier Marathon, through various long distance races. Dr. Cheruiyot has published her research in several scientific publications, including *BIOS* and *Journal of Chemical Ecology*, and has presented at regional and national conferences.



#### **Social Sciences – Daniel Trussell, Ph.D.** (B.A. Psychology, 1974)

Dr. Trussell earned his M.Ed. in Community Counseling in 1978 from Georgia State University, his Ph.D. in Psychology from California Coast University in 1992, and an M.B.A. in Health Care Management from the University of Phoenix in 2006. Dr. Trussell has excelled in his professional career in various roles related to clinical and program management and executive management in behavioral health organizations, as well as active involvement in policy change related to mental health service delivery with state government leaders. Dr. Trussell currently serves as CEO of Webstar Behavioral Health in Atlanta, and is Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Global Presence Foundation, an international non-profit organization. He is the author of *How Families Flourish: A Character Building Guide for Developing a Strengths-Based Family using Positive Psychology* (2012).



## **First UTeach Grads Show Success**



**UTeach graduate, Tim Jones (center), enjoys sharing his love for science with his students.**

The College of Letters and Sciences and the College of Education and Health Professions collaborate on the innovative UTeach program at CSU. This program provides science and math students interested in the education field with teacher certification along with their degree. Students receive hands-on experience in a classroom environment in their first semester and, best of all, they can try the program for free – if they successfully complete the introductory courses, they are reimbursed the cost. This unique program just graduated its first two students and both were offered teaching positions within days of graduation.

One of these students, Tim Jones, was offered two positions. "Chattahoochee County called me first for an interview, then offered me a job on the spot," Jones shared in an interview a few weeks into the school year. He had a similar experience in Harris County the next day, where he interviewed with the principal of Harris County High School, who gave him a tour of the school, followed by a job offer.

Jones now teaches biology and physical science to 78 students at HCHS. "I do not think any program can fully prepare you for what it's like to be a teacher full-time," Jones said of his time in UTeach. "However, UTeach definitely provides a solid foundation for students and I felt decently prepared. Looking at some of my peers in other programs, I know that I have been much better prepared than they have." Not only was Jones prepared, he's also still supported by the program. Alumni of the UTeach program are provided with two years of support from the program's Master Teachers, with access to many resources and advice to help with the transition to the classroom.

Jones thanks two CSU faculty members, Gail Sinkule and Dr. Kim Shaw, for his success in the program. Both were sources of support and opportunities for Jones, who had many teaching opportunities and received teaching internships through the program, including work with a homeschool group and the STEM Honors Camp. All these opportunities helped him to stand out against other teacher candidates. Jones stressed that the internships, especially, helped him to grow professionally as an educator.

Looking forward, Jones hopes to see the UTeach program offer more internship opportunities and homeschool labs for participants. Most importantly, he wants more CSU students to take advantage of the program. "It is an amazing program to be a part of. The faculty and staff bend over backwards for their students. The UTeach program feels like family. Everyone works together for the common goal of making the education for our youth better. They definitely prepare you for the real world classroom. For that, I am truly thankful."

For more information about UTeach, visit [ColumbusState.edu/UTeach](http://ColumbusState.edu/UTeach).

## COVER STORY

### Collaboration Between Student and Internationally Renowned Sculptor Brings *Event Horizon* to LeNoir Hall

LeNoir Hall, home to CSU's science labs and departments of Biology and Chemistry, is well-known for its large, open stairwell, which forms the heart of the building. On the ground floor, tables of students can be seen studying together and student research posters line the walls. The empty space in the stairwell seemed like it was calling out to be utilized.

Associate Dean Pat McHenry was serving as Interim Dean of the College of Letters and Sciences last school year when he discussed the building with several faculty members. Clint Barineau, associate professor of geology, had an idea: why not hang something in that space?



The sculpture, with temporary supporting framework, is loaded for transport from its assembly site at the Department of Art at CSU's RiverPark campus to its final home on the main campus.

Dr. McHenry approached art professors Hannah Israel and Michael McFalls and asked for feedback on the space and ideas relating to how to fill it. Initially, they discussed creating special projects for art students or finding a student sculpture which could properly fit the void. Then, in summer 2014, Professor McFalls suggested collaboration through the Department of Art's annual visiting artist program. Through the program, a visiting artist gives presentations and lectures for interested students and produces a piece of work that is inspired by their time spent at CSU. This year, the department had already arranged for renowned Australian sculptor, David Jensz, to visit from Australian National University in Canberra. Jensz is known for his use of industrial material in his large-scale sculptures.

McHenry and McFalls took pictures of the space for Jensz shortly before his arrival in August to enable him to start planning the sculpture. He visited the space as soon as possible to take measurements and to feel it out in person, then embarked on a week of planning. Once he was sure of the best approach, Jensz sent in a request for supplies: hundreds of feet of clear, plastic tubing and thousands of zip-ties.

Jensz was assisted on the project by art student Zachary Tittel, who has his own impressive body of work – some of which is displayed on Broadway in Columbus. For several weeks, Jensz and Tittel worked tirelessly to first create the framework for the sculpture and then the sculpture itself.

The finished piece, titled *Event Horizon*, is constructed only of spiraling plastic tubing and zip-ties. It hangs in place, attached to the four columns of the stairway, catching the sun that streams through the skylight. The mouth of the spiral fills most of the open space around it, from column to column, then tapers to its end below, where some endings of the plastic tubing hang free.

"I was interested in boundaries," the sculptor explained about the piece, "and the way that there's an edge where we know something, and then suddenly, past the edge, there's something we don't know, something we can't know." Jensz titled the piece *Event Horizon* after the astronomical anomaly of the same name, where the edge of a black hole shows something until suddenly, there is nothing. "Once past the threshold between what we know and don't know, we can't get back." Jensz explained that, where science cannot go, art can.

Jensz' work is often inspired by science. Some of his previous sculptures have included fractals and patterns created with man-made products such as PVC pipe, corrugated iron, and rubber. His inspirations include Tony Cragg, the artist well-known for repurposing unwanted materials, often creating figures and shapes that defy any single conventional understanding of purpose.



Australian sculptor, David Jensz, studies his completed piece, titled *Event Horizon*, which is mounted in the stairwell of LeNoir Hall.

Jensz has certainly achieved this through *Event Horizon*. While the title may relate to astronomy and black holes, science students and faculty have provided other interpretations, such as representing the model for entropy, resembling a whirlpool, and an amoeba, with the hanging ends of plastic tubing reminiscent of flagella and the zip-ties as cilia, little grabbing "hairs" that protrude from an amoeba's cell membrane.

Dr. McHenry expressed that Jensz was a "good fit" for CSU, and his sculpture reflects that. The piece fits perfectly in the space, and also perfectly in the atmosphere of LeNoir Hall, where hundreds of inquiring minds pass through every day searching for something that is, so far, just beyond the edge of their understanding.



## FOCUS ON FACULTY EXCELLENCE

### Dr. Kevin Burgess: Faculty Research Fellow

Dr. Kevin Burgess, Associate Professor of Biology, is an outstanding instructor and researcher. He is twice the recipient of the College of Letters and Sciences Faculty Fellow for Outstanding Research, having been the inaugural fellow in 2012 after only joining CSU in 2008. Dr. Burgess has also received the University's Faculty Research and Scholarship Award in 2010 and 2014. He earned his Ph. D. from the University of Guelph in Canada and has held Postdoctoral Fellowships at the University of Virginia and the University of Toronto. Today, his research has afforded him adjunct professor positions at both Auburn University and Ryerson University in Canada.

In addition to teaching several classes in the Biology Department at CSU, Dr. Burgess is the director of the new M.S. in Natural Sciences Program in the College of Letters and Sciences. He is currently supervising eight graduate students and a postdoctoral research fellow (Dr. Karen Bell) at Emory University. Many of his M.S. students are involved with international research – for example, in collaboration with the Atlanta Botanical Gardens and the Lovett School in Atlanta, Kylie Bucalo and Samantha Worthy are conducting orchid and ethnobotanical research in the Andean and Amazonian rainforests of Ecuador, respectively; Scott Silvis is assisting with a Biodiversity project in Bermuda; Vivian Pedrozo is documenting the medicinal plants of Andros Island, Bahamas; and several students are working with Dr. Burgess and Parks Canada to document Canada's endangered Red mulberry populations. Closer to home, he is working with graduate student Marisa Naciuk on a long-term NSF collaboration with Dr. Laura Galloway at the University of Virginia.



**Kevin Burgess, on left, reviews plant samples with graduate students Scott Silvis, center, and Samantha Worthy, on right, in CSU's herbarium.**

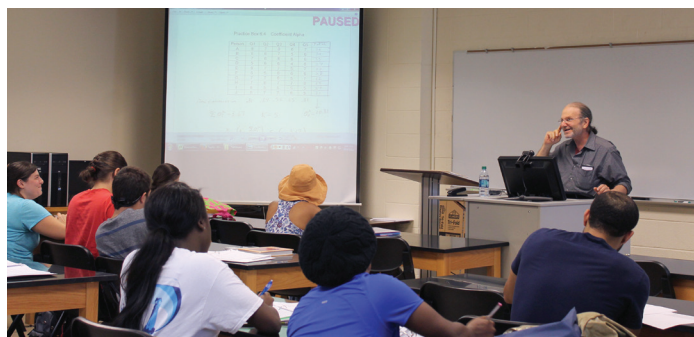
In addition to supervising M.S. students at CSU, he is also currently supervising a visiting scholar (Ph.D. student Li-Jun Yan) from the Kunming Botanical Institute in China. Li-Jun's interest in CSU came from meeting Dr. Burgess and learning of his research while he was presenting at the International Barcode of Life Conference at the Kunming Institute in 2013. Her position as a visiting scholar was fully funded through

a grant from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, one of the top ten research universities in the world. "She was selected from thousands of people for this program," Dr. Burgess explained, "and now we are fortunate to have her at CSU to conduct research and co-author manuscripts for the next year". Although her research is focused on Rhododendron populations in the Himalaya-Hengduan Mountains of Tibet and China, she has recently been collecting plants at Callaway Gardens and the Davis Arboretum at Auburn University to complete her study on this group of plants in the molecular labs at CSU.

Dr. Burgess' current research includes investigating the extinction of plant species through hybridization as well as using the new field of DNA barcoding to document and confirm plant biodiversity. CSU is one of only a few institutions in the United States working in this field, enhancing its status as a first choice for students, faculty, and donors.

### Dr. Harvey Richman: Faculty Teaching Fellow

Dr. Harvey Richman may have started his academic career later than most, at the age of thirty, but it's been exceptionally rich at CSU. Beginning work at CSU 16 years ago, Dr. Richman has been inspiring students with his personality and his approach to education. "Personality psychology is my passion," Dr. Richman discussed in an interview on his recent selection as the College of Letters and Sciences' Teaching Fellow, and he is definitely a personality. "Education should be enjoyable," he went on to say, "and it should be for the love of learning." He believes that some of his most successful classroom moments have come while teaching his Controversial Issues in Psychology course, where students become very passionate about what they're learning and take their education into their own hands. Dr. Richman's goal is always to maintain that level of engagement with the students, both through a passion and dedication towards the subject matter and also through his own connections to what the students find relevant in their own lives.



Outside of the classroom, Dr. Richman (**shown above**) supports undergraduate students with their own research. "It's a rare year when one of my students doesn't present at Tower Day [the student research showcase at CSU]." As a whole, the Psychology department has some of the most active student researchers on campus. "Typically they will also be co-authors with me on presentations I do at regional

conferences such as Southeastern Psychological Association and Georgia Psychological Society," Dr. Richman shared. "A few have even been co-authors on published articles." It's easy to see Dr. Richman's mentorship when you walk the halls outside his office. Large posters showcasing research completed by students with faculty support cover the walls.

Speaking on his Faculty Fellowship for Outstanding Teaching, Dr. Richman said it was "very unexpected" and a "terribly pleasant surprise." "Dr. Schmidt [the chair of the Psychology Department] has nominated me for the past several years...it's always nice to have recognition for your work." He plans to hang his award on his wall right next to his desk, where his other awards and degrees hang. Dr. Richman is one of the co-sponsors for the Psi Chi honors society at CSU, which he says is being rejuvenated by new faculty with "a lot of innovations." He believes his recognition will benefit their goals and the future of the Psychology department as a whole, because, as he said himself, "what's good for one of us is good for all of us."

## Local Politics Bring National Attention to CSU Professor

It's unusual to find a professor who comes straight from their PhD program and also with almost two decades of field experience in their area of expertise, but Dr. Nicholas Easton is far from usual. "I'm still trying to decide what I want to be when I grow up," Dr. Easton says of his late start in academia.



After serving for 12 years as a representative on the Providence, Rhode Island City Council, and then six years as City Council President, Dr. Easton began his postgraduate studies and his career in education. With degrees from Brown University, the University of Rhode Island, and University of Connecticut, no one can doubt that

he knows not only the hands-on, practical work of Political Science and Public Administration, but also the theory and academic background.

When asked why he would move to Columbus, Dr. Easton is quick to respond with "It's the climate," but he doesn't only mean the warmth that you can't find in the snowy northeast. The cultural climate of the city, the climate of student engagement and excitement, and--most importantly--the political climate of the area attracted him to the city. This is Dr. Easton's third year at CSU, and he's already making waves in state and local government discourse.

Earlier in 2014, Dr. Easton hosted the televised Senatorial primary debates for Georgia. This Senate race in Georgia between Michelle Nunn (D) and David Purdue (R) is considered one of the most exciting elections across the nation. "We said 'this could be a real opportunity for us,'" shared Dr. Easton about the push to host the debate in Columbus, at CSU's Riverside Theatre Complex. "People were watching all over the country." Dr. Easton was far from nervous, though, with so many years of experience with political commentary, includ-

ing international attention from news sources.

The Columbus Mayoral debate was also hosted by Dr. Easton. Despite being a less contentious race, he thought it no less important and that broadcasting it on television was a "public service," particularly given that it was a competitive, close race between two non-partisan candidates. "This is great for CSU," he said. "All kinds of things have opened up because of it... we're going to look for opportunities to place students in political campaigns and government agencies." Dr. Easton hopes to see CSU's Political Science students working as interns and assistants in the very field in which they'll someday work. He already has students working within both the Nunn and Purdue campaigns.

Despite being older than most of the newer professors at CSU, Dr. Easton is bringing much excitement and vigor to the university. He is a faculty advisor for the newly-reinstated Student Political Awareness Association, or SPAA, which has already drawn a lot of attention from students from the department and outside of it. Dr. Easton is also one of three Faculty in Residence, living next door to the university's main campus in the Courtyard I residential area. He works with students of all disciplines while living among them, including doing educational and supportive programs in history, political science, and study skills.

## Listening to Columbus' Hispanic Past

The CSU Department of Modern and Classical Languages and the CSU Library Archives embarked on a monumental, collaborative project of orthographic transcription and, eventually, translation. This project began in 2010 with a Spanish Phonetics class and will continue for the next several years. Professor Joelle Bonamy enlisted her upper-division students in the methodical process of listening to interviews conducted by Adebello García in the 1990s of members of the Columbus, Georgia Hispanic community, which are archived in the CSU Library, and transcribing them in the speaker's native language. The students are able to choose a country of origin and, from there, an interview to work with. Once transcribed, the interviews are revised and placed in the archive alongside the recording.

The next task requires the students to have strong familiarity with the Spanish language. Future classes in Spanish translation or interpretation will work from the archived transcriptions to create fully translated texts in English. This will open up many possibilities for the future use of the interviews, allowing non-Spanish speaking people to access the wealth of history and culture that is represented through the interviews.

To date, there are full transcriptions of six interviews and partial transcriptions of over 20 more. This project is only available to students during the fall semester, when Professor Bonamy teaches the class; however, it is an enriching experience in both the Spanish language and Library Sciences, as students are given lessons on the archives and how they function as repositories of history. Many of CSU's students are from the Columbus area and find a special resonance with the local histories archived on campus.



## DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT: ENGLISH

### Carson McCullers Literary Awards: Sharing a Legacy

Dr. Aaron Sanders, Assistant Chair of the English Department, has already begun soliciting entries for the 2015 Carson McCullers Literary Awards. In a short time, the awards have already made an impact on students and professors alike, and Dr. Sanders believes they could pave the way to making CSU's Department of English a first choice for students across the state.

Established in 2013, the Carson McCullers Literary Awards were the brainchild of Dr. Sanders and the Chair of the Department of English, Dr. Carmen Skaggs, with help from the Director of Enterprise Development, David Mitchell. "We had this idea of doing an award series that celebrated the work of CSU students as well as high school students," Dr. Sanders explained. "We decided to make it available to all Georgia high school students, so they would know more about Columbus State but also Carson McCullers."

For the first year of the awards, Dr. Sanders created a poster advertising for submissions and sent it out to almost every high school in Georgia. And it worked. Not only were submissions received from throughout

the state, but award winners were widespread. Winners traveled from as far as Rome and Richmond Hill, a town just outside of Savannah, for the awards presentation at the Chattahoochee River Club. One winner, Bodie Fox, a freshman at Armuchee High School in Rome, was the subject of a local newspaper article for his award in poetry.

"We had several students who had made up their minds about going to other colleges, change their choice just based on their visit here," said Dr. Sanders of the high school award winners, "so it's been a big success, and I think this year and going forward we will have even more submissions from throughout Georgia." The 2014 submissions may be hard to top, as Dr. Sanders noted that there were several hundred submissions from high school students alone.

The awards wouldn't be possible without generous donations from literature lovers and university supporters, though, and can only grow with more support. Sponsors were solicited for four different categories: poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, and expository writing. Each category awards \$500 in prizes annually. Other categories, such as art or music, could exist in the future if donors wish to support them.

"I sponsored an award for fiction," Dr. Sanders shared. "I named it after my grandmother, who was an English major: The Orlene Jones Poulsen Award for Fiction." The other award categories are similarly named by their supporters. The Brick Road Greear Award for Poetry is named for both a local publishing company and an influential local poet, while the Naartjie Multimedia Award for Expository Writing is sponsored by and named for a local advertising agency, and the Paul Hackett Award for Creative Non-Fiction is similarly sponsored by CSU's Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs in memory of his father, who was an English, Latin and Greek professor at CSU in the 1970s and 1980s.

In addition to named awards, the Department of English seeks a presenting sponsor for the awards ceremony and reception each year. The award-winning submissions and the awards sponsors are published in the CSU literary arts journal, the *Arden*. "Publishing the winners in the journal raises the prestige of the award and also raises the quality of the journal," Dr. Sanders believes. He would also like to see the awards expand beyond the state level, extending regionally and nationally, if funding and support allows.

For additional contest information or to submit entries, visit [ColumbusState.edu/English](http://ColumbusState.edu/English).

CSU and high school student recipients of the inaugural Carson McCullers Literary Awards were recognized at a reception at the Chattahoochee River Club in spring 2014



### Inheriting the Nyack House

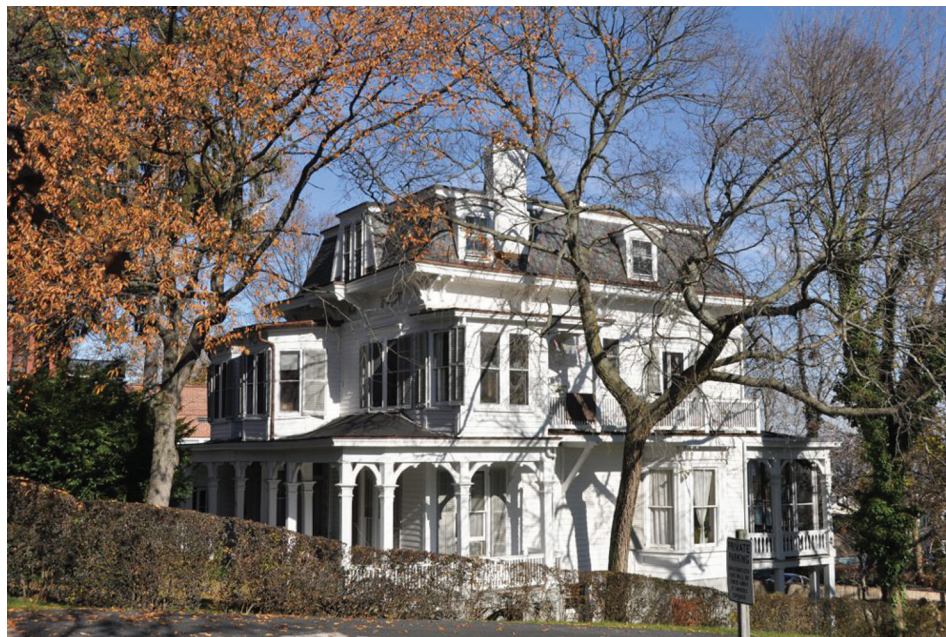
Dr. Mary Mercer, Carson McCullers' psychiatrist, close friend, and inheritor of a significant portion of Carson's estate, passed away in 2013. Her effect on Carson's life was immeasurable, being her confidant for the last ten years of her life, and her effect on Carson's legacy is just as significant. Dr. Mercer's estate included a third of the McCullers literary rights, a large collection of personal artifacts from Carson's adult life, therapy records from Carson's time as a patient of Dr. Mercer, and most significantly, a house.

"The acquisition was the work of a lot of people before me, actually,"

explained Dr. Courtney George, current director of the Carson McCullers Center for Writers and Musicians. Dr. George is the third director, replacing Cathy Fussell, who retired from the position in 2011. Carlos Dews, the first director of the Center, was a pre-eminent Carson McCullers scholar who had formed a close relationship with Dr. Mercer. Dews even arranged for Dr. Mercer to attend the opening of the Carson McCullers Center in Carson's childhood home at 1519 Stark Avenue in Columbus, Georgia. Fussell, stepping in for Dews once he retired from the position, maintained this close relationship between Mercer and the Center, often visiting her in Nyack.

"Dr. Mercer had always promised to Cathy that she would leave CSU the Nyack house," Dr. George said, "but there was never any written contract. When Dr. Mercer passed away at the age of 101, almost 102, it all came to fruition." Dr. Mercer left for CSU her share of Carson's legacy. "She felt like we were the right folks to pass the house onto, and all of the artifacts and the funds to help preserve all of it... But we didn't know what exactly was coming. We knew the house was coming, but we didn't know what would be included with that, or if there would be any funds."

Dr. George estimates the cost of upkeep for the aging home could be as high as \$50,000 annually, but it would be a worthwhile investment. The house, which was already split into several apartments on the advice of Tennessee Williams, could house numerous programs for CSU. The New York Arts study-away program was the first to come to mind for Dr. George, but other opportunities include providing space for research professors on sabbatical and residencies for writing fellowships. "There are some great opportunities for cross programming, conferences, or trips between the house here and the house in Nyack," Dr. George shared. "There's a wealth of history in the Nyack house... I can really see how Carson would have chosen to settle in Nyack after leaving Columbus."



"It would be a great thing to establish another endowment fund," Dr. George answered when asked about important future goals, "where we could have a writer in residence in the home, someone who could act as a caretaker for the house and the legacy. Or any artist, especially if we do house students there as well... It's a really beautiful space, and I think you could have a pretty happy artist commune there for students and faculty."

Dr. Courtney George and the Carson McCullers Center can be contacted through the Center's website at [www.mccullerscenter.org](http://www.mccullerscenter.org).

### **New Scholarships for English Majors**

In April of this year, English major Hannah Godwin was awarded the Robert T. Trammell Sr. Scholarship, a one-time award of \$1,500 to be given to a student with outstanding academic achievement. The scholarship was established by department chair, Dr. Carmen Skaggs, and is named after her father, Dr. Robert Trammell Sr., a long-time professor of English and Vice President Emeritus of Academic Affairs for Macon State College (now Middle Georgia State College). Dr. Skaggs, along with other members of the Trammell family, established the fund in honor of Dr. Trammell's 75th birthday, with the intention of

creating a large impact on a student's academic career. Dr. Skaggs has said that she hopes to encourage friends and donors to the college to create similar, substantial scholarships in honor of those they love, and show that even a one-time, expendable award can make a difference.

Dr. Daniel Ross, longtime professor of Irish literature and poetry, has also recently established a scholarship. After losing his son unexpectedly at the age of 31 in January, Dr. Ross and his wife searched for a meaningful way to memorialize their child, and finally settled on the Benjamin Ross Study Abroad Scholarship for English Majors. "When I went on my first study abroad trip to England in 2001," Dr. Ross explained, "I brought Benjamin with me. He had been struggling in school at the time, but the trip really gave him direction. It was a turning point in his life. I wanted to pass on to students what was important to him." The scholarship will give three awards of \$700 each to students studying abroad with the English department this year. Dr. Ross hopes that this will provide a push to some students who have been considering study abroad but aren't sure if they can afford it. He also hopes that more students will take advantage of the study abroad opportunities in the English department and the college as a whole.



# NEW FACULTY

## Biology

### Lauren King, Assistant Professor of Biology

Dr. King earned her Ph.D. in Microbiology from the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Her research focused on hospital-acquired bacterial infections. Dr. King comes to us from the Wake Forest School of Medicine, where she was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow. She will teach Principles of Biology and Microbiology lecture and lab classes as well as advanced undergraduate and graduate Microbiology classes.



### Amy Sandy, Lecturer of Biology

Ms. Sandy earned her M.S. in Biology from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff where her research focused on aquaculture and fisheries. She comes to us from Columbus Technical College, where she served as Dean of the School of Sciences. Ms. Sandy will teach lecture and lab sections of Principles of Biology as well as Anatomy and Physiology classes.



## Chemistry

### Renat R. Khatmullin, Assistant Professor of Chemistry

Dr. Khatmullin earned his Ph.D. in 2013 in Photochemical Sciences with a focus in Organic Chemistry, Electrochemistry, and Steady State Spectroscopy at Bowling Green State University. He comes to us from a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Khatmullin will teach Organic Chemistry and other chemistry courses.



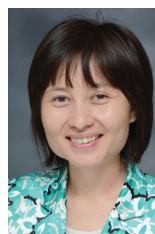
### Jonathan M. Meyers, Assistant Professor of Chemistry

Dr. Meyers earned his Ph.D. in 2012 in Biological Chemistry at Indiana University. He comes to us from Coastal Carolina University where he served as a lecturer. Dr. Meyers will teach biochemistry and other chemistry courses.



### Ekaterina Mirzakulova, Lecturer/Stockroom Manager

Dr. Mirzakulova earned her Ph.D. in 2013 in the Department of Chemistry and Center for Photochemical Sciences at Bowling Green State University. She has a wealth of experience in the laboratory setting interacting with undergraduates. Dr. Mirzakulova will teach a variety of introductory undergraduate courses and serve as the stockroom manager in the Department of Chemistry.



## Criminal Justice

### Rhonda E. Bone, Temporary Lecturer of Criminal Justice

Ms. Bone joins the Department of Criminal Justice and Sociology as a full-time lecturer in the Criminal Justice program. She earned her B.S. in Criminal Justice and her MPA at Columbus State University. She comes to CSU with 12 years of law enforcement experience. As a Temporary Lecturer for the 2013-2014 year, Ms. Bone will teach Criminology, Policing, and Corrections.



## English

### Shae Anderson, Temporary Lecturer of English

Dr. Shae Anderson joins us as a full-time temporary lecturer, specializing in composition theory and rhetoric. She received her Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Composition from Georgia State University. Dr. Anderson previously served as QEP Writing Center Director and Assistant Professor of English at Fort Valley State University. Her areas of interest include composition theory and pedagogy and the history of African American rhetoric.



## History and Geography

### Felix Harcourt, Temporary Lecturer of History

Dr. Felix Harcourt received his Ph.D. in U.S. History from George Washington University in Washington, DC. His research focuses on issues of racial and religious bigotry in American history. Dr. Harcourt previ-



ously served as a fellow of the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers Project and is the assistant editor of two volumes of Mrs. Roosevelt's collected works.

## Political Science and Public Administration

### David Kerr, Assistant Professor of Public Administration

Dr. David Kerr (pronounced Carr) joins us as Assistant Professor of Public Administration and Director of the Justice Systems Administration track. He was in law enforcement for 36 years, including serving as police chief for the City of West Point, Georgia, for over 22 years. He holds a Ph.D. from Capella University in Organizational Management with a specialization in Human Resources.



### Rebecca Toland, Assistant Professor of Public Administration

Dr. Rebecca Toland joins the faculty as Assistant Professor in Public Administration and Director of the Health Services Administration Track. She has a Ph.D. in Health Education from A.T. Still University Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences. Dr. Toland has worked in the healthcare industry for over 12 years. Her areas of focus include public health, healthcare marketing, healthcare communication, community organizing, healthcare administration, public administration, and behavioral health science.



## Command College

### Dwayne Jones, Lecturer

Dwayne Jones comes to Columbus State with 28 years of law enforcement experience. He served his entire career with the Griffin Police Department and retired as a Captain in 2014. Mr. Jones completed his Master's in Public Administration through Columbus State University and is a graduate of the Law Enforcement Command College. He is also a graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy. He will teach in the Professional Management Program of the Command College.



*Return Service Requested*

## Main Campus Welcomes Facilities Upgrades

As part of CSU's mission to become a first choice institution, upgrades to several main campus buildings are either underway or being planned. With significant support from members of the local legislative delegation, state funding has been secured for various capital projects. Currently, a \$3.95 million renovation of Howard Hall, the oldest classroom building, is occurring and next summer Arnold Hall will undergo a facelift, thanks to a recent \$4.95 million state allocation.



**President Tim Mescon (center) and COLS Associate Dean Pat McHenry (far right) stand with members of our legislative delegation, John Pezold, Joshua McKoon, and Debbie Buckner.**

Learning Commons in the Schwob Memorial Library that will centralize campus tutoring services. This will be a \$21.2 million major capital construction project, for which \$4 million in private support is needed.

For Howard Hall's renovation, a faculty-led committee helped develop a comprehensive redesign that includes state-of-the-art technology, classroom upgrades, HVAC and lighting improvements, and much-needed group study space. Once these projects are completed, the campus core will have a much different, more contemporary look that will enhance student recruitment and retention.

CSU is seeking additional state support next year to secure funding for a long-overdue addition to the LeNoir Hall science laboratories and to build a

## Supporting the College of Letters and Sciences

With the help of our alumni and friends, the College of Letters and Sciences is able to provide scholarships and other significant opportunities that help make CSU a **first choice** for students, faculty and supporters.

Tax-deductible contributions to our scholarship funds or other programs can be made online at [ColumbusState.edu/Giving](http://ColumbusState.edu/Giving). For more information about our programs and initiatives, please contact Jill Carroll, Development Director: 706-565-7874; [Carroll\\_Jill@ColumbusState.edu](mailto:Carroll_Jill@ColumbusState.edu).