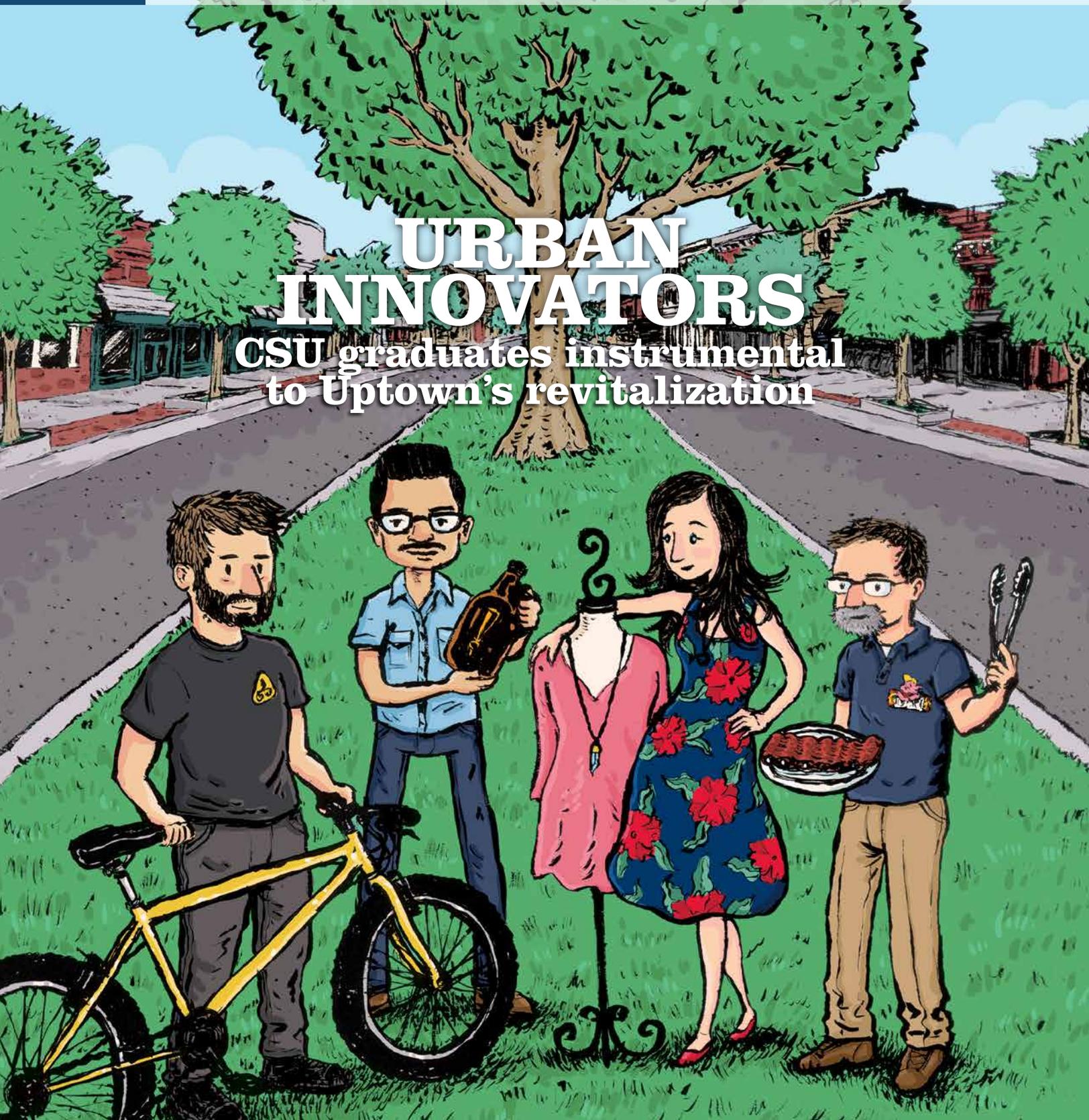




# COLUMBUS STATE

THE MAGAZINE OF COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS

FALL 2016



## URBAN INNOVATORS

CSU graduates instrumental to Uptown's revitalization

NASA FEATURES SCIENCE  
ALUMNUS' PLANET PICS

HOMECOMING 2016: NEW  
TRADITION, LOCATION

COUGARS CLAW TO  
COMMISSIONER'S CUP WIN



President Markwood, Mrs. Markwood and CSU students sweeping up the Springer Opera House during 2016's Day of Service in Uptown.

# The Uptown Columbus Connection

**F**ree concerts, bike riding and families dining along sidewalk-lined tables invigorated me as I walked out my hotel during early introductions to Uptown Columbus. Uptown is not just a great part of my new hometown, but it's also an integral part of Columbus State University.

As you read through this issue of *Columbus State* magazine, you will learn how we now own and operate more than one million square feet in Uptown Columbus and have 450 students living on the CSU RiverPark campus.

The live, work and study environment of Uptown is an incredibly attractive recruiting asset for both students and faculty — so much that when we developed apartments to house visiting professors, we decided to build them in Uptown. Tens of millions of dollars have been invested by or on behalf of Columbus State University in Uptown Columbus to continue the revitalization process and create a thriving urban environment for our students.

Several of our alumni have played pivotal roles in this revitalization. Their stories are inspiring and rewarding. It is gratifying to know our graduates contribute to the community and use their CSU education to impact those around them positively.

When our nursing school and many of our education programs move to Uptown next year, the economic boost will continue with

the inclusion of 1,800 students, faculty and staff to the area. In addition to the new Center for Education and Nursing located in Uptown, CSU started the new academic year with a newly renovated Arnold Hall on main campus thanks to a \$4.95 million allocation from the Georgia Legislature. Main campus also opened its brand-new 540-bed residence hall named Clearview Hall, which developed by way of a \$25 million partnership with the University System of Georgia.

Combine these campus upgrades with our talented faculty, determined students and prosperous alumni, and it is easy to see why CSU maintains a meaningful influence in this community, state, country and world. Our featured graduates serve as proof of CSU's incessant success.

Chris Markwood  
President



# COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

VOL. 23 NO. 2 • FALL 2016

## EDITOR

Candace Morrow

## CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Christa Robbins

## CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Suhyoon Cho

Jerel Coles

Tamma Smith

## MAGAZINE LAYOUT & DESIGN

Rowland Publishing, Inc.

## VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

Rocky Kettering

## ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT & SPECIAL EVENTS

Jennifer Joyner

## ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

John Lester

## ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Columbus State  
Alumni Magazine  
Office of University Relations  
Columbus State University  
4225 University Ave.  
Columbus, GA 31907  
ur@columbusstate.edu



@COLUMBUSSTATE  
@CSUCOUGARALUMNI



FACEBOOK.COM/COLUMBUSSTATE  
FACEBOOK.COM/  
COLUMBUSSTATEUNIVERSITYALUMNI

## ON THE COVER

Original illustration of alumni business owners: Jason McKenzie, Ride on Bikes; Miles Greathouse, Maltitude Craft Beer Marketplace; Erin Widick, The Posh Peach; and Grif Morpeth, Country's Barbecue. See page 16 for the cover story. Illustration by Joseph Melancon.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS



# 16

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 2** President's Letter
- 5** First Choice Campaign
- 6** Campus News
- 10** Fun Facts
- 11** What's Trending
- 15** Homecoming 2016
- 22** Class Notes
- 25** Q&A
- 28** Athletics

## FEATURES

- 12** **Charles Day**  
Alumnus grows multimillion reimbursement company
- 14** **Campus Appeal**  
The revolutionary reuse of Howard, Arnold halls
- 16** **Urban Innovators**  
CSU alumni entrepreneurs revitalizing Uptown Columbus
- 26** **Southern Exposure**  
Alumni in action across the region
- 28** **Peach Belt Trailblazing**  
Cougar Athletics racks up conference award wins

**READ & REACT:** CSU rolls out a new name, look and sections to its semiannual alumni magazine. Tell us what you think: Post a comment on our social media sites using hashtag #ColumbusStateMag, or email magazine editor Candace Morrow at [morrow\\_candace@ColumbusState.edu](mailto:morrow_candace@ColumbusState.edu)

# Go Digital

[magazine.columbusstate.edu](http://magazine.columbusstate.edu)

CSU's redesigned alumni magazine, *Columbus State*, is now available for the mobile reader



COLUMBUS STATE  
UNIVERSITY



**NEW VP FOR UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT HIRED**

CSU hired Paul “Rocky” Kettering III as its new vice president for University Advancement and executive director of the Columbus State University Foundation, Inc. Kettering started his post in July. Along with finishing the university’s comprehensive First Choice campaign, Kettering will lead the university’s fundraising efforts and a division that includes development, alumni engagement and advancement services. Formerly, Kettering served as vice president of development and external relations at Texas State Aquarium. There, he led more than 20 employees and a \$50 million campaign to expand the nonprofit center in Corpus Christi, Texas. He has directed and raised more than \$150 million in capital campaigns and fundraising initiatives during his 17-plus years as an institutional leader.

**Meaningful campaign investments make momentous campus impact**

BY JOHN LESTER

University fundraising campaigns often produce headlines of multimillion-dollar donations or newly named buildings.

But the real success of a campaign comes when it truly engages alumni and friends to attract a greater number of donations from those just starting their philanthropic legacies.

“Even the smallest gift makes a significant difference on a college campus,” said Phil Tomlinson, retired CEO of TSYS and chair of CSU’s First Choice campaign. “We have students who are literally unsure if they can enroll during any given semester because of a single expensive textbook or a tuition bill that’s a few hundred dollars beyond their means.”

**Recent gifts transforming CSU:**

- **Dr. Glenn Stokes**, ecology professor at CSU for more than 30 years, has contributed \$10,000 toward a new lab sciences building planned next to LeNoir Hall;
- **David Hart Jr.**, ’77, is a political science alumnus who has established The Hart Family

Scholarship Endowment in College of Letters and Sciences. The scholarship will become available spring 2017 to full-time students in the college who exhibit a financial need;

- **The West Georgia Eye Care Center** has contributed \$25,000 toward the university’s new Center for Education and Nursing under construction in Uptown Columbus, which is scheduled to open January 2017;
- **Pam Siddall**, who earned a bachelor’s degree in 1991, has contributed to the new fund for the construction of new Center for Education and Nursing, and also directed another investment of \$20,000 to CSU’s Honors College. Siddall is president of Advance Central Services, Inc.; and
- **John Shinkle**, a Columbus financial adviser and longtime supporter of CSU athletics, invested into this campaign to again support athletics and also support CSU’s art and honors programs. Shinkle is the Columbus branch manager for Stifel Financial Corp.

## CSU ranks among Top Regional Universities in the South

Columbus State University is among the top 50 best public regional universities in the South, according to U.S. News & World Report, which announced the 2017 Best Colleges rankings to help students worldwide compare the academic quality of more than 1,800 United States-based schools.

In the Regional Universities South category, Columbus State ranked No. 46 among Top Public Schools. CSU also ranked No. 62 in Best Online MBA programs and No. 105 among all universities throughout the South.

“This latest ranking is another validation of the incredible work taking place on our campus by our elite faculty and support staff,” said CSU President Chris Markwood. “This honor and other recent rankings provide proof that our unique combination of academic quality, innovation and value are paying dividends for our students.”



## Faculty receive \$400,000-plus from national foundation

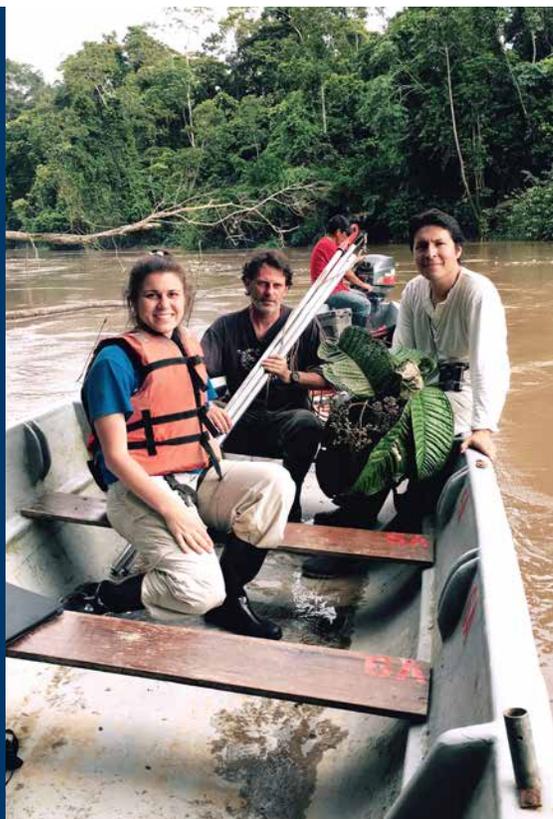
The National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded Columbus State University more than \$400,000 in grants for mobile device cybersecurity.

A \$175,000 project led by professor Hoda Mehrpouyan in CSU's TSYS School of Computer Science will develop a new set of verification tools, algorithms and interfaces to enable secure, effective and unobtrusive management of users' private information.

Protecting private information is important since researchers estimate that 87 percent of Americans can become identified by name and address if the intruder knows a person's zip code, gender and birthday.

A second \$230,000 grant part of the Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) project focuses on cybersecurity and mobile sensing. Students will work in tandem with the Cybersecurity Center at Columbus State — recently designated a Center for Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education by the National Security Agency.

This grant is supported by the Department of Defense in partnership with the NSF. The NSF made the award to CSU through the Department of Defense's ASSURE program in support of undergraduate research.



## Columbus State scholars make history in Amazon

An expedition to the Amazon with a CSU scientific team became a historical moment as the group collected the first-ever flowering samples of a new tree species in Ecuador's Yasuní National Park.

The discoverers: Samantha Worthy, a master's student in CSU's Natural Sciences Program; Kevin Burgess, professor of ecological genetics in CSU's biology department; and botanist Alvaro Pérez, a professor from Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador (PUCE) in Quito and CSU's 16th annual Elena Diaz Verson Amos Eminent Scholar in Latin American Studies.

“This was an amazing find and would not have happened if not for professor Pérez's experience and knowledge of the Ecuadorian Amazon,” Burgess said. “We were in a canoe on the river when he spotted a tree in flower that he had never seen before. This new species is to be classified in the genus Myrcia and represents an immediate need for further plant discovery in this region.”

The Yasuní National Park is the most biologically diverse place on earth, Burgess said. During the past 50 years, botanists have documented more than 4,000 plant species from this region with potentially hundreds of new species waiting for discovery.

# Coca-Cola Space Science Center commemorates 20th anniversary



Columbus State University's Coca-Cola Space Science Center (CCSSC) celebrated 20 years as the region's top destination for space science education.

During the July 16 anniversary, the campus and local community enjoyed family friendly activities and meeting special guest Carl McNair, brother of Challenger Astronaut Ron McNair.

Ron McNair was one of seven crewmembers who died when the Space Shuttle Challenger broke apart 73 seconds into its flight off the coast of Cape Canaveral in 1986.

Carl spoke about helping to establish the Challenger Center for Space Science Education based in Washington, D.C., which led to the installation of 40 Challenger Learning Centers across the country.

CSU's CCSSC operates one of those Challenger Learning Centers created by the families of Challenger crewmembers to honor their loved ones and continue the crew's educational mission. Using simulated learning and role-playing strategies, the centers teach teamwork, communication, problem-solving and critical thinking skills to young students.

## Students 'Break Bad' to build good writing skills

What adjectives best describe lead character Walter White's mindset? Is there a conflict between how white- and blue-collar crime is viewed? What messages do the doorways, alleyways and the show's music send?

English professor Sundi S. Rose ping ponged these emotionally charged questions to her students about critically acclaimed crime drama "Breaking Bad" as part of her modern, animated-styled English 1102 course: "Breaking Bad and American Issues."

"This spring semester we watched Season 2 of 'Breaking Bad,'" said Rose, a fast-talking teacher and pop culture professional writer. "My students have spent the semester learning how to watch and write about pop

media. The course is about taking the text and analyzing it with a critical eye, and they've got it."

Throughout the series, Rose's students have explored issues of gender politics; immigration; drug culture and legislation; feminism; toxic masculinity; the American economic recession and middle class; and health care.

"It's not your typical class — for sure," said Thomas Wingate, freshman computer science and Spanish major of Cusseta, Georgia. "The class involves a lot of class collaboration and creative writing. She even tweets us discussions about 'Breaking Bad' and the dos and don'ts of writing."



## Graduate earns health degree to improve West Africa water

Paul Yarwaye, '16, fled Liberia 17 years ago to seek refuge from a nation plagued by civil war.

During spring 2016 he graduated among 800 CSU degree recipients with a bachelor's in health science and goal of returning to his West African home to solve his community's water issues.

"My courses gave me a lot of insight about contemporary health problems,"

said Yarwaye, 55. "In Liberia, I experienced those problems. I witnessed them. I suffered them. Now, I'm ready to go back to help my people."

Yarwaye is establishing a nonprofit organization to teach his region how to sanitize their drinking water while earning his master's degree in teaching at CSU as well.



## CSU's Bartlett Center gifted \$50,000 from Annenberg Foundation

Ambassador and American media mogul Walter Annenberg commissioned renowned artist and Columbus native Bo Bartlett for an official portrait during the 1990s.

Nearly 30 years later, that Pennsylvania appointment painting inspired the late ambassador's family foundation, The Annenberg Foundation in Los Angeles, to gift Columbus State University's Bo Bartlett Center with \$50,000.

"This gift expands our already strong local and regional support to the national level," said David W. Houston, executive director and chief curator of the center.

"This reflects the center's mission as a national art institution with a strong

impact on the local community. It's the first major gift outside of Georgia. Bo is a master of portraiture — from politicians to composers to everyday people. When he completes a portrait like the one he did for Ambassador Annenberg, his work has a special magic to it."

Annenberg was the publishing powerhouse behind *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, creator of *Seventeen* magazine and developer of national publication TV Guide.

Now, part of Annenberg extends to Columbus. Next year the university will open

the Bo Bartlett Center, a 18,425-square-foot interactive gallery on the second floor of the Corn Center for the Visual Arts on CSU's RiverPark campus.

"We plan to use this donation to support outreach efforts such as our visits to local public schools, homeless shelters and community lectures," Houston said. "This donation helps us with our goal of collaborating with leading institutions around the country to provide artistic community projects that make an impact."

Visit [bobartlettcentercsu.org](http://bobartlettcentercsu.org) to learn more about the Bo Bartlett Center. Also, visit [bobartlett.com](http://bobartlett.com) for more information about Bo Bartlett.



## Police department named best in university values

Columbus State University President Chris Markwood honored the CSU Police department with his inaugural Living Our Values award to start the fall 2016 academic year.

“We established this award as a special recognition for a group that frequently goes beyond what is expected but expects nothing in return — for those unsung heroes who do what they do because they care,” said President Markwood, “not because it’s their job or for any accolades or attention that may come their way.”

Markwood presented the department with the award during CSU’s Welcome Back Kickoff for faculty and staff.

“We are truly humbled to have received this award,” CSU Police Chief Rus Drew said. “We take a great deal of pride in our job and in the relationships we have cultivated with CSU’s students and employees. It is very gratifying to have that work recognized and even more rewarding to hear we reflect CSU’s values.”

## Plans forming for Carson McCullers’ 100th birthday

Columbus State University and various partners are developing a community-wide celebration to commemorate the 100th birthday of noted author and Columbus native Carson McCullers.

Dubbed “Carson at 100: The McCullers Centennial,” the celebration will include campus events during 2017, culminating to a Feb. 19, 2017, short film viewing of McCullers’ story, “A Tree. A Rock. A Cloud.”

Directed by actress and McCullers fan Karen Allen of “Raiders of the Lost Ark,”

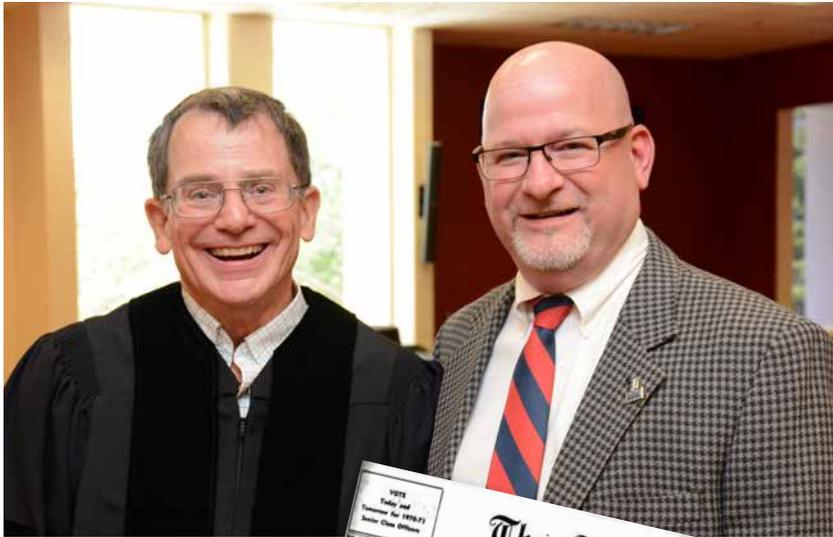
“The Sandlot,” “Scrooged” and “Animal House,” the short film will debut in Columbus with Allen present.

“We are tremendously excited to have Karen Allen partner with us on this celebration,” said Nick Norwood, English professor who directs CSU’s Carson McCullers Center for Writers and Musicians. “I just returned from visiting the movie set and can confirm that it is going to be a stunningly beautiful film.”



## Oxbow Meadows celebrates 20 years

Columbus State University’s Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center celebrated its 20th birthday this year during Reptile Fest, the center’s most popular annual community-wide event. Community members received the opportunity to interact with the center’s creepy-crawly residents during the outdoor jamboree, which featured tortoises, pythons and alligators.



**Name Game**

English alumnus and popular professor, Spencer Garrard, '68, '70, '78, '94, became part of the 1970 election committee that nominated the Cougar as Columbus College's mascot. The other mascot option the committee considered: The Titans.



**Movie Mover & Shaker**

Former Miss CSU and voice alumna Erin Elizabeth Burns, '04, starred opposite Samuel L. Jackson and John Cusack in 2016's summer science fiction horror, "Cell." The silver screen film is based on a Stephen King novel about a mysterious smartphone signal that mutates users into killing machines.

**For more of Burns, follow her on social media:**

[erinlizabetchburns.com](http://erinlizabetchburns.com)

IMDB: Erin Elizabeth Burns

Instagram: @erinlizabetchburns

Twitter: @ActressEEBurn

Facebook Fan Page:

RealErinElizabethBurns



**The Right Direction**

English alumnus Jonathan Vogler, '14 (pictured right), directed and produced a Vice Media short film starring John Green, author of "The Fault in Our Stars."



**Unsung Hero**

Nursing alumna Meagan Noblet, '13, helped treat victims of the Pulse nightclub shooting at Orlando Regional Medical Center in the early morning hours right after the attack.

**Red Hot**

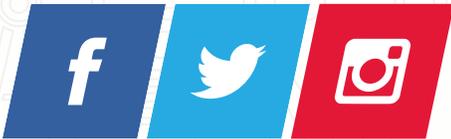
Earth & Space Sciences alumnus Cameron McCarty, '14, captured images from the observatory of CSU's Coca-Cola Space Science Center, which have been featured by NASA.

McCarty now works with NASA on the Opportunity rover project, photographing the surface of Mars.



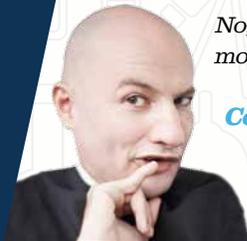
PHOTO COURTESY OF LEDGER-ENQUIRER

**FOLLOW US:**



**@ColumbusState**

# One Million



No, not Dr. Evil's ransom money, but the number of recorded visits to [ColumbusState.edu](http://ColumbusState.edu) in one year.

**LINK UP**

More than **21,000** CSU alumni, students and employees are listed on LinkedIn.



## EXPLORE MORE

3-D tours of CSU's Coca-Cola Space Science Center are now available on Google Maps.



## TOP HASHTAGS:

**#GoCSU**

**#ColumbusNotClayton**

**#ColumbusState**

## CLEAN SCREENS

The dryers in Clearview Hall, CSU's brand-new student housing complex, send text alerts when students' clothes are ready.



## #CatchEmAll

Campus is a hotspot for Squirtles, Pidgeys and the rest of the cast of Pokemon Go.

PHOTO BY SUHYOON CHO



# W. Charles Day

The region's VIP of reimbursement revenue

BY CANDACE MORROW

**T**he most important challenge hospital CEOs have to face daily: revenue.

Ranked a primary industry issue since 2008, alumnus W. Charles Day researched the problem and offered a local solution that is making a national impact.

"I remember when I was hired to process claims," said Day, '96. "It took months for my first contract to get off the ground, and when it did, it was a \$3 million contract."

Now, Day heads Aspirion Health

Resources, a 4-year-old multimillion-dollar private company in Uptown Columbus with roughly 100 employees and nearly 80 clients.

"Half of my employees are CSU graduates," said Day, 42, who earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Columbus State University. "I pull some of the best talent from CSU because these students come prepared and work hard. Majors like accounting, finance, communication and information technology work well with Aspirion."

In fact, the Aspirion CEO added 50

employees within the past two years, said Day.

"We're steadily growing," he said. "Our clients range from small regional medical centers to large hospital systems."

Aspirion's services include its motor vehicle accident program; workers' compensation claims; denial management; veterans affairs claims; account management systems; and affordable care act solutions.

To advance into his current role, Day followed up his undergraduate studies at CSU with a law degree and master's in business administration from Samford University.

“I learned how to deal with so many personalities during my college years,” said Day, who still practices law. “To this day, I deal with people from all walks of life, different generations and various points of views. It’s the nature of the job. My strategy: Keep my team engaged. That’s what makes us unique.”

One of Day’s previous customers, Amy Burgess, needed a job, applied to Aspirion and now experiences firsthand the camaraderie the company creates.

“I started as a claims representative and am now a liability resolution specialist,” said Burgess. “He is so full of energy and passionate about the success of his employees. He also is generous, but we definitely work hard to bring in revenue.”

To show appreciation to his employees’ efforts, a free trip to the spa or movie night with the team and family members is typical.

“They genuinely invest in our clients and the company’s success,” said Day. “I’m thankful for that.”

**“HALF OF MY EMPLOYEES ARE CSU GRADUATES. I PULL SOME OF THE BEST TALENT FROM CSU BECAUSE THESE STUDENTS COME PREPARED AND WORK HARD. MAJORS LIKE ACCOUNTING, FINANCE, COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WORK WELL WITH ASPIRION.”**

**— W. CHARLES DAY, '96**

The 233 12th St. company will relocate at the end of the year to its new home at The Lofts at Swift Mill on 1506 Sixth Ave. Day deemed the move necessary to accommodate his

growing group, who wanted to stay within Uptown.

“The atmosphere in Uptown is electric and tangible,” he said. “Most of Aspirion employees walk to work and eat lunch a few blocks away all the time.”

In addition to new space, Day sees the future of his business in developing cutting-edge software that interfaces with insurance companies. He also plans to increase employment in the Columbus area.

“I would like for the company to reach up to 500 employees one day to help our expanding clientele,” said Day. “Right now we reach as far north as Long Island, New York, and as far west as Seattle,” said Day. “Long-term: I want to advance the business into more states to expand our national footprint.”

His advice to graduates interested in his field of expertise: “Don’t give up,” Day said, “and make sure to answer that phone call if an opportunity presents itself.”



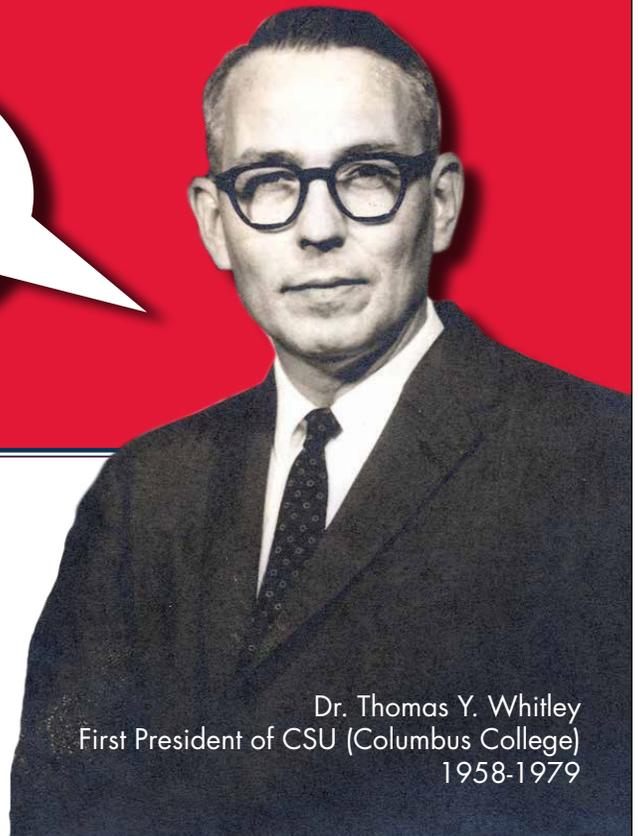
COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

“You haven’t been back to Columbus State since I was President?”

**WE ARE COMING TO YOU!**

**2017 UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS:**

- Jan. 26, 2017 - Albany, GA
- Feb. 15, 2017 - Auburn, AL
- Feb. 23, 2017 - Montgomery, AL
- Feb. 23, 2017 - Birmingham, AL
- March 2, 2017 - LaGrange, GA
- March 2, 2017 - Newnan, GA
- March 23, 2017 - Augusta, GA
- March 23, 2017 - Athens, GA



Dr. Thomas Y. Whitley  
First President of CSU (Columbus College)  
1958-1979

# Howard and Arnold Halls

BY JOHN LESTER | PHOTOS BY TAMMA SMITH

*Howard and Arnold halls erected on Columbus State University as two campus originals. Opening in 1963, Howard Hall was then Columbus College's first classroom building. Named after one of the college's first faculty members, William Howard, it was often referred to as the Classroom Building. Three years later, Arnold Hall opened as the new science building. It is named in honor of Robert Arnold, a Columbus lawyer and longtime member of the Board of Trustees of Columbus Public Schools. Today, the significant university structures have been repurposed to accommodate the modern-day, technology-savvy student due to legislature funding of \$3.95 million for Howard and \$4.95 million for Arnold.*

## ARNOLD HALL



Arnold Hall - Now



Arnold Hall - Then

## HOWARD HALL



Howard Hall - Then



Howard Hall - Now





**CALLING ALL ALUMNI:** Columbus State University's annual alumni, student and community celebration is back with new ways to create fun memories with current and past fellow Cougars. For 2016, the always-popular Evening on the Top moves to a brand-new location, and CSU's newest campus tradition — Cougarfest — is sure to keep the good times rolling. Check out all the alumni action to come:

**FRIDAY, NOV. 11**

**2016 Alumni Recognition Awards Program & Lunch**

**Noon** — *Cunningham Center, 3100 Gentian Blvd., Columbus, Georgia, 31907*  
Join the campus in honoring CSU alumni who are making a positive impact in their communities. Admission: \$5 per person, [Alumni.ColumbusState.edu/Homecoming](http://Alumni.ColumbusState.edu/Homecoming)

**4th Annual Downtown Domination CSU Homecoming Parade**

**6:30 p.m.** — *Down Broadway, ending at Woodruff Park*  
Wear red, white and blue as part of CSU's annual festive float parade, which strolls through Uptown Columbus to show Cougar Nation's school spirit. Admission: Free

**Honors College Alumni Gathering**

**5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.** — *Upstairs at The Social on Broadway*  
For more information, visit [Alumni.ColumbusState.edu/Homecoming](http://Alumni.ColumbusState.edu/Homecoming)

**Evening on the River**

**7:30 p.m.** — *Woodruff Park*  
Party Nation Band and a kaleidoscopic fireworks display will usher in the night's entertainment with family and friends at this riverside promenade. Admission: Free, requires RSVP at [Alumni.ColumbusState.edu/Homecoming](http://Alumni.ColumbusState.edu/Homecoming)

**SATURDAY, NOV. 12**

**Cougarfest**

**12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.** — *CSU Main Campus*  
This new CSU tradition is a spinoff from the famous all-things-German Oktoberfest and will feature craft beer from around the country. Local growler business Maltitude, co-founded by alumni Miles Greathouse, will attend as the event's local craft beer expert. Admission: 21 and older; \$10 for tastings.

**Tailgating**

**12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.** — *CSU Main Campus*  
Pack a cooler because it's tailgating time. Enjoy live music, food and big-screen college football action with family and friends prior to the CSU's men's and women's basketball games. Admission: Free

**Homecoming Games**

**2 p.m.** (Lady Cougars) and **4 p.m.** (Cougars) — *Lumpkin Center*  
Root on the Lady Cougars and Cougars basketball teams as each shoots to win big during Homecoming 2016. Admission: Free

Register for Homecoming 2016 alumni events at [Alumni.ColumbusState.edu/Homecoming](http://Alumni.ColumbusState.edu/Homecoming)



Connect with fellow Cougars via social media and use hashtag **#CSUHC16** to share your Homecoming 2016 moments with us:

 @COLUMBUSSTATE @CSUCOUGARALUMNI

 FACEBOOK.COM/COLUMBUSSTATE FACEBOOK.COM/COLUMBUSSTATEUNIVERSITYALUMNI

 COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



# Urban Innovators

CSU graduates instrumental in the economic revitalization of Uptown Columbus

BY CANDACE MORROW

PHOTOS BY SUHYOON CHO; ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOSEPH MELANCON

**T**he economic development state of Columbus' business district spelled disarray more than 30 years ago.

And at the time local entrepreneurs had had enough.

"In 1983, this place was in bad shape," said Richard Bishop, '93, president and CEO of nonprofit economic redevelopment organization Uptown Columbus. "Prominent businessman Jim Blanchard sat on a committee to improve conditions because business owners were tired of being down. They wanted to be up."

Hence, the branding strategy behind Uptown Columbus formed, and the process to resuscitate Columbus' stagnate economic engine established.

Uptown and revitalization organization Columbus Business Improvement District partnered to pave the way for long-standing and new companies to thrive in the heart of the city's commercial and governmental sectors.

Columbus State University alumni started taking advantage of Uptown's entrepreneurship opportunities as well.

"Today, we have a unique combination of Columbus State University graduates and local business owners who contribute to this cool lifestyle created here in Uptown," Bishop said. "Any day of the week you can see residents biking, dining, shopping and taking in the views from our popular Chattahoochee RiverWalk. CSU has been critical in our growth in the past 15 years."

The most recent development occurs between Broad and 2nd Avenue where the following CSU graduates have designed their businesses into places of Uptown pleasure to experience:

**"TODAY, WE  
HAVE A UNIQUE  
COMBINATION  
OF COLUMBUS  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATES AND  
LOCAL BUSINESS  
OWNERS WHO  
CONTRIBUTE  
TO THIS COOL  
LIFESTYLE  
CREATED HERE  
IN UPTOWN...  
CSU HAS BEEN  
CRITICAL IN OUR  
GROWTH IN THE  
PAST 15 YEARS."  
— RICHARD  
BISHOP, '93**



## Jason McKenzie Ride on Bikes

Just ride. Marketing alumnus Jason McKenzie, '09, literally lives by the motto and would debate he probably owns the best bike shop in the world to do so.

"I've been riding bikes since age 5," said McKenzie, 32, owner of Ride on Bikes. "I never thought a hobby would become a lucrative profession. What I love about my job, though, is that I believe in the product, which impacts lives through fitness."

The Albany, Georgia, native owns and operates the million-dollar bike garage business with the help of a professional team to fit, sell, service and offer local rentals to casual to competitive riders.

McKenzie's attributes CSU courses like "Contemporary Issues" and public speaking to collaborating effectively with a talented team and becoming a successful business owner in Uptown Columbus.

"That particular course really connected me to the outside world of successful business professionals — many of whom I still keep in contact with," he said. "The best thing I learned from CSU was to surround yourself with a good team so everyone elevates."

McKenzie travels the country to various bike shows to ensure his team remains on the cutting edge of industry developments.

"Jason allows us to do what we love to do," said JoAnne Cogle, a fit specialist who

has worked with McKenzie since he became the official owner of the business in 2009. "He's more like family and our family leader."

The shop's specialty service is bike customization to a cyclist's physique and needs. A bike's price tag range: \$100 to \$14,000.

"I have bikes for 5 year olds to electric bikes for the handicap," McKenzie said. "I believe electric bikes are the future for cycling, too."

If new to the area, the easiest way to get involved in Uptown action is during Ride on Bikes' Tuesday community bike rides, which attracts more than 100 riders.

And to cool down afterward, the shop features a healthy selection of refreshments through partner business Ride on Smoothie & Juice Bar.

"Partnering with like minds is key," said McKenzie. "Tim and his sister Kristi were the perfect match for providing our customers a fun experience in this area."

McKenzie also launched Key2WallStreet.com November 2015 with his mother and business partner Beth McKenzie. The duo provides option trading seminars, focusing on engaging trades, key indicators, chart analysis, trade strategies and portfolio enhancement.

"My mom is a rock star," said McKenzie. "I definitely get a lot of my go-getter attitude from her."



1036 Broadway  
Columbus, GA 31901  
706-324-1132  
[rideonbikes.com](http://rideonbikes.com)



# Erin Widick

## The Posh Peach

One week Erin Widick, '14, earned a degree in business marketing; the next week she opened for retail business.

"I literally opened The Posh Peach a week after graduating from CSU," said Widick, who transformed the once wig shop off Broad into a swanky, bricked boutique for women. "My sister, Leah, and I had a business plan, and we were determined to carry it out."

The 28-year-old clothing storeowner's style: trendy with plenty of Southern sophistication.

"I'm always attending fashion shows and trade centers like AmericasMart in Atlanta to see what's fashionable so my clientele walks away feeling fabulous after each visit," the chic Columbus native said.

While working on her undergraduate degree at CSU, Widick and her sister had already gained sales traction with The Posh Peach as an online clothing site.

"What probably benefited me the most at CSU was understanding how to use social media in marketing," she said. "My store requires a lot of visuals to push the products. I do everything

from taking photos of our new arrivals to posting reminders about markdowns."

As Widick prepared for graduation, she knew working behind a desk was not an option. However, shopping for in-vogue threads to garland the modern Southern Belle was.

"Leah and I worked the online store for about a year with good results," Widick said. "From there, we started working on the design for the store front. The hardest part was strategizing about funding."

Adorned in rural-meets-runway décor, the barn loft boutique features women tops, bottoms, dresses, shoes and accessories with farmstead flair.

"New is our kid clothing for girls," said Widick, "and we want women to know we cater to all sizes — small to 3X. No matter a woman's body type, we're stocked with the cutest selections for casual to formal occasions."

The alumna has gained much business success with the boutique's comfy, country character and modish apparel, too.

"I'm a shopaholic," Widick said. "To be able to buy and sell the best styles out today for fashion-forward women of Columbus is right up my alley."



1105 Broadway  
Columbus, GA 31901  
706-221-6402  
[theposhpeach.com](http://theposhpeach.com)

## CSU's economic impact at RiverPark

A 2015 CSU study showed the economic impact of the university's RiverPark campus in downtown Columbus estimating more than \$21 million annually.

Professor Ben Blair conducted the analysis.

Blair is the Sarah T. Butler Distinguished University Chair in Business and Finance and director of the Butler Center for Business and Economic Research in CSU's Turner College of Business.

"Current expenditures by the university on its downtown campus support 227 jobs annually and provide \$11.2 million in labor income annually," said Blair. "Combine that with spending by students who live in CSU housing downtown, and the economic impact of CSU's RiverPark campus is \$21.5 million a year."

## University contributes \$263.5M to local economy

A recent study determined Columbus State University contributed \$263.5 million to the local economy during the 2015 fiscal year (July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015) — a \$19.5 million increase from the 2014 estimate.

The report by the Selig Center for Economic Growth in the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business also showed CSU's presence in the community impacted more than 3,042 local jobs, including almost 1,000 on campus and more than 2,000 off campus.

CSU's effect on the Columbus economy is part of the University System of Georgia's combined economic impact that reached 15.5 billion in fiscal year 2015.

"The University System is part of the economic engine of the communities we serve," said Chancellor Hank Huckaby. "We take the responsibility of positively impacting the economy of the state as seriously as we do educating and graduating our students."

# Miles Greathouse

## Maltitude Craft Beer Marketplace

**M**iles Greathouse, '10, refuses to compromise on good grub and well-crafted beer. The CSU marketing alumnus and co-founder of Maltitude Craft Beer Marketplace would travel to Atlanta just to experience quality establishments of the two.

“I’m just a guy who loves great beer and food,” said Greathouse, “but locally we didn’t have many of the craft beer brands I enjoyed. Two of my best friends, Garrett Lawrence and Robert Battle, and I started brainstorming. We ended up creating something that appeals to us and didn’t exist here in Columbus. We were our own target audience.”

Dubbed the “Guardian of Craft Beer Culture,” Maltitude opened August 2013 and currently offers nearly 500 different beer brands to Uptown clientele.

“It’s safe to say we’re exceeding our projections for Maltitude,” the 28-year-old businessman said. “We concentrate a lot on offering customers craft beer from Georgia breweries like Three Taverns in Decatur; Orpheus Brewing in Atlanta; and Omaha Brewing Co. in Omaha, as well as great beer from around the country. We have world-class beer coming out of our state, and a lot of people don’t realize that.”

Greathouse guzzled down his CSU marketing and design knowledge to develop the craft beer brand.

Along with the daily operations of Maltitude, Greathouse is the growler genius behind Maltitude’s promotional designs.



“I handle design of our glassware, site and T-shirts,” he said. “I won ‘Marketing Student of the Year’ at Columbus State, so that experience helped with this business.”

During May of this year, the trio also opened new craft beer bar Nonic Bar & Kitchen in Uptown.

“This beer-centric bar complements Maltitude,” said Greathouse. “It’s got that gastropub style but with an eclectic menu. Our signature dish is the donut burger — a house blend beef patty served on a glazed donut with bacon and a poached egg. And our taps are constantly rotating, so there are always new beers to try.”

Although Greathouse does not see a franchise future, he does anticipate opportunities to share his business sense with CSU graduates.

“We’re all about creating cool experiences,” Greathouse said. “Next, I want to figure out innovative ways to help others get started in business ownership.”



1031 Broadway  
Columbus, GA 31901  
706-325-9553  
[maltitude.com](http://maltitude.com)

1239 Broadway  
Columbus, GA 31901  
706-221-8832  
[nonicbar.com](http://nonicbar.com)

## UPTOWN COLUMBUS VIBRANCY REPORT (AS OF 2015)

### 44

NUMBER OF RETAIL STORES  
IN UPTOWN

### 29

NUMBER OF RESTAURANTS  
IN UPTOWN

### 1,100

NUMBER OF CSU STUDENTS  
PER DAY IN UPTOWN

### 1,800

NUMBER OF STUDENTS, FACULTY  
AND STAFF COMING TO THE NEW  
CSU CENTER FOR EDUCATION AND  
NURSING AT RIVERPARK

### 294K

NUMBER OF ANNUAL VISITORS  
TO UPTOWN ATTRACTIONS

# Grif Morpeth

## Country's on Broad

**C**ountry's on Broad is Uptown's barbecue juke joint where the Southern-style chopped pork reigns cuisine supreme.

One of three locations in the Columbus area, the '50s-designed diner has been serving the popular Deep South dish since 1987.

Another reason why guests keep coming back: CSU alumnus Grif Morpeth. His customer service — Georgia boy genuine.

"We opened the franchise in 1975 and have stayed open because we take the time to give our customers real food," said the 52-year-old Columbus native. "We buy from local farms, and 95 percent of the food we make is from scratch."

The mouthwatering aroma of Southern selections like barbecue chicken, Texas beef brisket and cue stew triggers taste buds instantaneously to the once 1930s Greyhound bus station location.

"I grew up in the kitchen," said Morpeth, who will hold a casual conversation with diners in between serving plates, busting tables and teaching staff. "To stay out of trouble, my momma had me peeling potatoes at age 11, and I've been in the restaurant industry ever since."

Co-owner to the franchise, Morpeth has dedicated 30-plus years to the family business. To stay abreast of industry technology, Morpeth earned a bachelor's degree from CSU during 1994 in computer information management.

"I'm the default geek of the family," he said. "We use computers daily for our online accounting system and point of sales registers. Whatever needs to get done, I will do it. That's how I was raised."

At the time of Morpeth's collegiate career, the university was still named Columbus College. "I remember things on campus were shifting," said Morpeth, "but CSU has always been big on writing and research, which I still apply today. I'm constantly researching ways to keep our menu interesting and keeping up with trade journals and industry trends."

From mopping floors to overseeing staff and food quality, Morpeth is a hands-on businessman. His advice to CSU graduates in pursuit of restaurant ownership: "Learn all parts of the business if possible," he said, "and never miss an opportunity to advance in something you love to do."



1329 Broadway  
Columbus, GA 31901  
706-596-8910

[countrysbarbecue.com](http://countrysbarbecue.com)

UPTOWNCOLUMBUSGA.COM

**1,500**

NUMBER ON STREET PARKING  
SPACES IN CENTRAL RIVERFRONT  
DISTRICT

**\$74M**

CAPITAL INVESTMENT OVER  
SIX YEARS

**\$204M**

GROSS RECEIPTS OVER SIX YEARS

**75,000**

VEHICLES WITHIN ONE MILE  
ON A DAILY BASIS

**\$1.2B+**

CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN THE  
PAST 15 YEARS

# CLASS NOTES

1966

**William "Bill" Reeves, A.S. '66**, was inducted into the Boys and Girls Club Hall of Fame for his service to youth in the Columbus community. Reeves has been a dedicated leader in service to the Boys and Girls Club of the Chattahoochee Valley while still being an active member and former chair of Columbus State University's Foundation Board and the Foundation Properties Board. In 2002, Reeves received the Thomas Y. Whitley Distinguish Alumnus Award.

1975



**Dom Manio, B.S. '75 & B.S.Ed. '84**, was honored by the Filipino American Association of Columbus, Georgia, for his work as a founding member and past president. Many family and friends were present for the occasion. His wife, Genie ('75), was also thanked for her work and support. Manio is a past president of the CSU Alumni Association.

1977



**Evelyn Turner Pugh, B.S. '77 & M.B.A. '85**, was re-elected to Columbus City Council for

District 4 on May 24, 2016. She has currently served in this role for 28 years.

1978



**Barry Creed, B.S. '78 & B.S. '84**, (Ret.) was inducted as a member of the inaugural class of the U.S. Army ROTC National Hall of Fame in Fort Knox, Kentucky, in June.

1980



**Pamela Carter, M.Ed. '80**, was inducted into the Chattahoochee Valley Sports Hall of Fame for her contribution to the sport of high school cheerleading in the area.

1983

**Rebecca Seaman, B.S.Ed. '83**, was named second runner-up for the Board of Governors Awards for Excellence in Teaching at Elizabeth City State University. She is a professor in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences teaching history.

1989



**Kathleen Ziegler, M.S.A. '89**, was named vice president of value-driven solutions at TruthPoint. As a member of the executive team, Ziegler is responsible for organizational strategy, leadership and business development for the commercial health care market.

1995



**Jeff Williams, B.B.A. '95**, was promoted to vice president at 1st Source Bank. Jeff is responsible for the bank's IT operations and application support.



**John Watford, Ed.S '95**, was named president of South Georgia Technical College.

During his 26-year career at SGTC, he has served as an instructor, director of information technology, director of instruction, vice president of operations for the Crisp County Satellite Center and most recently as vice president for academic affairs.

1997



**Torrey Wiley, B.S. '97**, was named Alumnus Advisor of the Year for the Kappa Sigma Fraternity at their leadership conference in Orlando, Florida. Torrey was selected out of the 320 alumni advisers in the fraternity.

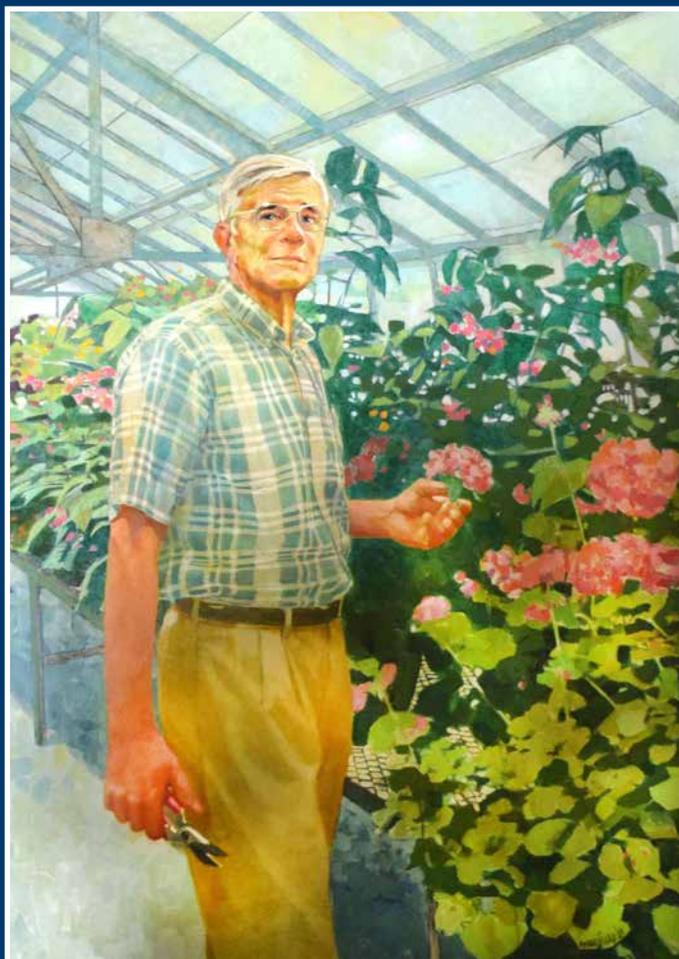
2000

**Audrey Anglin, B.S.Ed. '00**, was named Thomas Crossroads Elementary School Teacher of the Year in Coweta County. She currently serves as the special education teacher for the deaf and hard of hearing students.



**Jeff Battles, B.S.Ed '00, M.Ed. '07**, was promoted from athletic director at Hardaway High School to district-wide athletic director for Muscogee County.

## IN MEMORIUM



## Remembering William “Bill” C. LeNoir

William C. LeNoir, dean emeritus of the School of Science at Columbus State University, passed away Aug. 1 on his family farm in Monroe County, Tennessee.

He was 86 years old.

Family and friends gathered for LeNoir’s homegoing service Aug. 6 in Loudon, Tennessee, where he was born and raised.

The educator and leader dedicated 34 years to teaching and scholarship at Columbus State University.

LeNoir graduated from Maryville College and later earned a doctorate from the University of Georgia.

During 1960, he arrived on CSU’s campus as an instructor in the biology department, beginning a career that would span more than three decades and include a brief stint in 1980 as acting president.

After 22 years, the professor of botany became the university’s first dean of science. He held this position for 12 years.

As dean, LeNoir led the planning and completion of Columbus State’s science hall, which opened in 1990.

Because of LeNoir’s contributions and loyalty to his discipline, the university, students, colleagues and family, Columbus State named the building in his honor in 1997. Since then, the building has been known as LeNoir Hall.

After retiring, he moved back to Tennessee and worked as an active farmer and advocate for local historical and environmental initiatives.

2002



**Pamela Y. McCreless, A.S. '02, B.S.Ed. '08**, was selected to present “GALILEO: Staying Afloat in the Digital Age” at the Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy in Savannah during

September. Her selection comes on the heels of celebrating three years with the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries.

**Stacy Day, B.S.Ed. '02, M.Ed. '04, & Ed. S. '10**, was named principal at Arnold Magnet Academy by the Muscogee County School Board on May 16. Day has been assistant principal at Wynnton Art Academy, assistant principal at Richards Middle School and a math teacher at Arnold.

2003



**Stacy Yarbrough, M.M. '03**, was named Teacher of the Year in St. Charles Parish Schools in St. Charles Parish, Louisiana. Her honors include all 4s on her formal evaluations in 2015.



**Arthur White, M.P.A. '03**, (right) chief deputy at the Butts County Sheriff’s Office, was named to the Butts County Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame for “his significant contributions of time and effort to promote the work of the chamber.”



**Greg Hudgison, B.A., '94,** was named director of University Relations at CSU. Hudgison has more than 25 years of experience in advertising, marketing management, public relations and crisis communications. He previously served as director of marketing and public relations for The Family Center in Columbus. He also served as external communications manager for Synovus and targeted marketing manager for the Coca-Cola Bottling Co. His areas of expertise include corporate public relations messaging; media relations; strategic marketing developments; brand management; social media engagement; product research and marketing; speech and annual report writing. The communications and marketing alumnus is a member of the Public Relations Society of America, Georgia Press Association and Atlanta Press Club.

2004

**Katrina Worley, M.Ed. '04,** was named head athletic director at Tabor College in Hillsboro, Kansas. Worley comes to Tabor with 15 years of experience in athletic training and instruction at the collegiate and high school level.

2005

**Derrell Smith, M.P.A. '05,** was named assistant chief of police for the Albany Police Department.



**Rodrigo Puebla, M.P.A. '05,** was named head women's tennis coach at Flager College.

2007



**Leo Moore, B.S. '07,** accepted a new role as associate medical director for the Division of HIV and STD Programs, LA County Department of Public Health. He recently received a "Top 40 Under 40 Leaders in Minority Healthcare" Award from the National Minority Quality Forum and Congressional Black Caucus. He also completed his Master's of Health Policy and Management degree from the University of California, Los

Angeles, during December 2015. Moore is the 2013 CSU Alumni Association's recipient of the Young Alumni Award.

2009

**Paul Lindner, AASCJ '09,** was promoted to campus superintendent of state offices at Tift College. He is responsible for the coordination of full service facilities management for the Georgia Department of Corrections headquarters and training academy.

**George N. Turner, M.P.A. '09,** was named to the Southeastern Regional Board of Directors for Operation HOPE.

2011



**Gina Sederstrom, B.B.A. '11,** has successfully completed the Certified Financial Planner™ (CFP®) certification awarded by the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc. The CFP® mark of distinction is one of the most recognized and respected credentials in the financial services profession. It requires meeting Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc.'s rigorous standards of education, examination, experience and ethics. Earning a CFP® professional certification is more than just an important career achievement. It complements the knowledge and understanding that Sederstrom can draw upon in understanding the lives of her clients and helping them develop a personal investment strategy.



**Rebecca Roth Nicks, M.B.A. '11,** was named vice president for external relations at LaGrange College. Prior to this promotion, Nicks was the senior director of development. She has 18 years of higher education experience, including a stint at Vanderbilt University.

2014



**Chatil Bradford, B.A. '14 & M.S.O.L. '16,** was named assistant women's basketball coach at Tuskegee University. Bradford ranks as one of the top 10 in the CSU program in games played, points, field goals made, free throws made and free throw percentage. During 2014, she was named Peach Belt Conference Tournament women's basketball Most Valuable Player. For the last two seasons, she has been a graduate assistant for the Lady Cougars, concentrating on the development of the post players.

**Caroline Carter, B.S.Ed. '14,** married Joseph Caballero, B.S. '12, May 21, in a ceremony at Oakhurst Farms.

# Q&A with Ashley Lee

Development Coordinator, CSU Fund

BY CANDACE MORROW

**W**ho exactly are the campus members making alumni engagement happen at CSU and beyond? In this section of *Columbus State*, we talk to the ones working behind the scenes to make alumni experiences unforgettable for years to come. This edition Ashley Lee, development coordinator for the CSU Fund, shares how she keeps alumni connected to campus campaigns and discusses the campus' newest one:

**Q: What is CSU GIVES?**

**A:** CSU GIVES is a 58-hour campaign to engage 1,958 donors to make a gift through the CSU Fund. This campaign is the first of its kind in honor of 2016 marking the 58th year CSU has existed as an institution. Instead of aiming to reach a certain dollar amount, we chose to aim for 1,958 unique gifts in honor of our founding year. We will start the clock at 7:58 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9, in the middle of our Homecoming Week activities to raise gifts through online fundraising and our student phonathon. We will officially close the campaign with an announcement of the final donor and dollar count during Homecoming's Evening on the River on Friday, Nov. 11.

**Q: What are the benefits of participating in CSU GIVES?**

**A:** This is an exciting new way for alumni and friends to show support and also share why CSU is special to them. Donors can

make a gift to any area on campus and still be counted as part of the final tally. Every gift matters. The best part of running the campaign online is that every gift goes to work on campus immediately and creates opportunities for our students, ranging from presentations at national conferences to scholarships and research.

**Q: As development coordinator for the CSU Fund, what are your primary roles?**

**A:** I work with alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the university through the CSU phonathon, crowdfunding campaigns and other special projects throughout the year. My role in CSU GIVES is to help get the campus, our alumni and friends in the community excited about the chance to make a difference. Through this campaign, alumni can support student development and other campus projects that are meaningful to them and also share why CSU is special to them when they post and share the campaign through their Facebook and Twitter pages.

**Q: What is the best thing about your job as it relates to connecting with alumni?**

**A:** I have the privilege of sharing stories that inspire people, and in return, hearing new stories that inspire me. Whenever we in the Development Office contact alumni, we like to share notable student and alumni achievements because we want to showcase how giving to CSU creates opportunities that change lives.



## More About Me

**BEFORE THIS POSITION, I WAS ...** the graduate assistant for the Development Office and managed CSU's student phonathon.

**FAMILY:** Both of my parents were first-generation college students and CSU graduates. My uncle is an alumnus as well. We are big fans of Cougar athletics, especially basketball.

**BEST MOVIE I EVER SAW:** "Fried Green Tomatoes"

**LAST BOOK I READ:** "Fates and Furies" by Lauren Groff

**FAVORITE RECORDING ARTIST:** Of Monsters and Men

**MOST INTERESTING COLLEGE COURSE TAKEN:** A Green and Pleasant Land: Policy and Sustainability in Modern-Day Oxford. I was fortunate enough to complete the study-abroad course while staying in the Spencer House, CSU's home in Oxford, England, during a 2015 summer session.

Visit [giving.columbusstate.edu](http://giving.columbusstate.edu) to learn more about CSU Fund. Also, email [lee\\_ashley3@columbusstate.edu](mailto:lee_ashley3@columbusstate.edu) for more information about this campaign and others.

**CSU GIVES**  
19:58 THE CLOCK STARTS  
1,958 GIFTS TO RAISE  
58 HOURS TO MAKE YOUR IMPACT



WATCH HOW CSU ALUMNI, FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS ARE MAKING AN IMPACT THROUGH CSU GIVES AT [YOUTUBE.COM/COLUMBUSSTATEU](http://YOUTUBE.COM/COLUMBUSSTATEU)

# ALUMNI SCENE

## 1. First Thursday

Center: Dorothy Cheruiyot, B.S. '04 & M.S. '09



1

## 2. LaGrange Alumni & Friends Regional Event

### 3. Scotland & Ireland Alumni Trip

Former Alumni Director Geri Regnier, B.A. '71 & M.B.A. '85  
Mike Regnier, B.A. '72, M.Ed. '76, & Ed.S. '88



2

## 4. Guinness Brewery in Ireland

### 5. Loch Ness in Scotland

### 6. Dublin, Ireland

Richard and Jennifer Joyner (M.S.O.L. '13) and Beth (B.S. '99) and Luther Stanton at the oldest pub



3



4

### 7. Tower Traditions Recipients

Carlie Hinson, '16  
Shelby Rolling, '16

### 8. President's Recognition Dinner

L. Lamar Powers, A.S. '67 & B.S. '70,

Mary Schley and Meri Robinson

### 9. President's Recognition Dinner Art Smith & Family

Joseph Brannan

Emily Brannan, M.Ed. '10

Sue Smith, B.A. '78 & M.Ed. '82

Art Smith, B.S. '76, recipient of the Thomas Y. Whitley Distinguished Alumnus Award

Ellen Smith



7



5



6



**8**



**9**

**10. President's Recognition Dinner**

Janet Davis, A.S. '80 & B.B.A. '81

Suzanne Maynard, B.B.A. '87

**11. President's Recognition Dinner**

Betsy Leeburn, Honorary Alumna

**12. President's Recognition Dinner**

Kimberly Scott, B.S.Ed. '01, M.Ed. '02, CSU Alumni Association president

Betsy Leeburn, Honorary Alumna

Art Smith, B.S. '76, Thomas Y. Whitley Distinguished Alumnus

Kayron Laska, Frank D. Brown Achievement & Leadership Excellence Award winner

Tom Hackett, B.A. '77, M.Ed. '86, former provost

**13. Graduation**

Ryan Sadler '16

**14. May Graduation Senior Toast**

**15. Graduates at Senior Toast 2016**



**11**



**10**



**12**



**13**



**15**



**14**



## Athletics by the Numbers

**9** Number of All-Americans during the 2015-16 academic year;

**7** Peach Belt Conference Championships;

**33** All-Conference selections;

**7** Teams in NCAA post season;

**3** PBC Players of the Year;

**4** PBC Coaches of the Year;

**3.345**  
Overall GPA of student-athletes;

**5** Academic All-Americans;

**60** PBC All-Academic selections;

CSU also earned PBC male (Blake Edwards, baseball) and female (Shelby Rolling, soccer) Scholar Athlete of the Year.



# CSU athletics garners esteemed PBC awards

FROM COUGAR ATHLETICS

Columbus State University’s student-athletes consistently aim to win on courts and in classrooms. During the 2015-16 academic year, Cougars and Lady Cougars proved the point by bringing home their second straight Peach Belt Conference Presidents’ Academic Award and the Peach Belt Conference Commissioner’s Cup.

“Winning the Commissioner’s Cup is an incredible accomplishment by our student-athletes, coaches and the overall athletic department,” said CSU Director of Athletics Todd Resser, who received the cup at this year’s annual Peach Belt Conference awards dinner in Hilton Head, South Carolina. “This award is a direct reflection on our outstanding coaches and their effort and resourcefulness to recruit talented young men and women, and inspire them to compete at a very high level.”

The Commissioner’s Cup is given annually to the best overall athletic department by conference standings. The university

secured its first cup during the 2010-11 academic year, making this one its fifth and tying with North Florida for the most in conference history.

The Presidents’ Academic Award recognizes excellence in academics, including all of an institution’s students-athletes.

Along with the award and cup, CSU’s exceptional athletic year also included the Cougars and Lady Cougars winning championships in the following PBC regular season sports:

- women’s soccer in regular and tournament;
- women’s basketball;
- men’s basketball;
- men’s golf;
- men’s baseball in regular and tournament; and
- all-girl cheerleading title.

“I could not be more proud of our athletic department,” Resser said, “and their representation of Columbus State University.”



Stefan Lawrence accepting the Teacher of the Year award from Muscogee County School District superintendent David Lewis and Muscogee Educational Excellence Foundation chairwoman Janet Davis. Photo courtesy *Ledger-Enquirer*.

## Stefan Lawrence: Muscogee County Teacher of the Year

Alumnus Stefan Lawrence, '09, '12, earned the title of Muscogee County School District's Teacher of the Year for 2016. The Muscogee Educational Excellence Foundation announced Lawrence as this year's winner during its annual gala in the Columbus Convention & Trade Center during May. The former Cougar basketball guard graduated with a bachelor's degree in English and master's degree in secondary education. Today, Lawrence teaches English and Advanced Placement English at Carver High School — one of five Georgia schools named this year as an AP Champion.



Alumnus Stefan Lawrence played guard during his collegiate career at Columbus State.



## Did you know?

NBA center and power forward Dwight Howard of the Atlanta Hawks congratulated Anita Howard (no relation) for becoming CSU's new head coach of the Lady Cougar basketball program. This year Anita became the third head coach in the program's history. Here is what Dwight had to say: "Congratulations to Columbus State University for hiring Anita Howard as its new head women's basketball coach. I've observed unparalleled energy and passion in her leadership. She is a true winner and a great person!"



For the full story, visit [news.ColumbusState.edu](http://news.ColumbusState.edu) and search "Anita Howard."

# The CSU Fund

**CSU  
GIVES**



**COLUMBUS STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

Giving.ColumbusState.edu  
(706) 507-8945



## The CSU Fund: Celebrating 58 Years of Excellence

Last year, thousands of alumni and friends invested in CSU's continued success. To celebrate the incredible impact of this support and in honor of CSU for 58 years of transforming lives through education, the CSU Fund is proud to announce the next step in our CSU GIVES initiative.

During Homecoming Week, we will launch CSU GIVES, a 58-hour campaign to engage 1,958 donors in honor of our founding year. Every gift through the CSU Fund counts. Regardless of the amount or the area on campus impacted, your gift will inspire others to give as well.

To learn more about CSU GIVES, contact [annualgiving@columbusstate.edu](mailto:annualgiving@columbusstate.edu)



**COLUMBUS STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

## Mark your calendars

Visit [Alumni.ColumbusState.edu](http://Alumni.ColumbusState.edu) and [ColumbusState.edu/calendar](http://ColumbusState.edu/calendar) for a full list of alumni and campus events.

### OCTOBER

**Alumni Engagement — Doughboy Bowl**  
Oct. 20, 6 p.m. at *Doughboy Stadium, Fort. Benning*

### NOVEMBER

**Alumni Engagement — First Thursday**  
Nov. 3, 5-6:30 p.m. at *Mabella's in Columbus.*

**CSU Theatre Department — Everyman**  
Nov. 4 and 5, 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 6 at 2 p.m. at *Riverside Theatre Complex.* Call 706-507-8444 or visit [ColumbusState.edu/Theatre](http://ColumbusState.edu/Theatre) for tickets.

**Schwob School of Music — Schwob Concerto Competition (Final)**  
Nov. 6, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at *RiverCenter for the Performing Arts.* The annual concerto competition features the best young musicians in Columbus. Legacy Hall. Free.

**Alumni Engagement — Homecoming**  
Nov. 7-12, Visit [Homecoming.ColumbusState.edu](http://Homecoming.ColumbusState.edu) for a complete listing and registration information.

### DECEMBER

**Alumni Engagement — Alumni Day at the Falcons**  
Dec. 4, 1 p.m.

**Columbus State University — Graduation Ceremony**  
Dec. 10, 4 p.m. at *Civic Center.*

### JANUARY

**CSU Theatre Department — Fiddler on the Roof**  
Jan. 20 and 21 at 7:30 p.m.; Jan. 22 at 2 p.m. *Riverside Theatre Complex.* Call 706-507-8444 or visit [ColumbusState.edu/Theatre](http://ColumbusState.edu/Theatre) for tickets.

### FEBRUARY

**Alumni Engagement — First Thursday**  
Feb. 2, 5-6:30 p.m. at *Nonic in Columbus.*

### MARCH

**Alumni Engagement — Alumni Trip to Tuscany, Italy**  
March 30 to April 7

## REMEMBER WHEN...



### TOWER THROWBACK:

Nursing students take an exam in the Illges Health Science Building (occupied 1971), which served as the original home of Columbus College's nursing, dental, hygiene and medical technology programs. During 2017, CSU nursing students will begin studying and testing in brand-new simulation labs of the university's newly constructed CSU Center for Education and Nursing at RiverPark in Uptown Columbus.



[HOMECOMING.COLUMBUSSTATE.EDU](http://HOMECOMING.COLUMBUSSTATE.EDU)

SEE PAGE 13 FOR SPRING SEMESTER ALUMNI & FRIENDS REGIONAL EVENTS.



4225 University Avenue  
Columbus, Georgia  
31907-5645

Address service requested

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 10  
Columbus, Georgia

**Parents:** If this issue is addressed to a son or daughter who no longer lives at home, please send the correct address to [advancementservices@ColumbusState.edu](mailto:advancementservices@ColumbusState.edu)  
Thank you.



**WinterFest 2016**

COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

**CSU's annual holiday extravaganza**



*Co-Sponsored by*

**ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION**  
COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

Tuesday, Nov. 29 | 6-9 p.m.

Main campus | Free and open to the public

[www.ColumbusState.edu](http://www.ColumbusState.edu)