Students Taste Success
Teaching Math, Science

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Springtime Yields Exciting Activity

Those of you who follow my blog (ColumbusState.edu/president) know that Lauren and I are passionate advocates for all there is to do at our university. A recent weekend was devoted to celebrating the 95th birthday of the acclaimed writer and Columbus resident, Carson McCullers. A huge crowd gathered at Carson’s childhood home on Stark Avenue, now CSU’s McCullers Center for Writers and Musicians, and then spent the weekend at a number of events devoted to this iconic author.

At the same time, a large number of Columbus State University faculty gathered at Fort Benning, the Maneuver Center for Excellence, at a meeting convened by Maj. Gen. Bob Brown to continue exploring ways to connect our faculty and students with a range of research needs at Fort Benning. At a fall conference hosted by the university at the Cunningham Center, we began a process of investigating the Army’s training doctrine and feel that CSU and our faculty are uniquely positioned to work very closely with Fort Benning on a variety of important initiatives.

Over spring break, our university had students and faculty around the globe engaged in unique study-abroad experiences. We continue to emphasize the flatness of our world to our students, who will benefit mightily from these programs. The Board of Regents approved a special international fee for CSU that creates a substantial annual fund to subsidize these activities for increasing numbers of students.

Alumni will find great adaptive reuse of legacy buildings on our campus. Woodruff Gymnasium, for the first time in almost 50 years, has been air-conditioned, turf installed and is now available for expanded uses. Next door, our other traditional gymnasium has been converted to two, state-of-the-art tiered lecture halls that we desperately needed to expand our course delivery options.

The Schwob Memorial Library is undergoing extensive renovation and now remains open until 2 a.m. Monday-Thursday while our shuttles between main campus and RiverPark Campus run until 3 a.m. This spring, your university hosts six Peach Belt Conference championships. That’s life on a university campus in 2012!

Please help me welcome our new provost and vice president for academic affairs, Dr. Tom Hackett. Tom is a distinguished faculty member, former department chair and led the development of our doctoral program in educational leadership. His father, Paul, was a wonderful professor of classics, Latin and Greek for 20 years at our university, and his son is a freshman at CSU. Tom is an exceptional colleague who brings great vision and experience to the Office of the Provost.

Timothy Mescon

CSU Alumni Association President R. Marie Bruner, BBA ’93, greets attendees at the Alumni Recognition Luncheon during the inaugural Alumni Weekend last October. Details, Page 18.
About the Cover
A third-grader at St. Mary's Elementary Magna Academy reacts as Vince Richardson feigns distaste during a science lesson taught by Richardson and Sarah Hawk, both students in CSU's new UTeach Columbus program. (Photo by Roger Hart)

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Magazine Recognizes CSU President’s Work

CSU President Tim Mescon was in good company as one of this year’s “100 Most Influential Georgians,” featured in January’s Georgia Trend magazine.

A first-timer on the list, he was among about a half dozen university leaders across the state and about the same number of honorees from the Columbus area.

Georgia Trend noted that Mescon has expanded the “reach” of the university, with more than half of the most recent applicant pool coming from the Atlanta area, where Mescon personally participated in recruiting. It also noted the university's enrollment increase to 8,300-plus students, the addition of CSU's first doctorate and an expanded footprint in the local economy.

Mescon had been dean of Kennesaw State University's Michael J. Coles College of Business when he became, in August 2008, CSU’s fourth president. Since then, he’s also been active in the community, overseeing a successful United Way campaign and serving on the boards of the Boy Scouts, RiverCenter for the Performing Arts and Fort Benning Futures Partnership Board.

To see everyone who’s on the “power list,” visit http://www.georgiatrend.com/January-2012/Georgias-Power-List/.
Three Columbus State theatre majors won top honors at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region 4 in February, qualifying to compete at the national level.

Jessica N. Hill of Fairburn and T.K. Habtemariam of Columbus, both junior theatre performance majors, won top acting honors and $500 scholarships. They were to compete in the national finals April 19-23 on the Kennedy Center stage in Washington, D.C.

Hill and Habtemariam were nominated for their acting in Compañeras, a play that saw its world premiere at CSU last September as the winning work of the Department of Theatre's annual playwriting competition. Compañeras depicts a story of survival and compassion involving seven female political prisoners during Uruguay's "dirty war" of the 1970s.

Dylan G. Bollinger, a senior theatre education major from Murrayville, won the regional festival's National Stage Management Fellowship, meaning he'll also go to the national festival. He also placed second in lighting design for his work in Compañeras. Meg M. Dickens, a senior from Augusta, was selected Best Acting Partner in the competition, winning a $250 scholarship.

“I think that we received so many, reflects an unprecedented success for us,” said Larry Dooley, Department of Theatre chair. “We are very proud of our students.”

The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival is a national theatre program involving 18,000 students from more than 600 colleges and universities nationwide whose objective is improving the quality of college theatre in the United States. The Region 4 festival, held Jan. 31-Feb. 4 at Daytona State College in Daytona Beach, Fla., attracted hundreds of students from colleges and universities in nine Southeast states.

The acting awards that went to Hill and Habtemariam include a $500 scholarship from the Irene Ryan Foundation, which awards 19 such scholarships to the top actors in regional competitions. They then compete for two $3,000 scholarships that go to the top actors at the national festival in Washington, D.C. The foundation was established in 1973 by the estate of Ryan, one of the few actors to achieve success in film, television, Broadway and vaudeville. She's best remembered for her Emmy-winning portrayal of "Granny Clampett" on The Beverly Hillbillies.

NASA initially planned to retain all shuttle nozzles for use in its next-generation spacecraft, but an exception is allowing one to go to CSU's Coca Cola Space Science Center.

“This piece is a true NASA veteran and a serious workhorse of the space shuttle program,” said Shawn Cruzen, center director. “It is dripping with history, and we will be able to use it to tell an amazing story of American space flight in our facility.”

Cruzen said the offices of U.S. Sens. Johnny Isakson (Ga.), Richard Shelby (Ala.) and Jeff Sessions (Ala.), as well as Georgia congressmen Sanford D. Bishop and Lynn Westmoreland, all contacted NASA on CSU’s behalf.

CSU had initially hoped to get a nozzle used in testing or prototyping, but Cruzen said the nozzle the space science center will receive has far more significance:

- It’s been into space nine times, on all four shuttles in service during its lifetime – Atlantis and Columbia (three times each), Discovery (twice) and Endeavour (once).
- It carried Charles Bolden, NASA’s current director, into space on the first shuttle flight to the Mir Space Station, and shuttle astronauts Jim Wetherbee, Brian Duffy and Roger Crouch — all visitors to CSU’s center — also flew on flights using this nozzle.
- It was involved in 39 total engine starts: 24 for development and testing, three for engine certification and 12 actual launch-pad firings.

The nozzle is among several space artifacts, worth more than $19 million, coming to the space science center.
Historic First Doctorate Awarded

Justin Finney understands he’s part of Columbus State history as the first graduate of CSU’s first standalone doctoral program, but he wants to share the spotlight. “It’s been an honor to receive this, but I have to give credit to everybody that was on my committee,” said Finney, who got his Ed.D at the Dec. 16 fall commencement.

Finney, principal of Mulberry Creek Elementary in Harris County and a former CSU instructor, spent six and a half years pursuing his doctorate while working full-time as an educator. His journey started at Georgia State, but he transferred when CSU started offering its first doctoral courses in early 2010.

Columbus State’s new program was attractive to Finney because it had been designed by Provost Tom Hackett when he was chair of educational leadership at CSU. Hackett and other education faculty had been mentors to Finney when he earned three previous CSU degrees: B.S.Ed. (2001) and M.Ed. (2003), both in secondary social studies education, and an Ed.S. in educational leadership (2004).

“They’re like family to me,” Finney said. “Though I was happy at GSU, I just wanted to be part of this event at CSU. They are people that I trust — that I just really care about. I liked working with them.”

Hackett said he believes the addition of the standalone doctorate program will be “transformational” in terms of how Columbus State is perceived. Hackett’s Ed.D emphasizes research.

“I felt like if we were going to say that we were taking our school leaders to the next level, that they needed to be able to go in and ascertain problems, develop hypotheses and do research and be experts at dealing with data and also be real strategic thinkers,” said Hackett, who rose from teacher to superintendent in Phenix City Schools before joining CSU in 2004. “We decided as a college to make it have a curriculum track, meaning that you could get an Ed.D. with an emphasis in curriculum in different study areas like early childhood, or you could get it with a leadership track, with the idea you are going to be in senior leadership as a principal, as a central office person, or even as a superintendent.”

CSU education faculty helped shape Finney’s doctoral thesis on distributive leadership — the concept that a school administrator who empowers staff is more effective than one who makes all the decisions.

“Using distributive leadership is really more practical than top-down type leadership,” Finney said. “You get a better result.”

While working on his thesis, Finney found ways to put distributive leadership into practice.

“That’s just the way I was taught to do it,” said Finney, an educator in both Muscogee and Harris counties, as well as at CSU over the past 14 years. “Dr. Hackett has been instrumental in mentoring me in that type of mindset.”

IT Degree Ranked ‘Best Buy’

Columbus State’s online Bachelor of Science in Information Technology has been ranked a Top 20 “Best Buy” by GetEducated.com.

The consumer group rates, ranks and verifies the cost and credibility of online colleges and online universities, ranking the University System of Georgia’s WebBSIT degree offered at CSU 16th in the nation, out of 88 schools evaluated.

Columbus State’s program has earned a reputation for quality, affordability and commitment to student service. It was created to address the needs of busy professionals who saw the benefits of continuing their education but were challenged trying to juggle career and family with standard classes.

“The WebBSIT program provides a high-quality information technology education taught by knowledgeable and caring faculty, coupled with the flexibility of an online program that can be taken from anywhere in the world,” said Wayne Summers, chair of the university’s TSYS School of Computer Science.

GetEducated.com has also recognized Columbus State’s online master’s in applied computer science and its online MBA program. To learn more about CSU’s computer science programs, visit http://ColumbusState.edu/cs.
Student Shoots for Success at Olympics

Columbus State has its first Olympian, and his name is Jonathan Hall.

Hall, a junior from Carrollton, has been selected for the 2012 U.S. Olympic Rifle Team and will compete in the Summers Olympics in London.

This is Hall’s second attempt at an Olympic team berth. In 2008, he finished third at the U.S. Olympic Airgun Trials and missed making the Beijing games by two points.

“It definitely was a tough fight,” Hall said of earning his Olympic berth. “It probably was one of the toughest matches I fought in my life. I never looked at it like, ‘You’re in,’ or, ‘You’re going.’ It definitely was a major fight and digging deep the whole time.”

In CSU’s inaugural rifle season, Hall won first place in the air-rifle competition at the 2010 NCAA rifle championships.

He is one of four shooting siblings.

Junior Chris Frost works out while classmates and Brian Tyo, assistant professor, monitor his efforts.

Volleyball to be Varsity Sport

Women’s volleyball will return to Columbus State as a varsity sport in 2013, university officials announced in March.

“The enthusiasm around volleyball both at the collegiate and high school levels is infectious,” President Tim Mescon said.

Columbus College previously fielded a women’s volleyball team from 1966-1982, with the team’s only coach, Mary V. Blackmon, recording more than 200 wins.

CSU has started a search to hire a head coach by this summer. The coaching staff will spend next academic year recruiting players, scheduling and building the program so that it can participate in NCAA and Peach Belt Conference competition in 2013-2014. Eight PBC universities now field women’s volleyball teams.

New Facilities, Equipment Revitalize Exercise Science

Columbus State’s Department of Health, Physical Education and Exercise Science, also known as HPEX, has new tools in a building with a new name that reflects its mission — teaching students about health and wellness.

CSU’s former Health and Safety Building last fall became the Health and Wellness Center, renovated after the Student Health Clinic, University Police and Campus Recreation moved out, giving exercise science more lab and classroom space.

“One major purpose of the building is to provide space that will accommodate programs of a growing department with diverse needs,” said Clay Nicks, coordinator of the exercise science program.

Fitness classes are now held in the previous Fitness Center as part of the department’s wellness program. An adjacent small gym area was transformed into two classrooms to accommodate lecture classes of 60-70 students.

Recent additions to the program’s expanded human performance lab are a Bod-Pod, used to measure body composition; an exercise bike that measures anaerobic power; and a freestanding 12-lead electrocardiograph.

“The new Bod Pod has allowed me to initiate research in assessment of body composition measures in African-American women,” Assistant Professor Alicia Bryan said. “The research, in turn, has allowed me to train graduate students within our area on utilization of this equipment and expose them to applied research in our field.”

HPEX currently enrolls nearly 600. Hundreds of non-majors take the department’s wellness courses.
New University Advancement Vice President Starts Work July 1

Alan Medders, vice president for institutional advancement at the University of North Alabama, will join Columbus State July 1 as vice president for University Advancement.

The senior-level administrator reports directly to the president and is an active participant on the president’s leadership team. The VP also serves as executive director of the CSU Foundation.

Succeeding Kayron Laska, who recently retired, Medders will direct all university fundraising efforts and lead a division that includes development, alumni relations, university relations and advancement services.

“We were exceedingly impressed with the pool of candidates we attracted to this job opening,” said CSU President Tim Mescon, referring to a nationwide search conducted by Myers McRae Executive Search and Consulting. “I think it speaks well to the tradition of private support we have developed here. With his experience and his expertise, Alan stood out and is certainly the right person to build on that foundation and take us to the next level. I am extremely excited he is joining our team.”

Medders, who is also executive director of the University of North Alabama Foundation, has been in Florence, Ala., five years. Earlier, he was vice president for development at Campbellsville University in Kentucky, president/CEO of the Woman’s Missionary Union Foundation in Birmingham and director of church relations at Carson-Newman College in Tennessee.

“I look forward to working with the president, administration, faculty and staff, as well as the trustees of the CSU Foundation,” Medders said.

Medders has led or organized several comprehensive fundraising campaigns, has worked extensively with boards of trustees to create common visions and plans, and had oversight in the asset management of several investment portfolios and the policies and procedures that guide the collection, distribution and reporting of each.

He earned his bachelor’s degree from Samford University before going on to earn a master’s and doctorate from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. Medders is completing a doctorate in higher education administration from the University of Tennessee.

Student Initiates Calhoun County Health Outreach

“What are we going to do, Dr. Walker?”

That was the urgent question Shakendra Strafford put to Dr. Paula Walker, associate professor in CSU’s Health, Physical Education and Exercise Science Department, after reading the heart-wrenching results of a report about the overall health of her home county.

The 2011 report from the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation cited Calhoun County, population 6,320, as the unhealthiest county in Georgia, with above average rates of high blood pressure, diabetes and obesity. (Its obesity rate of 33 percent is significantly higher than the rest of Georgia.)

“When the study came out saying that Calhoun County was the unhealthiest county in Georgia, I just felt like I had to make a difference in my community,” said Strafford, a senior health science major and Edison native. “I wanted to make the citizens of Calhoun County aware of their health status, and get out in the future and do something about it.”

So Strafford and 23 other CSU health science honor student volunteers gave up a Saturday last fall to do something about the problem. They traveled to Edison — an hour, 39-minute drive southeast of Columbus — arriving at 6 a.m. for the start of an 8 a.m. health fair at Calhoun Memorial Hospital, its partner in the event.

The health fair featured cholesterol screenings, blood sugar testing, blood pressure measurements, vision checks, hearing checks and other screenings. The students distributed information and offered vouchers for mammograms, fasting blood work, pap smears and prostate exams — all free of charge.

More than 100 people showed up to get screenings and information.

“We want people to see better health is within their reach,” said Walker, a CSU associate professor of health science and former emergency room physician. “It’s not some complicated formula that requires you to buy all organic food and have a gym membership. It’s about things you do every day, the choices that you make every day. We want to really bring that home for people.”

They also offered fitness stations, Zumba demonstrations, healthy snack tables with samples, recipes and other nutritional information. There were vendors from the local health department and gyms, as well as other health-related agencies.

“I think we have room to serve until we see the numbers get better (in Calhoun County),” Walker said.
Vince Richardson always thought he had a gift for teaching. In the Army, he taught soldiers first aid for over five years and loved it, but he was unsure if he wanted to make teaching a career. Until now.

continued on next page

How to get involved in new STEM programs addressing teacher shortage

Growing Opportunity

UTeach student Vince Richardson, dressed for swamp exploration, talks to third-graders about Georgia habitats, including swamps.
Richardson recently found himself teaching again, this time as a Columbus State student fulfilling a class assignment at St. Mary’s Elementary Magnet Academy in south Columbus. There, he was earning hands-on experience as part of CSU’s UTeach program, a new initiative funded by CSU and a federal grant designed to produce more public school teachers in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math — STEM, for short.

Part of Richardson’s assignment was to execute a lesson plan in front of a class. He had taught Combat Life Saver classes to soldiers with Fort Benning’s 3rd Infantry Division, but would he be as eager to remain in the classroom after a day with kids?

“Without a doubt,” Richardson said. “If I had any questions about it, the whole UTeach program makes me know for certain this is what I want to do. This is a great opportunity for me.”

It’s also a great opportunity for Columbus State, UTeach Columbus and CSU’s other new efforts to address the nation’s shortage of math and science teachers. Richardson’s experience is evidence the program is preparing well the next generation of teachers.

“The way that the professors went over specifically what was needed, what we were going to face, just the whole lesson program that they set up for us is great,” said Richardson. “If we had any questions — my partner (Sarah Hawk) and I had never done this before — this was a really nice guide for us to be able to teach without any problems.”

Columbus State exceeded its goal of attracting 24 students to the new program this spring as 32 enrolled. This bodes well as CSU coordinates a number of initiatives designed to recruit, train and retain high school teachers in STEM areas.

Last summer, CSU received a $1.4 million, four-and-a-half year grant as part of the U.S. Department of Education’s Race to the Top program to produce more STEM teachers through UTeach Columbus, which is modeled after a successful University of Texas program. CSU then received a $1.2 million award in September from the National Science Foundation’s Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, named after the famed computer chip inventor, for a proposal called CRAFT-STEM, short for Columbus Region Academy for Future Teachers of STEM, which aims to help Columbus State recruit, develop and graduate an increasing number of high school STEM teachers over the next five years. Key CRAFT-STEM components are:

- A STEM Honors summer camp for high school students across the state.
- A $4,500 summer internship for CSU freshmen and sophomores.
- A Teaching Connections Seminar that helps preservice teachers address content in the high school curriculum.
- Scholarships for CSU juniors and seniors ranging from $10,000-$13,000.
- Scholarship recipients committing to teach two years in a high-need school district for each year they receive the scholarship

CRAFT-STEM’s main goal is to quadruple the number of high school math and science teachers CSU graduates within five years, bringing the total to around 19 per year.

Most of CSU’s new UTeach students are coming out of either math or a science field. Within the four years they’re in school, they’re also able to add a STEM teaching certificate to go with their bachelor’s degree. That not only helps them in their careers but addresses a nationwide need documented by statistics related to STEM teacher shortages:

- Nationally, 23.9 percent of biology-life sciences teachers don’t have a major in that discipline, and 6.7 percent of biology-life sciences teachers aren’t certified in that area.
- 51.8 percent of chemistry teachers didn’t major in chemistry, and 17.3 percent aren’t certified in chemistry.
- 66.8 percent of earth sciences teachers didn’t major in earth sciences, and 43.5 percent aren’t certified in this area.
- 42.3 percent of physics teachers didn’t major in physics, and 14.1 percent aren’t certified to teach in this area.

Jamya Maxwell, 9, and classmates watch as Vince Richardson dips swamp water.
• 51.5 percent of physical science teachers didn’t major in any physical science, and 21.6 percent aren’t certified in any physical science.

Closer to home, numbers collected from the latest data (2006-2007) reveal an equally dismal picture. Over that period, Georgia public and private universities graduated from traditional bachelor’s degree certification programs for teachers in grades 6-12:

• 56 biology teachers
• Nine chemistry teachers
• 23 earth and space science teachers
• One physics teacher
• 35 general science teachers

In Georgia that same year, there was a 10.1 percent science teacher attrition rate in grades 6-12, resulting in almost 660 fewer science teachers — clearly more than Georgia colleges and universities could fill with their graduates.

Over the spring semester, CSU students will observe, create lesson plans and teach classes at elementary schools surrounding Columbus. They’re going out to do two classroom observations with a teacher and then, with a partner, they’re going to teach three lessons.

“This allows them to get their feet wet to see if they want to pursue teaching as a career,” said Gail Sinkule, the program’s master teacher, who teaches its introductory courses. “My job is to try to guide them, help them develop lessons and help them practice those lessons before they go out.”

Sinkule is driven to help the students circumvent problems that she anticipates they might initially encounter.

“The kids were awesome for us,” said Richardson’s partner, Sarah Hawk. “The instructors taught us a lesson laid out the way they wanted us to teach it. So we got to see a model of them teaching first. Then they let us try our hand at writing the lesson.”

Hawk likes the way UTeach puts CSU students in school classrooms earlier during their studies.

“I felt that if I wasn’t in the classroom, I would get burned out by the time I actually got to be in class with students,” she said. “I think we both had high hopes for the outcome and we got a better reaction than we had planned. It was everything I was hoping it would be.”
For the first time in more than two years, Columbus State academic leadership includes no one whose title begins with “interim.”

A retirement, a departure for another school, a resignation and an academic restructuring left CSU in what seemed like continuous search mode over the last few years, as committees conducted national searches to fill some of the university’s most critical roles.

This spring, the last of the searches was completed. A committed team of academic leaders is now in place, each excited about the future and poised to play a critical role as CSU begins developing a new strategic plan.

Leading the academic team is the provost, Columbus State’s chief academic officer and second-in-command. Reporting to him are deans who lead the university’s libraries and four colleges: Arts, Business and Computer Science, Education and Health Professions, and Letters and Sciences. Four of the five deans have been in their positions less than two years; two were hired since September. They provide the structure, resources, vision and support for all academic departments and faculty that are CSU’s true core.

“It is absolutely a delight to work with this talented group of educators,” said CSU Provost Tom Hackett. “You have only to watch this group in action to see their level of innovation, expertise and commitment to growing this university.”

In separate interviews with each dean, some commonalities emerged. All national experts in their fields, CSU’s academic deans are deeply committed to their discipline, the university and to doing whatever they can to provide a rewarding experience for every student. They seem to genuinely like each other and their roles are critical to the university’s future. Each says raising private money is among their immediate priorities, each wants to attract more academically qualified students, and each said their area — and Columbus State as a whole — could be poised to achieve greatness.

“One thing I feel very strongly is that there’s a sense of stability now,” said David Lanoue, dean of CSU’s College of Letters and Sciences. “The team is in place and now we’re ready to step forward and really take CSU into the future. We are going to be a standout campus in the Georgia system — we’re going to be a destination campus.”

College of Letters and Sciences

Lanoue is dean of the university’s largest college, with 11 departments from English to chemistry. A veteran political science professor and former University of Alabama department chair, Lanoue assumed the reins of CSU’s College of Letters and Sciences in July 2010.

The colleges had just been reorganized when he arrived. A College of the Arts had been formed, a few departments had been reassigned to other colleges, and there was palpable uneasiness about the direction of the new college.

Lanoue, an expert on American political behavior, said he had no reservations about stepping into the job because he admired so much of what he saw at CSU, including community support, the college’s faculty and the student body.

“Students here have a level of seriousness that you don’t see in other places because they know this is their
chance to achieve lifetime goals,” Lanoue said.

He hopes he can build on that by helping to provide more internships, research opportunities and scholastic assistance. He also wants to improve student retention, and hopes to provide more “space” for faculty, both in physical terms as it relates to science labs, and also in terms of professional freedom to pursue their passions.

“One of the things that gave me such confidence in being here at CSU is the dedication of our faculty. I’ve never been to a place where faculty has that kind of a devotion to their institution,” Lanoue said. “They — we — will never lose sight of our primary mission. Job No. 1 has been, and always will be, to provide a first-class education to our students.”

Lanoue said the diversity of his college has been invigorating. He purposely took an office in LeNoir Hall — home to departments such as biology and chemistry — so he could learn more about the sciences. The learning process continues, he said.

**College of Education and Health Professions**

Barbara Buckner is dean of CSU’s College of Education and Health Professions, which encompasses all teacher education departments, as well as health sciences and the School of Nursing. Buckner started on July 1, 2011, leaving her post as associate provost at Coastal Carolina University to return to education administration because she’s seen her profession assailed from every angle.

“My challenge as dean is to educate the public on the importance of having a highly qualified teacher in the classroom,” Buckner said. “Public education is what has made our country great.”

She sees threats to that foundation that worry her greatly, and that teachers, health educators and nurses should be getting more respect, not more oversight.

“To me, we are in positions of service to society. These are noble professions,” Buckner said.

A former teacher with a passion for student reading, Buckner said the future of her new college is bright. Nursing is bursting at the seams with new online programs and possible plans for a doctoral degree, exercise science just moved into new facilities, and teacher education is looking at developing a lab school. This new school would allow the latest theories and teaching methods to be implemented and studied in a controlled environment. Although the idea is all theoretical now, faculty are writing a charter for the school, believing the idea is a definite possibility, largely because of community support for the university.

“It’s fun to come to an institution and try to write another chapter.”

**D. Abbott Turner College of Business and Computer Science**

Whatever next chapter of CSU’s history is written, Linda Hadley will know the rest of the story. The dean of the current deans, Hadley has been at D. Abbott Turner College of Business and Computer Science since she joined the faculty as an assistant professor of finance and economics in 1992.

A Columbus native, Hadley knew she would end up in banking because of an early fascination with banks, both from a physical standpoint with their marble edifices, and from an operations standpoint with the marvel of compound interest.

After earning her bachelor’s degree from Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass., she was drawn back south by family and climate. She decided to take just one class at then-Columbus College, and that led to an MBA and a professional career as a banking officer. After teaching part-time for the American Institute of Banking, Hadley decided to pursue a doctorate and taught as a graduate student at Auburn University before Columbus State hired her as a faculty member.

Now dean and the Bill Heard Chair of Finance, one of the college’s five endowed professorships, Hadley said Columbus State and her college have changed dramatically since she was a student.

“While expansion of the campus is perhaps the most visible sign of the tremendous evolution of this institution, I’m most in awe of how far the institution has come in terms of the quality of its faculty and academic programs,” she said.

CSU now aspires to be “world class,” she said. “A world-class institution requires a world-class faculty, and I feel the Turner College has certainly done its part toward meeting that objective,” she said. “The intellectual capital of our faculty is our most important asset.”

A strong faculty is also critical to keeping the school’s coveted international accreditation, which the college achieved in 2004. Recognition by AACSB International, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, has placed CSU in elite company.

Seeking to capitalize on the growing stature of the institution, one of her goals for the future is more targeted recruitment. With the support of Council, a small group of prominent and committed business leaders, Hadley’s goal is to attract highly qualified students with a competitive scholarship program that also offers internship placement and leadership guidance from successful business leaders committed to advance the Turner College.

**College of the Arts**

Richard Baxter is dean of the College of the Arts, which encompasses the departments of theatre, art, communication and CSU’s Schwob School of Music. A former chair of the communication department, Baxter was interim dean for about six months before a national search revealed in February that the best person for the job was already in the office.

The music school is undoubtedly the college’s unit with the most distinguished history, with five endowed professorships, some of the country’s finest facilities and a tradition of having its students win music competitions around the globe.

Baxter said he’s convinced that music’s success can benefit other departments.

“In the two years that the Department of Communication was located in
After three decades as an educator, Tom Hackett knows a lot about learning.

But that doesn’t mean he’s stopped acquiring knowledge in his current role as Columbus State provost and vice president for academic affairs.

“I know it’s a cliché, but every day (as provost) is a learning experience,” said Hackett, sitting down in March to talk about the job he’s held on an interim basis since September, 2010.

After a national search, President Tim Mescon announced Feb. 14 that Hackett would remain in the position, no longer an “interim.”

His ascent since joining CSU in 2004 has been rapid, faster than his two-decade rise from teacher to Phoenix City schools superintendent, the job he retired from to join CSU.

“I’m surprised at the pace,” he said of the provost job. “You’ve got to deal with things not only tied to campus but also at the Atlanta and national level. This is a very complicated

Libraries

Columbus State University’s dean of libraries doesn’t deal with students in one particular discipline. Mark Flynn considers all students as his students.

Asked to explain the role of libraries in CSU’s academic structure, Flynn pulled out a copy of the university’s strategic plan and went down the list of goals saying, “That’s us!”

“We provide support for the curriculum, and we provide support for students to empower them to study or do research,” said Flynn, the former director of the Florida Electronic Library and information technology programs for the Florida Division of Library and Information Services. “We teach people how to analyze and critique information, and absorb it into coursework or individual needs.”

Flynn, who became CSU’s dean of libraries in September, plans for major changes. A physical overhaul is already under way that will open up the main floor of the Schwob Memorial Library to provide more room for students to collaborate. Staff offices will move downstairs, but there will always be a reference desk nearby. Already, the library has expanded its hours until 2 a.m. on most weekdays, established a laptop computer checkout system and added an Einstein Brothers Bagels shop.

He also hopes to establish a performing arts library downtown to complement the music library in the Saunders Center for Music Studies inside the RiverCenter.

“Such upgrades will expand assets on campus and also play an important role in the community,” Flynn said, pointing out that strong college libraries attract visitors, reaping economic and cultural benefits.

“We are a cultural institution that brings value to the community, and we want to play a bigger role in that,” Flynn said, mentioning genealogy, military history and the arts. “We are all about enriching the quality of life in this community.”

Mark Flynn

the College of the Arts, it became obvious to me that there was an incredible amount of potential for all the departments to distinguish themselves outside Columbus,” he said. “You have dedicated academicians totally committed to the students they teach.”

Baxter may be from a communication background, but he’s been around arts all his life and is a devoted fan. His grandfather was head of the stagehands union in Kentucky, his appreciation for art museums blossomed when he worked in New Orleans, and he has always been a music fan. As a DJ in college, working the night shift in Kentucky as The Duke of Richmond, he remembers meeting and introducing two young performers: singers Porter Wagoner and Dolly Parton.

Baxter, who’s spent nearly four decades in higher education, arrived at CSU in 2005. Immediately before then, Baxter was co-owner, publisher and executive editor of two business periodicals in South Texas.

Earlier, he served as a journalism professor, department chair and in senior administrative positions with universities in Kentucky, Louisiana, Georgia and West Virginia.

Learning Experience

No Longer an Interim, Provost Committed to Progress

By Bill Sutley

Provost Tom Hackett reflects during a February interview.
organization with a lot of moving parts."

He’s committed to moving Columbus State forward in terms of academic reputation.

“In my view, we’re an adolescent institution, just beginning to feel our power and abilities,” he said. “Now we’re trying to decide where to go in the future. Do we want to assume the mantle of leadership?”

Hackett said he’s pleased with the changes he’s witnessed over eight years at Columbus State, including a couple of major moves he initiated as professor and chair of the department focused on educational leadership.

His “proudest moment” came at December commencement, when he put the doctoral hood over the neck of the first graduate of CSU’s first standalone doctoral program, an Ed.D. in educational leadership that was his brainchild. He’s also been a key player in CSU’s rapidly growing commitment to online instruction — an ironic role given a scholarly article he once wrote questioning its effectiveness.

“Distance learning is just another tool,” he said. “Given its ubiquitous nature, distance learning is going to happen whether we shape it or not.”

He’s determined Columbus State will add more online courses only as long as the university addresses related issues of quality, academic freedom and faculty expertise. Hybrid courses, mixing classroom and online instruction, are often the best option, he said. Sometimes, face-to-face interaction is a must.

“It’s like Wynton Marsalis,” he said, referring to the jazz trumpeter. “I enjoy his albums, but there’s no substitute for listening to the real Wynton, like when I saw him live at the RiverCenter.”

Jazz is one of Hackett’s few passions unrelated to his job. A poster of jazz saxophonist John Coltrane dominates one wall of his Richards Hall office.

Hackett and his wife, Janey, who he met as a Columbus College student, are the parents of three sons, and they have three grandchildren. Their youngest son, Joseph, is a freshman psychology major at CSU.

Hackett earned the first of his four degrees, a bachelor’s in English, from Columbus College in 1977, returning to complete courses in 1979 to be certified as a teacher. One of his professors was his father, Paul T. Hackett, who was enjoying a second career here as an English professor, teaching Greek and Latin.

“He was tough on me,” Hackett said. “He had a genius for languages that I did not have.”

Before then, his father’s first career, 26 years in the Army, kept the future provost on the move, from his New York state birthplace to homes in Kansas, Texas, California and Paraguay.

“I spent my formative years, from age 4 to 7, in South America,” he said. “At one time, I spoke Spanish fluently and could play soccer. Coming back to the states was a culture shock.”

Now 57, Hackett’s committed to what he perceives as an “incredible” U.S. educational system.

“Can we improve? Absolutely,” he said. “What we need to do is have an honest discussion about what it will take to be an educated person in 2030 or 2050. I think Columbus State is going to be not just a player but a leader. In the end, that’s why I’m so excited to still be in it.”

As a young teacher, Hackett spent his summers for several years in an Army National Guard field artillery unit.

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“I think Columbus State is going to be not just a player but a leader.”

— Tom Hackett
Respected local leaders in the fields of business and health care were honored by the CSU Alumni Association April 19 at CSU’s 2012 President’s Recognition Dinner.

Aflac co-Founder Paul S. Amos was presented the Frank D. Brown Achievement and Leadership Excellence Award, which recognizes an individual or organization that exemplifies the leadership skills and ideals of its namesake, CSU’s retired third president.

Jean M. Hartin, retired vice president of clinical services at Columbus Regional Health System, was presented the Thomas Y. Whitley Distinguished Alumnus Award, named for CSU’s founding president.

Also at the Cunningham Center dinner, four persons were named honorary alumni:

- **JoAnn N. Brown**, a veteran educator who’s worked on numerous CSU projects during her husband’s 20-year tenure as CSU’s longest-serving president
- **Kayron M. Laska**, who recently retired as Columbus State’s vice president for University Advancement and executive director of the CSU Foundation.
- **Anthony D. “Tony” Link**, a retired SunTrust Bank officer who’s served as secretary of the CSU Foundation Board of Trustees and chairman of its investment committee.
- **John A. Shinkle**, senior vice president of investments and branch manager for Stifel Nicolaus & Co., and longtime trustee of the CSU Athletic Fund.

More on the evening’s top award recipients:

**Paul S. Amos**, chairman emeritus and co-founder of Aflac, Inc., has been a longtime supporter of Columbus State University.

Three years before the university’s founding, he and his brothers, John and Bill, launched what was then American Family Life Insurance Co., in 1955, eventually building Aflac into the world’s leading supplemental insurance company.

Paul Amos served as chairman of the company from 1990 until he retired in May 2001. The Enterprise, Ala., native was raised in south Alabama and northwest Florida, and he served Aflac during the 1960s as vice president and state manager of Aflac’s Alabama-West Florida region. In 1974, Amos was promoted to first vice president and director of marketing. Later that same year, he became president of Aflac and Aflac, Inc.

Among other innovations he’s credited with, Amos initiated a regional sales coordinator structure that’s been acknowledged as a key to Aflac’s success. In 1991, he established the Paul S. Amos Scholarship Fund, making it possible for full-time employees to work toward completion of their college degrees.

Several Columbus State graduates were able to attend college as a direct result of scholarships bearing his name.

Amos is married to the former Mary Jean Roberts of Pensacola, Fla., and they have a son, Daniel P. Amos, the current chairman and CEO of Aflac, Inc.

**Jean M. Hartin**, earned her associate’s degree in nursing from Columbus College in 1972, and she’s maintained a close relationship to the school ever since. She became a practicing nurse that same year at St. Francis, eventually managing the hospital’s Critical Care Unit and Clinical Education Department.

After seven years at St. Francis, she moved to Columbus Regional Healthcare System, where she spent the next 25 years, retiring as vice president of clinical services. Each year since then, CRHS has recognized a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse and nursing manager as recipients of the Jean Hartin Excellence in Nursing Awards. The awards recognize “high levels of professionalism, respect, innovation, dedication and excellence.”

During her time at Columbus Regional, she served in several leadership and clinical roles, managing all clinical areas of nursing, respiratory, housekeeping, critical care unit, emergency department and surgical department, as well as having oversight of nursing and clinical education.

Hartin has served on the CSU Foundation Board of Trustees since 1991, and she’s also been a member of advisory boards to CSU’s nursing program, Servant Leadership Program and the College of Education and Health Professions.

She’s also been active in the state’s oversight of nursing as a profession, serving on several Georgia Board of Nursing committees and participating in task forces and state boards that established standards of nursing practice still used today.
CSU Creating Online Alumni Community

Columbus State alumni will get a chance to participate in a new online community, myCSU, starting this summer.

“We encourage everyone to join myCSU when we notify alumni about how to register this summer,” said Jennifer Joyner, CSU’s Alumni Relations director. “By joining, you’ll be able to experience CSU in an entirely different and interactive way. This new website and community just for CSU alumni combines social media with the newest technologies for communication.”

The new, password-protected portal will allow alumni to:

• Interact and network with other alumni.
• Access news tailored to CSU alumni.
• Message other CSU alumni more easily.
• Contribute interactive class notes.
• Register more easily for CSU alumni events.
• Offer online a financial gift to the university with greater ease.

For more information, call Alumni Relations at 706-507-8956.

Join Fellow Alumni for London, Paris Sightseeing

Columbus State’s Office of Alumni Relations is offering a tour of London and Paris in spring 2013, with special rates available to those who sign up by Sept. 30, 2012.

To learn more about the trip, attend an Interest Meeting at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14 at CSU’s Elizabeth Bradley Turner Center for Continuing Education.

Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame are among the sightseeing stops on the March 14-21, 2013 tour organized by Collette Vacations.

The early-booking prices of $3,199 for double- or triple-occupancy and $3,899 for single-occupancy are available until Sept. 30, when the rates go up $100. That includes round-trip airfare from Atlanta, lodging for six nights, 10 meals (including dinners at the Eiffel Tower and a Paris cabaret), sightseeing to a dozen destinations, a London theatre performance, a Seine River cruise and a high-speed trip by rail from London to Paris.

Extra excursions to Windsor Castle, the Louvre Museum and Versailles Palace are also available, and Collette offers an optional extension of the trip to Rome by four days and three nights.

For more information on the tour, visit http://www.collettevacations.com/link/504012 or email Alumni Director Jennifer Joyner at jennifer.joyner@ColumbusState.edu.
Alumni Weekend 2012 Plans Coming Together

Plans are being finalized for Columbus State’s second annual Alumni Weekend on Oct. 12-13.

“Alumni Weekend 2012 will be an opportunity to reunite and reconnect with classmates from the golf course to the dance floor,” said Sommer Bundy, BBA ’04, events chair for the Alumni Association’s Board of Directors. “This is definitely a ‘must-go’ event for everyone.”

Details, including more on the new Saturday morning golf outing, will be announced soon. As with last October’s inaugural event, activities will kick off with a Friday evening reception on CSU’s RiverPark Campus downtown. The Grapevine band has been booked to provide music Saturday evening.

A call for nominations will be announced soon on the Alumni website (ColumbusState.edu/alumni) to select honorees for the Alumni Recognition Luncheon on Saturday at CSU’s Coca-Cola Space Science Center. The 2011 honorees were:

- **S. Scott Voynich**, BBA ’75, Alumni Service Award.
- **Brenda Coakley Williams**, B.S. ’92, Alumni Service Award.
- **Nicole de Vries**, BBA ’07, Young Alumna Award.
- **Steve Taylor**, BBA ’77, Excellence in Alumni Achievement.
- **Charles F. Merkel Jr.**, B.A. ’75, Distinguished Alumnus in Military Service.
- **Steve Morse**, CSU Alumni Association Faculty-Staff Appreciation Award. (The sole non-alumnus honoree, Morse is CSU’s director of logistics.)

For more information on Alumni Weekend 2012, contact Alumni Relations Director Jennifer Joyner at 706-507-8956 or jennifer.joyner@ColumbusState.edu.

Ellen Skinner and Ron McLendon, classmates at Columbus College’s initial Shannon Hosiery Mill campus, reunite at Alumni Weekend 2011, checking out The Sentry yearbook she edited.
working as an instructor at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth. Taylor now serves as an instructor for Georgia Perimeter College in the Social Science Department, teaching its Transportation and Border Security course.

1980
Karon Barber Bush, A.A. ’80, was recently featured in Her magazine, published by the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer. Bush was recognized for her new role as the nursing and clinical district director for the West Central Health District. Bush is responsible for supervising district clinical services and clinical operations of the 16 county health departments in the West Central Health District. She also will continue to oversee the District Children and Youth with Special Needs Programs, District Women’s Health, District Immunization Program and other programs. Bush resides in Columbus and has one daughter and four grandchildren.

1985
Katie Aumann Morales, A.A., is the 2012 recipient of the Nurse in Washington Internship scholarship, provided by Nursing Organizations Alliance. Morales is a member of the American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants, American Nurses Association and Georgia Nurses Association. She will spend four days on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., as a health care advocate. Morales currently serves as an adjunct faculty member in Shorter University’s BSN program.

1989
Kathy D. Schofe, B.A., M.S. ’91, was named the recipient of the Public Relations Award at the annual conference of the Georgia Education Advancement Council, held in Young Harris, Ga., in November. Schofe is director of Augusta State University’s Office of Public Relations and Publications and has over 20 years of experience in the public relations field.

1990
Ricky W. Thornton, B.A., has been appointed programs coordinator for Parks and Recreation in Phenix City, Ala., where he lives.

1993
Thomas Porter, B.S., has been promoted to lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army. He currently serves as the executive officer of the Europe Regional Medical Command, headquartered in Germany.

Pamela Lawrence Smith, M.M., has been named the director of music ministries at Shores United Methodist Church in St. Augustine, Florida. Smith comes to Shores United Methodist with extensive experience in Christian music ministry. In the past, she has organized a 90-member international choir from a variety of churches and denominations. While at Shores United Methodist, she will be actively working to establish a music ministry for children.

1998
Romona X. Wright, B.M., has been inducted into the Alpha chapter of the Golden Key International Honor Society at Georgia State University, where she is currently a master’s candidate in GSU’s School of Music.

1999
James Corbett, B.S., MPA ’09, is the new commander of Georgia State Patrol’s Post 24 in Newnan. Corbett comes from another GSP post in Griffin, where he was assistant post commander for a year and a half. Corbett, his wife, Tonya, and their two sons, Daulton and Maison, live in Williamson.

Robert Hart, B.S., has transferred from Columbus to Washington, D.C., to work as a vocational rehabilitation counselor with the Department of Veterans Affairs’ Central Office. In this capacity, Hart works on oversight and outreach initiatives for the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program, with an emphasis on military outreach.

Chad Mathis, B.S.Ed., athletic director at Columbus High School, has stepped up to also handle head softball coach duties. Mathis, who played baseball at Andrew College and Columbus State, had already been serving as an assistant coach for the CHS baseball team.

2001
Jay Alexander, BBA, has moved up to serve as the 2012 chair of the Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce’s Board of Directors. Alexander is president of Alexander Electric Company.

Lori Mosley Beckwith, B.S., M.Ed. opened a private practice in Columbia, Ill., in December, offering therapeutic counseling services for children, adolescents, adults and couples. Beckwith is currently a counseling psychology doctoral candidate at Argosy University.
2002
Martin “Marty” G. Nix, MPA, has been named assistant county administrator for Hall County, northeast of Atlanta. In addition to his duties as assistant county administrator, he will also head the Public Safety Department and Parks and Leisure Services. In his free time, Nix is a gardener, musician and loves all things outdoors. Nix, his wife, Jan, and their two children are lifelong Hall County residents.

2003
LaDonna Jones Higgins, B.S.Ed., was voted 2011 Teacher of the Year for Alpha Academy for the Rockdale County Public Schools, east of Atlanta.

Shelley Mock Randolph, B.S., was married to Spencer Randolph on Sept. 24, 2011 at the Ocean Lodge Bed and Breakfast on St. Simons Island.

2004
Savonne Robinson Monell, B.A., obtained the Professional in Human Resources (PHR) designation in 2010. She’s the employee services manager at Columbus Water Works. She had previously become a Certified State Board of Workers’ Compensation Professional.

2005
Nikea M. Patterson, B.A., has completed her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree at Alabama State University. She’s currently a physical therapist at the University of Alabama at Birmingham’s Spain Rehabilitation Center.

2006
William “Billy” Hitchens III, MPA, was promoted from lieutenant to captain and Troop I commander of the Georgia State Patrol. Troop I consists of 15 counties in coastal Georgia, with posts in Rincon, Hinesville, Brunswick, Jekyll Island and Waycross. He’s also the first chairman of the advisory board for the Ogeechee Technical College Regional Law Enforcement Academy. Hitchens and his wife, Angie, live in Statesboro with their two children, Gracen and Will.

2007
Virginia Sterry Smith, BBA, married Jacob George Balik on Oct. 8, 2011 at Hurlburt Soundside, Fla. She’s currently employed as a branch manager for Enterprise Holdings in Clovis, N.M., where the couple lives.

Tammi L. Summers, B.A., returned in July 2011 from a year-long deployment to Afghanistan. Summers, an Army captain, then planned to participate in the Captain’s Career Course in winter 2012.

Michael B. Sumuel, B.M., has been named a national semi-finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. The bass-baritone excelled in district and regional competitions to be able to advance to the semi-final round, winning a trip to New York City to perform on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera this spring. Semi-finalists have an opportunity to win $1,500 to $15,000 to further their studies.

2008
Mark Hambert, B.S., has been promoted to the rank of captain in the Georgia State Patrol and assigned as the troop commander for the GSP posts in metro Atlanta. Hambert will supervise the operations of GSP posts in Atlanta, Forest Park and Marietta, as well as the GSP Motor Unit, the Nighthawks DUI Task Force and the Troop C Communications Center. Hambert has received previous honors as the Officer of the Year by the Peace Officers Association of Georgia, the Heroism Award as part of the Governor’s Public Safety Awards, the Georgia Department of Public Safety Valor Award, the Life Saving Award and the 15-year Safe Driving Award.

Gwendolyn H. Reid, B.M., has signed a house contract at an opera house in Germany. The mezzo-soprano completed her master’s degree in vocal performance at the University of the Arts in Berlin last summer.

2009
Roderick L. Cox, B.M., recently received his master’s degree in music with a concentration in conducting from Northwestern University’s Bienen School of Music. He was featured in The Telegraph (Macon), his hometown newspaper, for conducting two special pieces written in tribute to 9/11 by his composer friend William May and performed by Mercer University’s Robert McDuffie Center for Strings Ensemble under the direction of Amy Schwartz Moretti. Cox also was recognized by The Big “O” Youth Educational Dream Foundation as a recipient of past scholarships that helped further his musical education.

Carla Plazas Epp, BBA, married Alexander Epp on Oct. 2, 2011, surrounded by close friends and family in Seaside, Fla. The couple honeymooned in the Greek isles for two weeks. The owner of New Life Tanning Centers in Columbus, she has been named 2012 chair for the Greater Columbus Georgia Young Professionals organization, affiliated with the local Chamber of Commerce. Her business has been nominated for the Better Business Bureau’s Torch Award.

Leonard Myles, B.S., has joined Youth Villages as a teacher-counselor at the Youth Villages-Inner Harbour Campus in Douglasville, Ga., which provides residential treatment to children with emotional, behavioral and mental health issues. Youth Villages, a private nonprofit organization dedicated to helping emotionally and behaviorally troubled children and their families, is one of Georgia’s largest private providers of services to children and families.

2010
Tiara N. Brown, B.S., has been training six hours a day, six days a week since graduating from Columbus State in hopes of making the U.S. Olympic Women’s Boxing team and getting an opportunity to compete in the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. The New York Times in January posted a video feature online (http://goo.gl/FubJ8) on her training and determination to make the team. Brown ran cross-country while a student at CSU.

Amber L. Dees, B.A., MPA ’11, has been hired as the new assistant director of the Master of Public Administration Program at Columbus State University.

Sonya Strickland Hardin, BSN, was selected by St. Francis Hospital leaders to receive the honor of Nurse Resident Class Leader.

Ann Reeves Weaver, B.S.Ed., has completed her master’s, specialist and doctorate degrees from Walden University in September 2010. She’s now a second grade teacher in Talbot County.

Natasha D. Webster, B.S., of Fairburn, Ga., has joined Youth Villages as a teacher-counselor at the Youth Villages-Inner Harbour Campus in Douglasville, Ga., which provides residential treatment to children with emotional,
behavioral and mental health issues. Youth Villages, a private nonprofit organization dedicated to helping emotionally and behaviorally troubled children and their families, is one of the largest private providers of services to children and families in Georgia.

2011

Andrew Bailey, MAT, was a recipient of one of the New Teacher Assistance Grants awarded by Georgia Power Co. Bailey received $1,000 for the purchase of classroom supplies to further advance his teaching.

Eric Crouch, B.S.Ed., was a recipient of one of the New Teacher Assistance Grants awarded by Georgia Power Co. Crouch received $1,000 for the purchase of classroom supplies to further advance his teaching.

Danielle Thompson, B.A., has entered the graduate film program at the University of Oxford in England. Thompson submitted a short film for a London competition that can be seen on YouTube. The two actors featured in the short film are current CSU students, Claire Glover and Carter Woolfolk. The film was shot in the Spencer House, which serves as temporary home to many Columbus State study abroad students.

About Class Notes

Class Notes are printed so alumni can share news of significant events in their lives. Focus welcomes items about personal and professional achievements, as well as life milestones such as weddings, births, adoptions and deaths.

Please include your graduation year, the degree you received and, if it’s changed, the name you were known by here. Submit items to alumni@ColumbusState.edu or in writing to:

Alumni Relations
4225 University Ave.
Columbus, Ga. 31907

CSU-Educated Teachers Recognized

Twenty-eight Columbus State alumni have been singled out for Teacher of the Year recognition at schools they serve in the Muscogee County School District, including two CSU-educated teachers who are finalists to be the system’s 2012 district-wide Teacher of the Year.

Lisa N. Bell, B.S.Ed. ’02, M.Ed. ’07, a third-grade teacher at Downtown Magnet Academy, and Vincent Sneed, B.M. ’04, who teaches music at Hardaway High School, are the CSU alumni who are among three finalists for the district’s ultimate Teacher of the Year. That honor, to be named in May, receives $2,500, and the other two finalists receive $1,000 from the Muscogee Educational Excellence Foundation.

Other CSU-educated teachers of the year and their schools are:

• Natasha T. Torres, B.S.Ed. ’05, M.Ed. ‘10, Academic Success Center
• Tawana S. Dunn, AASCJ ’97, B.S. ’00, MPA ’02, Baker Middle School
• Shannon L. Crawford, B.S.Ed. ’99, Clubview Elementary School
• Jane A. Wilkerson, B.S.Ed. ’06, Cusseta Road Elementary School
• Cammy M. Marchetti, B.S.Ed. ’91, Double Churches Elementary School
• Mike Kocian, B.S.Ed. ’92, M.Ed. ’95, Ed.S. ’98, Double Churches Middle School
• Elizabeth A. Bjorklund, M.Ed. ’08, Eagle Ridge Academy
• Monica D. Harrison, B.S.Ed. ’07, Eddy Middle School
• Kylie J. Holloway, B.S.Ed. ’07, Edgewood Elementary School
• Bobbie S. Getz, M.Ed. ’02, Fox Elementary School
• Amanda N. Allen, B.S.Ed. ’05, M.Ed. ’09, Gentian Elementary School
• Melissa E. Thomas, B.S.Ed. ’07, M.Ed. ’10, Hannan Elementary Magnet Academy
• Deborah A. Magner, B.S.Ed. ’85, M.Ed. ’88, Ed.S. ’98, Johnson Elementary School
• LaJoyce M. Sanders, B.S. ’97, M.Ed. ’00, Ed.S. ’03, Kendrick High School
• Teresa S. Szabo, B.S.Ed. ’06, Key Elementary School
• Diane T. Jarrett, M.Ed. ’80, Lonnie Jackson Academy
• Amy M. Wilkerson, B.S.Ed. ’03, Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School
• Diane M. Bryant, B.S. ’82, Muscogee Elementary School
• Susan P. Reyes, M.Ed. ’07, Ed.S. ’08, Northside High School
• Jeffery T. McGarr, A.S. ’84, BBA ’85, M.Ed. ’07, Richards Middle School
• Jennifer M. Livingston, B.S.Ed. ’01, Rothschild Middle School
• Pashion N. Hatter, B.S.Ed. ’07, South Columbus Elementary School
• Tracy L. Green, B.S.Ed. ’07, Spencer High School
• Cynthia D. Cantrell, B.S.Ed. ’83, M.Ed. ’86, St. Mary’s Magnet Academy
• Kelly L. Richburg, B.S. ’94, Veterans Memorial Middle School
• Debra A. Cerrato, B.S.Ed. ’07, Waddell Elementary School

Be Part of CSU’s New Alumni Directory

Columbus State hopes a first-ever alumni directory, CSU Alumni Today, now being compiled, will give the university’s 30,000-plus alumni a better chance to reconnect with each other and the university.

Call 1-800-736-1496 by April 23 to verify or update your information.

Columbus State’s Alumni Relations office encourages all alumni to respond if contacted by Harris Connect, the company compiling the directory. Scheduled for publication during summer 2012, the directory will feature alumni names, addresses, affiliations, businesses, networks and special interests — as well as current CSU information, photos and historical highlights.

“Alumni participation is critical to the success of this project and future alumni engagement efforts,” said Jennifer Joyner, CSU’s Alumni Relations director. “Alumni will be proud to be included in this first alumni directory, and we also know they will love the finished product.”

Alumni providing information are under no obligation to purchase, but the directory will be for sale as:

• A hard-bound book, with class, geographical and alphabetical listings.
• And a searchable CD.

For more information, call Alumni Relations at 706-507-8956.

Spring 2012

Focus on Columbus State University

21
April

14 Oxbow Meadows. Reptile Fest. 1-5 p.m. Oxbow Meadows.

15 Columbus State University. Admissions Application Deadline: May Session. 706-507-8800.

15 CSU Softball. Francis Marion. Noon, 2 p.m. Lady Cougar Field.

15 Schwob School of Music. Warner-Kobrin Duo: Russian Rapture. Join internationally acclaimed faculty artists and former child prodigies — Alexander Kobrin on piano and Wendy Warner on cello — as they maneuver through the Shostakovich Sonata for Cello and Piano and the Rachmaninoff Sonata for Cello and Piano, regarded as two masterpieces of Russian chamber music. 4 p.m. RiverCenter’s Legacy Hall. Free.

16 Schwob School of Music. Guitar and Voice Recital. Students from the Schwob School of Music voice and guitar studios perform an evening of song with guitar accompaniment spanning over 400 years of repertoire. 4 p.m. RiverCenter’s Legacy Hall. Free.

17 Schwob School of Music. Michelle DeBruyn Soprano: Ladies’ Night. Michelle DeBruyn, soprano, and Yin Wang, piano, present a recital consisting entirely of pieces written by female composers, including songs from each era of history in several different languages. 7:30 p.m. Legacy Hall. Free.

18 CSU Baseball. Auburn-Montgomery. 6 p.m. RagSDale Field.

18 Schwob School of Music. Ian Davidson, Oboe. Guest Artist Recital. Grammy-nominated recording artist performs. 7:30 p.m. RiverCenter’s Legacy Hall. Free.

19 CSU Alumni Relations. President’s Recognition Dinner. 7 p.m. Cunningham Center. Reception 6:30 p.m. $60 per person. (More: Page 16)

19 Schwob School of Music. CSU Wind Ensemble. Alfred Watkins, guest conductor; faculty artists Joseph Golden on organ; Bradley Palmer on trombone. The CSU Wind Ensemble closes the year with Ron Nelson’s spirited Rocky Point Holiday, John Mackey’s Harvest: Concerto for Trombone, David Maslanka’s Symphony No. 4. 7:30 p.m. RiverCenter’s Legacy Hall. Free.

20 Continuing Education. Empowered Youth of Columbus Spring Arts Reception. Reception and art show showcases artwork and performances by EYC participants. Details: Anne Thibault, 706-507-8437. 4-6 p.m., University Hall. Free.

20 Carson McCullers Center for Writers and Musicians. New Plaines Press Presents a Reading with the Alabama Thibault, 706-507-8437. 4-6 p.m., University Hall. Free.


21 Continuing Education. Introduction to Whitewater Kayaking. Experience whitewater kayaking with a solid foundation in safety, as well as knowledge about kayak sizes and purposes, paddle technique, other equipment, wet exits and paddling strokes. Wear your swimsuit and bring a towel. Optional: Nose plugs, helmet, personal flotation device, and paddle. (Helmets, PFDs and paddles will be available from partner Outside World.) Details: 706-507-8070. 2-3:30 p.m., Student Recreation Center. Cost: $59.

21 Coca-Cola Space Science Center. Astronomy Night. FDR State Park, Pine Mountain. 8:30 p.m.

22 Schwob School of Music. Guitar Chamber Recital. Guitar studio students perform works for two, three and four guitars, violin and guitar, and guitar with mixed ensemble. 4 p.m. RiverCenter’s Legacy Hall. Free.

23 Schwob School of Music. CSU Philharmonic. The Power of Inspiration. The final CSU Philharmonic concert of the school year features a world premiere written by student Liliya Ugay, winner of a national composition competition. 7:30 p.m. RiverCenter’s Legacy Hall. Free.

24 Schwob School of Music. CSU Wind Orchestra. Cathedrals. The Wind Orchestra presents works by Gabrieli, Lauridsen and Safelder, as well Bernstein’s Suite from Mass. Members of CSU’s faculty brass quintet are guest soloists. Yashuide Ito’s Gloriosa, a symphonic poem about the “hidden Christians” of 16th century Japan, closes the concert. 7:30 p.m. RiverCenter’s Legacy Hall. Free.

25 CSU Baseball. Valdosta State. 6 p.m. RagSDale Field.

26 Annual Fund. CSU Day. Annual event offering thanks to supporters, featuring new signs distributed throughout Columbus area. To volunteer, call 706-507-8434.

26 Get-Away Club. Day Trip to High Museum of Art, Atlanta. Transportation from main campus, lunch at Swan Coach House, museum admission, $70. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Reservations: 706-507-8431. More: ColumbusState.edu/getaway.

27 Carson McCullers Center for Writers and Musicians. English Department Faculty Lecture Series, featuring Nick Norwood. 12:30 p.m. at the center, 1519 Stark Ave.

29 Schwob School of Music. CSU Trombone Ensembles. The CSU Trombone Octet and Trombone Choir are joined by soloists George Curran of the Atlanta Symphony and Bill Thomas of Switzerland’s Tonhalle Orchestra. 4 p.m. RiverCenter’s Legacy Hall. Free.

May

3 CSU Alumni Association. First Thursday. Alumni invited to network at Eagle and Phenix condos, 1201 Front Ave. The first drink’s on the association. RSVP to Jennifer.Joyner@ColumbusState.edu for details. 7:30 p.m. RiverCenter’s Legacy Hall. Free.

3 CSU Alumni Relations. CSU Alumni Day at the Atlanta Braves. Vs. Toronto. Pre-Game Dinner, 2:30 p.m. 755 Club Game. 4:30 p.m. Turner Field. Details: 706-507-8070. Free.

7 Columbus State University. Graduation. 6:30 p.m. Columbus Civic Center.


10-11 Continuing Education. Oil Landscapes Workshop. Create at least one oil painting under the guidance of instructor Frenasee Daughety. Learn the elements and principles of painting and two-dimensional design. Explore oil painting techniques, composition and color theory. Beginners and intermediate students welcome. (Class will break one hour for lunch on Friday, May 11.) Course includes optional two-hour open studio with instructor from 6-8 p.m. May 15 for finishing touches. Details: 706-507-8070. 6-8 p.m. May 10, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. May 11. Elizabeth Bradley Turner Center for Continuing Education. Cost: $99

12 Continuing Education. Introduction to Whitewater Kayaking. Experience whitewater kayaking with a solid foundation in safety, as well as knowledge about kayak sizes and purposes, paddle technique, other equipment, wet exits and paddling strokes. Wear your swimsuit and bring a towel. Optional: Nose plugs, helmet, personal flotation device, and paddle. (Helmets, PFDs and paddles will be available from partner Outside World.) Details: 706-507-8070. 2-3:30 p.m., Student Recreation Center. Cost: $59.

14 Columbus State University. May Session: Classes begin. 706-507-8800.

15 Columbus State University. Admissions Application Deadline: June Session. 706-507-8800.


28 Columbus State University. Memorial Day. No classes. Offices closed.

29-Aug 3 Continuing Education. Activ8 Summer Camps. Ages: 4-7, 8-11, 10-olders. 10 weeks of enrichment and sports camps, attended by 1,211 kids in 2011. New camps start each week. Older kids may make their own schedule with over 180 camps to choose from in these categories: Brain Training, Create-A-Lot, Tech, Just 4 U, Scienicologies, Showbiz, Sports & Dance. Extended hours available, 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Details: http://Activ8er.com or 706-507-8070.

June

2-23 Continuing Education. Fiction Writing Workshop. Taught by Melissa Hanscomb, learn key components to making any story compelling. Spend the first week starting a writing journal and exploring exercises that will get your creative juices flowing. Then dive into topics such as plot, story structure, character development and setting that will help bring your ideas to life. End with peer review and critique, and learn how to use that feedback to improve your work. Details: 706-507-8070. 10 a.m.-noon. Cost: $79.

4 Coca-Cola Space Science Center. Astronomy Night. Callaway Gardens. Pine Mountain. 9 p.m.

8-9 CSU Department of Theatre. The Great American Trailer Park Musical. Tickets: $18 regular price. $14 for children 12 and younger, seniors, and active-duty military. 7:30 p.m. Riverside Theatre Complex.

9 CSU Alumni Relations. CSU Alumni Day at the Atlanta Braves. Vs. Toronto. Pre-Game Dinner, 2:30 p.m. 755 Club Game. 4:30 p.m. Tourner Field. Details: 706-507-8070.

10 CSU Department of Theatre. The Great American Trailer Park Musical. Tickets: $18 regular price. $14 for children 12 and younger, seniors, and active-duty military. 2 p.m., Riverside Theatre Complex.

11 Columbus State University. Classes Begin: June Session. 706-507-8800

11 Coca-Cola Space Science Center. Astronomy Night. Callaway Gardens. Pine Mountain. 9 p.m.

12-16 CSU Department of Theatre. Dora the Explorer Live Dora’s Pirate Adventure. $12 for adults. $6 for children 12 and younger. 10 a.m. Riverside Theatre Complex.


16 Coca-Cola Space Science Center. Astronomy Night. FDR State Park, Pine Mountain. 9 p.m.

17 CSU Department of Theatre. The Great American Trailer Park Musical. Tickets: $18 regular price. $14 for children 12 and younger, seniors, and active-duty military. 2 p.m. Riverside Theatre Complex.

Focus on Columbus State University

Spring 2012

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• Making a gift now, and receiving income for life

Many such gifts can help you and your family today as well as help CSU continue its mission years into the future. And some you can even put into place today without affecting your cash flow during your lifetime.

Want to learn more? Please visit our website:

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or contact James W. Fogal, CFP, in University Advancement at 706.507.8433
or by email at James.Fogal@ColumbusState.edu.
Parents: If this issue is addressed to a son or daughter who no longer lives at home, please send the correct address to the Alumni Office at the above address above or email us at alumni@ColumbusState.edu. Thank you.