Partners Matter

Muscogee Superintendent David Lewis promotes partnership to prepare teachers for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (pages 10-11)

Senior nursing students check out Medevac chopper (page 12)

Meet our VIPs (Valued In-House Professionals, pages 8-9)
Coffee and Collaboration: Welcome to Schwob Library 2.0

Mark Flynn, Dean of Libraries
Guest Columnist

According to the Association of Higher Education and US News and World Report, libraries have become an important consideration when students select a university or college. University leaders have come to see that the services and facilities offered by an academic library can boost student enrollment and impact institutional ranking.

Libraries which keep pace with emerging instructional practices affect in good ways student retention and, in time, graduation rates. Today’s professors increasingly embrace the concept of learning with others—collaboration—as a powerful way to improve the learning process and, thereby, a student’s academic performance. At Columbus State, this means that faculty want to help students learn about collaborative strategies in their first year, then apply those strategies later on in writing-intensive courses and beyond. Students who learn via partnering with others, it is believed, are those who in time avail themselves of service-learning opportunities and international/global studies. These too are undertakings with an important social dimension.

CSU librarians, themselves faculty members, are partners in this process.

It stands to reason that today’s university library is re-thinking its use of space, thus finding ways to reflect what is or should be going on in classrooms. As part of this process, Columbus State took on a major renovation of the Simon Schwob Memorial Library in 2012. Built in 1974, the “old” library was conceived well before college educators fully understood collaboration as a structure for learning. As well, it was decidedly low-tech by today’s standards.

That was then, as they say, and this is now.

In 2015, the Schwob Library offers space for socializing and conversation, a full-service Einstein’s bagel and coffee shop, and a wealth of new technologies and media. It has expanded open hours to 107 per week and seating from 200 to 850 students, these distributed across flexible study areas on the 1st floor as well as “quiet” study space on the 2nd and 3rd floors.

In addition, the library bolstered its technology. It added robust wireless Internet (WiFi), over 120 computers for checkout (laptops and other mobile devices), and portable whiteboards. Increased access to electronic journals and eBooks further enrich this process. Collectively, the library’s enhanced technology facilitates productive collaboration among students. It does so in a decidedly food-friendly environment anchored by the coffee shop. Also a plus, it maintains late hours.

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Partners Matter

Collaboration is a core value of the College of Education & Health Professions. We take it seriously. We ponder ways to collaborate more effectively, to use partnerships not only as a means of enhancing our work with students but as a vehicle for serving the community well. This issue brings some of our collaborator-colleagues into the foreground. Some of them are decidedly internal: the Schwab Library and its staff (Mark Flynn’s column, opposite), the exceptional people who comprise our administrative staff (pages 8-9), and the Center for International Education (page 23). Other collaborations are external: the new Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program launched along with Georgia Southwestern University (page 6), the ongoing partnership with area schools (pages 10-11), and our vital connection to area hospitals and other health-care providers (page 12).

We celebrate collaboration. We invite you to do so as well.

April 1…are you kidding?

This issue of INNOVATION appears on or about April 1, given a few days “pre- or post-.” It may be that, if you read closely, you will discover “facts” that don’t quite add up. Maybe, but maybe not. Could we be fooling? If you are confident about one or more not-quite-true items (or if you are confident that there are none), send an e-note to brewbaker_james@columbusstate.edu. On a first-come, first served-basis, winners will be treated to a free lunch at La Nacional Mexican Buffet on Tuesday, May 5 (Cinco de Mayo).

No kidding.
COEHP NEWS  
Goings on in the College of Education & Health Professions

RN to BSN Program Shows How It’s Done

A quick glance at the printed program for CSU’s December 2014 graduation shows in dramatic fashion the rapid growth—and obvious success—of the RN to BSN program, correctly known as the “Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing” program. The fully online program, launched in 2010, produced 30 December 2014 graduates, more, in fact, than the full array of educator preparation programs housed in Teacher Education and other departments. (Traditionally, fall semester is light in terms of student teachers and degree completions among teacher candidates.)

The key to the popularity and success of the RN to BSN program is, according to nursing professor Amanda Hawkins, flexibility. “Our graduation rates are stellar,” she points out, “because our students—although it is a one year program—are allowed 3 years to graduate. Students can be full-time and drop to part-time or vice versa anytime in the program.”

Flexibility means numerous things in this program, including “carousel classes,” these being modular courses that are offered on a continuing rotation. For a working nurse who may need to lighten up one term for one reason or another, this avoids both stressful overloading and falling behind.

Enrollment data are also revealing. Among nearly 130 RN-to-BSN enrollees in mid-January, 44 percent were Georgia or Alabama residents living within 100 miles of Columbus, and 45 percent were also from the two-state region but more than 100 miles from campus. The remaining students were from outside Georgia and Alabama, from as far away as North Carolina, Illinois, and New York.

It seems clear that the School of Nursing is offering something special in this program—and that working nurses are taking notice. Graduation rates bear this out, with close to 90 percent of those entering in 2010-2012 (96 of 107 students enrolling) having graduated.

Time to celebrate—with pizza! Assessment data collected by the School of Nursing back up their belief that the RN to BSN program is well-regarded by students. For two years, in fact, 100 percent of students have indicated that they are “overall satisfied” with the program and that they would recommend it to others. Here Melissa Young, Theresa Conklin, Kaylen Deal, Lisa Frander, and Amanda Hawkins show their delight before digging in.

Columbus State Partners with Georgia Southwestern to Offer New Family Nurse Practitioner Degree

The School of Nursing has initiated a much-needed new graduate program, a master of science to train family nurse practitioners (FNPs). The online program is a cooperative venture with Georgia Southwestern University in Americus. Students will access the program through Georgia on My Line.

School of Nursing director Cheryl Smith predicts that the program will be quite popular since it will help address the primary health care shortage in Southwest Georgia. “In more and more communities, the family nurse practitioner is the primary health care provider,” she said. “We developed this program after hearing from health organizations throughout Southeast about the type of education that is most needed today.”

The FNP program curriculum requires 44 semester hours online, plus 765 clinical hours. Whenever possible, these will be completed in convenient facilities near where students live and work.

Smith explained, that “We are trying to make this program as convenient as possible for our students.”

For more information about the Family Nurse Practitioner degree, please contact Aimee Vael at vael_aimee@columbusstate.edu or Melissa Young at 706-507-8563 or young_melissa@columbusstate.edu.

Thank a Nurse in May!
National Nurses’ Week will be observed in the United States on Wednesday, May 6 through Tuesday, May 12, 2015.
Searches under Way

2015 is a year of transition for both Columbus State University and the College of Education & Health Professions. National searches are under way for CSU’s fifth president and a new dean, the seventh since the founding of Columbus College, in the COEHP.

Timothy Mescon, university president since 2007, departed effective January 1. Three COEHP professors—Michael Richardson, Ekaterina Strekalova-Hughes, and Aimee Vael—are among 15 members of the local search committee which, in time, will recommend finalists, un-ranked, to the University System Regents and Chancellor Hank Huckabee. Selection of a new president is made by the Regents with guidance from Huckabee.

Until a new university president and COEHP dean are named, VPAA/Provost Paul (Tom) Hackett and Associate Dean Deirdre (Dee) Greer will serve as acting or interim president and dean, respectively.

The campus-based presidential screening committee frames a position description, announces the opening, and interviews candidates in order to identify finalists. COEHP committee members are as follows:

Richardson, Fuller E. Callaway Chair in Educational Leadership (Counseling, Foundations & Leadership), hopes for a president who can “promote the unique sense of mission that is Columbus State.” Now in his second year at CSU, Richardson is a nationally known figure in educational leadership. His primary role in the COEHP is to oversee the doctoral program.

Strekalova-Hughes, Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education (Teacher Education), wants the next president to be a person “this great community deserves.” A faculty member since 2013, she brings an international perspective to her teaching, having featured guest speakers from Dubai, Turkey, and elsewhere. She is chair of the Association for Early Childhood Education International’s (ACEI) International Outreach Committee.

David Hornbuckle (1952-2014)

Counseling professor David Hornbuckle, a member of the CSU faculty from 1994-2002, died in December of Huntington’s disease. Hornbuckle held advanced degrees—M.S. and Ph.D.—from Georgia State University. Described by his colleague Michael Baltimore as having “a great sense of humor,” he is survived by his wife, Susan, and three sons. Baltimore noted that Hornbuckle, who lived in suburban Atlanta after leaving Columbus, was “always an advocate for students.”

Vael, Associate Professor of Nursing, directs the School of Nursing’s Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program, approved for implementation this year. She envisions a future president as “someone involved in student life, like President Mescon.” Vael, a faculty member since 2012, has worked extensively in the specialty of pediatrics. (related story, p. 6)

Meanwhile, in the COEHP …

In mid-December, VPAA/Provost Hackett announced membership in a search committee charged with selecting finalists for the deanship in the College of Education & Health Professions. Its members are Shawn Cruzen (Coca Cola Space Science Center); Ellen Martin and Brian Tyo (Health, Physical Education, & Exercise Science; Tom McCormack and Camille Bryant (Counseling, Foundations, and Leadership; Gregory Blalock and Jeffrey Conklin (Teacher Education); Tonya Santo, Tamara Condrey, and Amanda Hawkins (Nursing); Alan Medders and Dennis Rome (CSU administration representatives).

Hawkins has been appointed chair of the committee, which makes its recommendations directly to VPAA/Provost Hackett.
Institute for Education Sciences Meets on Campus for Grant-Writing Seminar

Columbus State sponsored a prestigious gathering of working research scholars this past October under the auspices of the Institute for Education Sciences (IES), an agency of the federal government. Foundations professor Jennifer Brown, a Teacher Education Department faculty member since 2011, spearheaded CSU’s efforts to base the meeting, a grant-writing seminar, in Columbus. Academic researchers from five Southeastern States were in attendance.

Bringing the group to CSU took over a year of planning, Brown explained. In September 2013, she accompanied then Provost/VPAA Tom Hackett, math professor Tim Howard, and others to the nation’s capital to discuss funding options with Georgia congressman and senators. Congressman Lynn Westmoreland (3rd District) and Sanford Bishop (2nd District) lent support to Brown’s proposal. These meetings, she pointed out recently, have been infrequent in the Southeast.

Given a go-ahead from the provost following the DC trip, Brown committed Meredith Larson, a frequent presenter at meetings of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), to lead the interactive workshop.

Brown has made her mark at Columbus State since joining its faculty. Given her strong background and interest in research, she has studied reasons why college students do or do not continue enrollment and, one would hope, progress toward graduation. Findings of her research have led to innovations in advising for freshmen on campus.

Math Collaborative, Twenty-Five Years and Counting . . . Multiplying, Estimating, Problem-Solving, and Measuring

The Columbus Regional Mathematics Collaborative (CRMC) celebrated its twenty-fifth year in November. Founded through a partnership between area math teachers and Columbus State, with support from the Ford Foundation, the Collaborative is the lone surviving collaborative among 11 similar campus-based groups established in the late 1980s.

Among attendees at the affair, dubbed the Silver Celebration, were former directors Anne Assad and Kenneth Jones. Current director Denise Peppers stood in as keynote speaker due to the unanticipated hospitalization of Helen Purks Collins, CRMC’s founding director. (See related story, page 16).

Other guests included professor Spencer Garrard, Frank Brown (CSU’s third president), and current interim president Tom Hackett (on left). Former education dean Thomas Harrison also participated.
Plans Take Shape for the COEHP of the Future

In February, Columbus State University made significant progress in its plan to move the COEHP to the RiverPark campus as early as fall semester 2016. The city board that regulates historic properties in Columbus has now OK’d CSU’s design for a new building at the corner of 12th Street and Broadway which will house much of the COEHP, including the School of Nursing, Teacher Education, and the Department of Counseling, Leadership, & Foundations. Because it needs access to athletic facilities, the Health, Physical Education, & Exercise Science (HPEX) Department will remain on main campus.

Upwards of 1,800 students, faculty, and staff will work and attend class in the building.

The university’s real estate foundation, with privately donated funds, purchased the home of the Ledger-Enquirer newspaper before Christmas. “We are very excited with how this project is progressing,” said Tom Hackett, interim president of Columbus State University and a professor of education. “Our plans will mirror other projects we have done in Uptown.”

CSU is committed to preserving the historic nature of the complex, Hackett explained. He said that the university will also adapt the building “to our needs in a way that will complement the special look and feel of that area.”

The project is estimated to cost about $25 million.

Demolition of the Ledger-Enquirer “Tower” at 11th and Broadway began in late February. Older parts of the building will retain their original appearance.

Meanwhile, at 10th and Broadway, the Ledger-Enquirer occupies space in the refurbished Hardaway Building.

Interim Associate Dean George Stickel

**George Stickel** is serving the COEHP as Interim Associate Dean during spring semester. He brings a rich background in education to his role, including that of classroom teacher, department chair, and Vice-Chancellor for Education of the University System of Georgia Regents. Among other accomplishments of note, he helped launch the UTeach program at Southern Polytechnic Institute.

It is no coincidence that senior faculty find Stickel familiar. While enrolled at NYU in the 1980s, he had a recurring role on “General Hospital” as Seth Hokes, a first-year surgical resident. His first visit to Columbus in 1982, when he played a small part with one spoken line in “The Green Berets,” filmed at Ft. Benning. Alongside Hollywood legend John Wayne in the movie, he called out, “Let’s get ‘em, Major!”
Meet Our VIPs (Valued In-House Professionals) … in Order of Seniority

Shamonique Hassell

Who are the most or very important people in your workplace? The boss with the corner office? The person with two or three titles and a string of letters following her name? Regardless of how one answers this question, we in the COEHP recognize and celebrate our VIPs (Valued In-House Professionals), the dozen or so women who make our professors, directors, and deans look good, who deal directly with students and the public by phone and face-to-face on a daily basis, who keep the records, pay the bills, and fix the copier.

Administrative Professionals Week is April 19-25, 2015. This will be a good time for you to say thanks to the VIPs you work with.

Janet Knight, seventeen year Columbus Regional Math Collaborative’s (CRMC) administrative assistant, worked previously with Muscogee County Schools. She says that she thoroughly enjoys her colleagues and the various tasks that she is assigned. “There’s always something going on,” she says. Although claiming to be “technologically challenged,” she performs traditional secretarial duties, tracks the budget, and helps coordinate events. Knight is one of five girls plus four boys, with siblings living in five different states. She enjoys line dancing and hopes to be thinking about retirement five years from now.

Cheresse ‘Shunta’ Walls, the Health, Physical Education, & Exercise Science (HPEX) department’s administrative assistant, has held her current position for eight years, but has worked at CSU approximately thirteen years. A Georgian by birth, she worked in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, before coming to Columbus. Married for twenty years, she calls Macon ‘home.’ In order for a work environment to be successful, there must be what she calls, “The Three C qualities, which are compassion, communication, and consistency. I can proudly say that the faculty and I, in my department, strive to make sure these qualities are completed.”

Joetta Reeves is a native of Tallahassee, Florida. The eight-year administrative assistant in the SAFE Office (SAFE stands for Student Advising and Field Experiences) has been married for thirty-five years to her childhood sweetheart. Together, they have raised three children whom she calls “brilliant.” Reeves loves working with her colleagues, learning new things almost every day, and daily interaction with students. “From start to finish, the SAFE office is there for students.” A grandmother of three, she played the French horn in her high school marching band. Today she thinks of this as strange because “it doesn’t really fit my persona now.”

Takeia Mosala, a Columbus, Georgia native and graduate of Carver High School, worked for a local non-profit Christian organization before becoming administrative assistant to Stacey Meyers-Prosyniuk and other B.S.N. faculty in the School of Nursing. One day, Mosala hopes to work with children with autism. Working at CSU for five years, Mosala says, “The best part of my job is having many opportunities to connect with people.” Mosala knows well the importance of being the first person to meet students and “prospects.” She notes that her responsibilities include, “making sure that a first impression is a positive one.” Mosala and Marco, her high school sweetheart, have three children, two of them twins. Marco Mosala’s roots extend to Zaire, Africa, though he too is a product of Carver High School.

Theresa Conklin, has been a COEHP staffer for nearly five years. She is among the administrative assistants assigned to the PACE office, the School of Nursing’s advising center. Having changed from a traditional receptionist/secretarial position to one that includes more data management and online components, Conklin enjoys helping students, organizing and gathering data for the program, and working with the School of Nursing team. Through Columbus State, she says she has taken advantage of the TAP program, which allowed her the opportunity to take a course that focused on Excel, a tool she says she uses every day. Married for 30 years and a mother of two, Conklin adores her grandson and hopes for more in the near future.

Terri Conner has worked in the PACE office for three years. She finds her job to be very challenging and fulfilling and loves coming to work. Family-oriented, Conner praises her two adult daughters who have, she observes, “grown to be exceptional young women.” She also mothers a ‘fur baby’ and three ‘grand-fur babies.’ A reader, she recommends Karen Kingsbury’s A Thousand Tomorrows, a fiction based on the lives of two characters who, driven by the misfortunes of family members, find unfailing love.

A three-year Columbus State employee, Betrophia Holt also works in the PACE Office. She answers phones, schedules appointments for academic advisors, and performs an array of traditional secretarial duties. Among other tasks, her multi-faceted responsibilities include entering class schedules online, working with budgets and grants, arranging meetings, making travel reservations, and compiling student data. She enjoys the fiction of Ken Follett and recommends in particular The Pillars of the Earth and World without End.

Julia Chambers has been the Oxbow Meadows administrative staffer since July, 2012. Similar to other army brats in the area, she was born in Fort Richardson, Alaska, passed through Houston, Texas, and now considers Columbus home. Soon to complete her bachelor’s degree, Chambers has a legal background and, before coming to CSU, worked at ExxonMobil. A self-proclaimed pet sitter in her free time, she enjoys her reptilian coworkers and the children who visit the center.

Sherri Kuralt has been administrative and graduate studies assistant since January,
2013, in the Counseling, Foundations, & Leadership (CFL) department. The staffer grew up in Oceanside, New York. She has two children, a daughter and a son, both of whom are CSU alumni. Her daughter works in CSU’s Writing Center, and her son is employed by Lockheed Martin at Ft. Benning. Prior to taking a position at CSU, she worked for Muscogee County School District in the Adult Education program. With a substantial expansion of graduate programs and academic partnerships, she says, she has noticed an increase in the number of students. She says that she enjoys working with them as they achieve their goals.

**Beverly ‘Gale’ Webster** has served as executive secretary in the COEHP dean’s office for over two years. She enjoys “opportunities to make a student’s day better, problem solve with my admin buds, and be a support for the dean and hopefully make her job easier.” Prior to employment at CSU, Webster worked for the American Heart Association. Her family has grown over the past year. Her son, a biologist and daughter-in-law gave birth to their first child (and Webster’s first grandchild); another son, in the US Navy, is getting married in Japan; and their daughter, a nurse, is getting married in Savannah, Georgia. She anticipates more grandchildren to enjoy in the future.

*continued on page 17*
Each semester, Columbus State places approximately 90 teacher candidates in area schools—for student teaching, for carefully guided teaching experience in a series of practicums with children and adolescents, and for observation.

Placing this many college students in schools—some students passionate about becoming educators, some ambivalent and “testing the water”—cannot help but be complicated, and the task is ongoing. This spring—with approximately 90 student teachers, 375 practicum students, and 15 online M.A.T. interns—now in schools, the SAFE Office (that’s Student Advising and Field Experiences) is preparing for fall placements when enrollments are normally lighter than in the spring.

To improve the process, former COEHP Dean Thomas Harrison formed the Partner School Network a decade ago. Over time,
the Network has become a vital component of educator preparation programs—both bachelor’s level or, for those who are already college graduates, Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) programs. Partner schools are drawn from three school systems, Muscogee County (30 schools), rural Harris County (3 schools), and Ft. Benning (one school).

Roger Hatcher, Coordinator of the Partner School Network, sees many benefits. First of all, as he puts it, “We know the school wants them.” To be sure, accommodating a dozen or more visiting college students each semester isn’t necessarily easy. Not all schools want to take on the responsibility. Hatcher is bound to recall his days as principal of nearby Hardaway High School, arguably the number one recipient of COEHP students.

A Principals’ Council gathers several times each academic year to advise Hatcher and COEHP leaders on matters relating to field experiences. The group pinpoints steps the SAFE Office and partner schools may take to improve communication, to arrange ways in which Columbus State students may serve immediate school needs such as through tutoring, and to make sure that the strongest teachers serve as on-site supervisors for student teaching.

Jordan High School principal Alton White is pleased with the give-and-take working relationship between his school and the Network. He told INNOVATION in January that sending teacher candidates to area schools during pre-planning week in August is a definite plus and will better equip them for the transition from college student to working teacher.

A program improvement stemming from the Council’s work is that of beginning student teaching during pre-planning week in the early childhood program. “The principals pointed out how vital this part of the school year is,” Hatcher said, “So we made that change, and it’s working well.”

Early placement for middle- and high-school student teachers is in the planning stages.

Eventually, Hatcher said, CSU expects that numerous partner schools will evolve into professional development schools (PDS). These differ to the extent that, in a PDS, more and more education courses are taught onsite—that is, in participating schools rather than on campus. This semester, three early childhood faculty—Pam Wetherington, Barbara Rouse, and Cynthia Hill—are teaching professional courses at Northside Elementary School.

Amanda Andrews Investigates Perceptions of Special Education Teachers

Amanda Andrews, who graduates in May with a M.S. in community counseling, got a taste of conducting and presenting educational research early in graduate study. Encouraged by research professor Jennifer Brown, she submitted her work to the Eastern Educational Research Association (EERA) and, much to her delight, saw her work tapped as the best student paper of the year (2013-2014).

Iris Saltiel’s Irish Connection

Research professor Iris Saltiel takes pride in her Jewish heritage, traced back to Biblical times. Her surprise was considerable, therefore, when she learned that her mother’s family has ties to Ireland and its Catholic traditions as well. “My cousin Frieda found letters that were in my grandparents’ home in New Jersey,” she noted. “They made it clear that my great great grandmother on my mother’s side was from County Cork. She came to the US in the 1850s.”

“This may sound silly,” she said, “But I have always really loved St. Patrick’s Day. I guess there’s a connection. Who knows?”

The large Saltiel clan reunites every two years, and Iris Saltiel anticipates being part of its 2015 Montreal gathering.
What’s with the nursing students and helicopter on the cover, you ask? At the Emergency Department [ED] at Midtown Medical Center last fall, senior nursing students, led by instructor Travis Woodley, toured the Medevac chopper and chatted with the pilot and nurses who work in it. Flight nurses provide emergency care to patients who are in car accidents in remote areas, assist in natural disasters, and fly alongside transported patients. To become a Certified Flight Registered Nurse (CFRN), RNs undergo specialized training and pass rigorous examinations. Touring students gained “insight on the teamwork and resourcefulness needed for this job,” said senior nursing student, Anna Rodriguez. “It’s an exciting alternative for nurses with experience in the ED,” she added. Nursing students pictured here with the Medevac crew are Anais Ochoa and Tessa McEwen (back row), plus Lauren Ortiz, Faith Gould, and Rodriguez (front row).

Coffee and Collaboration: Welcome to Schwob Library 2.0 continued from page 2

What impact does this have? In 2013, CSU students conducted over 2.3 million searches for online material and downloaded over 700,00 search results (documents, images, streaming music, and so forth). In 2013-2014, CSU libraries served, on a weekly average, better than 35% of the university’s total enrollment, slightly more during exams.

The bottom line is this: the Schwob Library has become a go-to place on campus where students gather to socialize, plan, and work together.

In the Future: A Learning Commons

The Schwob Library was designed for a different era and for different numbers. Simply stated, it has reached its capacity—and then some—as far as seating, study rooms, and space for staff. University leaders now look to establishing a Learning Commons as part of an addition to the library which will boast a handsome new façade. In time, this addition will provide new study space while firming up the library’s function as CSU’s center for academic support services, now spread across campus. When completed late in this decade, a larger Schwob Library will house the writing lab, math/science learning center, and an expanded archives. The new space will also incorporate facilities to support global learning and new technology.

The Schwob Library on main campus is a go-to place where students gather to socialize, plan, and work together.

College libraries of the 21st century, no longer the havens of solitude the parents and grandparents of our students remember, have been reconceived. CSU libraries, in fact, are bustling, energetic, and popular magnets drawing students to group study spaces, presentation practice rooms, and the latest technology. Better yet, once inside, students are likely to connect with library staff who teach them research methodology and open their eyes to a vast collection of library resources from around the globe to support their learning.
Leadership professor Tom McCormack has a way of cutting to the chase. When he bumps into a colleague or student acquaintance in Jordan Hall or outside in the parking lot, he sidesteps the ritual “Hi, how’s it going?” and, smiling broadly, answers the question before it is asked.

“I’m fine. How are you?” he says.

This, perhaps, is McCormack’s way of breaking the ice, keeping things light, and just plain having fun.

McCormack, department chair of Counseling, Foundations, & Leadership (CFL), reflected on his years at CSU since 2008 during October’s Rites of Passage event at the Schwob Library. Faculty members know that, when a colleague achieves the rank of professor, he or she is invited to talk about steps taken along the way to senior faculty status.

In his remarks, which were largely tongue-in-cheek, McCormack discussed puzzling elements of transitioning from a public school environment to higher education. Having distinguished himself in Alabama as teacher and administrator (principal at elementary and secondary levels and school superintendent), he was unprepared, in a way, for the workaday life of a college professor.

The professor highlighted several areas that can be hard for new faculty to deal with, including time, the reward system, and “layers, numbers, and letters.” For example, McCormack learned that, in matters of performance evaluations, “The meek may inherit the earth but won’t be promoted or get a raise.”

He recalled sitting down with his supervisor toward the end of his first or second year of his new Columbus State University career. The supervisor asked about his service (to the university, the community, and his profession).

McCormack was, in a phrase, caught unawares by the notion that service would be among the factors determining, to some extent, whether he had done a good job for the year or not.

College faculty, McCormack came to see, are obliged to be entrepreneurs—that is, to sell themselves. The obligatory annual performance review (APR), he pointed out, is no time for humility. The array of materials a professor assembles for the APR—syllabuses, course handouts, grant proposals, conference presentations, manuscripts, letters of support and appreciation, and more—can run to several binders full of documentation.

When appointed department chair of CFL in 2011, McCormack was described by then-dean Barbara Chesler as an “outside-the-box thinker.” The popular and effective leader’s Rites of Passage remarks last October exemplify this quality. Consistently entertaining even when being serious, McCormack embodies a light-hearted approach to important topics. As a result, people—colleagues, students, and others—listen.
The Skinny on Finding a Teaching Position in Asia: Pointers from Emily, Who’s Been There, Done That

Emily Stranger

First, Find a Good Middle Man Finding a teaching position in Asia is not difficult, but if you are looking for a quality school, you need to consider a recruitment company. Why? A quality recruitment company is your gateway into the international school market. They have personal relationships with many of the administrators at the school, and those schools trust that the recruiters will introduce them to the best people.

Here is the tricky part: there are hundreds—literally, hundreds—of educational recruiters out there. Just type the words “teach” and “Asia” into your browser, and you will see what I mean. The trick is finding a recruiter that will be a liaison between you and a school, will help you until you get off the plane, but then drop you.

The fact is that many Asian countries (China is notorious) do not honor contracts the same way we do in the U.S. Any U.S. consular will say that there is little he or she can do to help if your school does not hold up its end of the deal. There are horror stories out there of teachers who have had awful experiences with poor recruitment companies that are not working in their client’s best interest.

Many recruitment companies are free, but the ones that will get you into the most desirable international schools charge $200 or more for their services. I have found, as well, that there is a hierarchy of recruitment companies, at the top the most prestigious and expensive and at the bottom, the “free” but risky. I also recommend using the recruitment organizations endorsed by the U.S. State Department.

I found my first job through Educators Overseas, a no-fee recruiting company. This company, owned by an American woman, stuck to its contractual obligations.

At the top of the pyramid of recruiters are International School Services (ISS) and Search Associates. Both have a rigorous selection process, and they charge both the schools and candidates a membership fees. ISS charges $195 for a year and Search Associates charges $225 for a three-year period. According to a friend who works at one of the best-known international schools in Beijing, “It’s worth the money.”

The best-known recruitment fair for American teachers looking to teach overseas is held annually at the University of Northern Iowa’s Overseas Recruiting Fair, in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Rumor has it that, if qualified, you are almost guaranteed to find a good job at h this this fair, where prospects will meet hundreds of school administrators face-to-face.

There are also less expensive mid-range recruitment companies. My favorite is Joyjobs.com. For about $40 a year, one may access open positions on a list which is updated daily. There is no real recruiter at JoyJobs, but it gives both schools and prospective teachers access to each other. In addition, JoyJobs features teacher reviews, good and bad, of different schools. This can alert you to schools that may have internal issues such as budget problems. This is the last thing I would want to deal with overseas.

Least desirable are the hundreds of free recruiters, or job-board sites. Dave’s ESL Café has been around the longest and—even though it still attracts some reputable schools—I am very skeptical of many of the ads.

Next…you found a school you like…now what? (or research, research, research!) Google the name of your school and see what pops up. If previous teachers have been burned by the school, then it is likely that they have ranted about it somewhere on the web. Try this: ask the hiring manager for the name and email of a couple of former or current employees, and then don’t hesitate to email them. Quality schools will be more than happy to provide this information. There are also several publications such as the International Schools Review that evaluate Asian schools.

Finally, read your contract with a magnifying glass A difficult issue I had when landing my job in China was figuring out whether I was being paid enough, and if I would be able to live well in Beijing as an American teacher. I would say that, your package does NOT include the following, you should keep looking.

• Detailed Salary information. Make sure you understand whether your pay is “net” or not. What taxes must you pay?
• Flight reimbursement. Most benefits packages don’t pay for the flight up front, but the school will reimburse you later. My contract called for the school to reimburse me at the
end of the school year, which is a fairly common arrangement. (It makes sense that the employer doesn’t want to pay for a flight for someone to arrive in Asia and then take off on vacation.) However, in the negotiation process, my school agreed to reimburse me when I arrived in China. I didn’t want to wait a year to pay off the airfare on my credit card.

- **Housing assistance.** Good schools either provide housing or provide you with a stipend. If they provide housing, ask them to send you pictures. Also, make sure to ask if you will be footing the bill for associated living costs such as utilities. Many schools pay the rent, but not the electricity, water, and so forth. Also check out the cost of living in your country. If the school is giving you a housing allowance, make sure it will pay for a decent apartment!

- **Health Insurance.** Ask to see the plans and what the insurance will cover.

- **Termination.** What happens if you get there and decide after three months that you hate it and don’t want to stay? Make sure you know your school’s policy. Some may require you to pay a large cancellation fee, while smaller operations only stipulate 30-days’ notice.

- **Visa fees.** To get a visa processed is complicated, with a lot of paperwork and mandated trips to the country’s consulate or U.S. embassy. Most teachers I know use a visa service such as International Visa Service, based in Atlanta. Of course, these cost money. Ask your employing school if you will be reimbursed for the money you have to spend stateside on your visa, because it will not be cheap. Expect to spend at least $200.

Stranger taught one year in Beijing and, for 2014-2015, relocated to Hanoi, Vietnam. Here she assists boys attending a college fair.
Van Gogh would have been proud. New Mountain Hill children Sarah Abtahi (left) and John Joseph Drew (right), show off “Scale It Up,” a vivid art and math project. Art teacher Virginia McCullough and Denise Peppers helped guide the process.

Helen P. Purks Collins (1942-2014)
Helen Purks Collins, founding co-director of the Columbus Regional Mathematics Collaborative, died in November following an extended illness. A graduate of Notre Dame University, she taught mathematics at Brookstone School in the 1970s and 80s. In retirement she relocated to Atlanta and then Athens, Ga. She volunteered as a grant writer for non-profits in Columbus and Lake Oconee, Ga, and also served as Chairman of the Board for the Stewart Community Home, Vice-Chair of the Flannery O’Connor Andalusia Foundation and a member of the Advisory Board for the St. Joseph’s Child Development Center in Fort Mitchell, Al.

The event included a buffet dinner and presentations, some by staff, some by area children and teachers. “Scale It Up,” an art/math project carried out by 3rd graders at New Mountain Hill School (Harris County) was a hit with teacher attendees, who numbered about 75. Art teacher Virginia McCullough and Peppers guided children through both art and mathematical processes involved in creating “Scale It Up.”

New Mountain Hill students John Joseph Drew and Sarah Abtahi were on hand to explain their work.

Another highlight of the Silver Celebration was a demonstration math lesson about triangles that progressed from a kindergarten application all the way to calculus. Staffers Barbara Rouse and Monique Gunnels, along with Kenneth Jones (former CRMC director now working with the UTeach program), led the activity.

Math Collaborative, Twenty-Five Years and Counting... Multiplying, Estimating, Problem-Solving, and Measuring
continued from page 6
A Slice of Pi = Inspiration

At its Silver Celebration, CRMC director Denise Peppers presented the Pi Plaque for the first time. She said, “Pi stands not only for the most recognized math symbol, but also for Professional Inspiration.” The plaque is a vehicle for people who—via a gift to the Collaborative—want to honor an individual who has inspired them professionally.

Based on early contributions, the idea will catch on. Retired President Frank Brown and one-time Columbus mayor Bill Feighner and his wife Zada were among those making Pi gifts (honoring, respectively, resource teacher Cynthia Hill and founding co-director Helen Purks Collins).

Donations to Pi—$100 or more is required—will support long-term development of the Collaborative, now in its twenty-sixth year. Resource teacher Hope Phillips said, “Money raised this way will be for teachers and their professional growth. That is Denise’s vision.” For information on how to honor a inspiring professional, contact peppers_denise@columbusstate.edu or call 706/568-2480.

Meet Our VIPs continued from page 8

Nanci Wood, business analyst in the COEHP dean’s office, was raised in a military family. Her parents retired in Columbus to be near Ft. Benning. Before coming to CSU, Wood was a student at Florida State’s Panama City campus. She says that it is a blessing to be “surrounded by such amazing people.” She is a Polish pottery collector, and has visited there 13 times to purchase the pieces. She mothers a daughter who is a 9th grade history teacher at Brookstone and two “fur daughters.”

Talley Dentzau is the newest administrative assistant in the COEHP. She works in the Teacher Education Department. Her husband, Mike Dentzau, is associate professor of science education and director of Oxbow Meadows Environmental Education Center. Dentzau relocated from Tallahassee, Florida—her home for twenty-two years—to Columbus in August 2014. The mother of two—one of whom was born, unexpectedly, at home—has been a high school biology teacher, a research assistant at Florida State, and a credentialing specialist at a rural hospital in Perry, Florida. Talley Dentzau enjoys cooking, bird watching, hiking, and other outdoor activities.

COEHP Administrative Staffers Not Listed Above...

Carol Lovejoy, administrative assistant, Center for Quality Teaching and Learning (CQTL)
Dutch Cummings, Coca-Cola Space Science Center (CCSSC).
He is a 13-year Columbus State veteran.
We value their contributions to the quality and effectiveness of their centers.

Call for Submissions

INNOVATION invites your submission of letters, feature articles, book reviews, op-ed pieces, and news items. Our readers are health professionals, educators, alumni, faculty, students, and supporters of our multi-faceted College of Education & Health Professions at Columbus State University. We seek readable, generally short items (500-750 words), and we remind all that the right high-resolution photo is worth a thousand words. Submissions and inquiries should be addressed to the editor: brewbaker_james@columbusstate.edu

Volume 9 #2 (Summer/Fall 2015)
This sixteen-page issue will feature general interest articles with an emphasis on the important linkage between the COEHP and programs preparing teachers in the performing and studio arts: music, drama, and art education. Deadline: May 1, 2015

Upcoming Themed Issues

Volume 9, #3 (Fall/Winter 2014/2015): “Making a Splash”
Okay, it’s a metaphor! At Columbus State and in its numerous COEHP programs, schools, and departments, we have students, faculty, alumni, and others who do spectacular work, work that should be noticed and celebrated. Maybe it’s you. Maybe it’s one of your students. This issue is all about telling our readers of special people who, yes, are making a splash. Deadline: July 1, 2015
Length: 500-750 words

Volume 10, #1 (Winter/Spring, 2016): “Tomorrow”
Exciting things are in the not-so-distant future of CSU and its College of Education & Health Professions: a move to the RiverPark Campus, improvements on main campus, strategic, effective use of technology, talented new colleagues, and programs that meet the complex needs of our students—and more. Help us look into the crystal ball as a way of envisioning what tomorrow has in store at CSU. Deadline: November 1, 2015
Length: 500-750 words
To Macon with Nekiesha Gordon and Ivan Hartle
James Brewbaker, Editor

Georgia’s Future Educators Ask ...

“I want to become a welder—then teach welding at a technical school. Do you have that at Columbus State?” The sturdy young woman looked like she might well be a welder one day, or maybe a blacksmith.

“I’d like to be a counselor—or maybe a physical therapist. Can I do that at CSU?” This was a puzzling combination.

“Where is Columbus—near Atlanta?” Note to self: buy this young man a Georgia map for his birthday.

Thank heaven for fall student teachers Nekiesha Gordon and Ivan Hartle, who graduated from CSU in December, she with a bachelor’s degree in early childhood, he with a master of arts degree (M.A.T.) in health/physical education.

One of the hats I wear for Columbus State is that of recruiter. For three years, I’ve represented CSU at the fall meeting of Georgia’s Future Educators Association (FEA) in Macon. Each year, teacher candidates have been part of our recruitment team.

Most FEA conferees are high school juniors and seniors. Doubtless, some are serious about learning what Georgia colleges offer to prospective teachers. Others, perhaps, enjoy a day away from home.

Beginning at 10:00 a.m. and again before and after lunch, 60 or 70 presumed future educators descend on a room full of peppy, kid-friendly college recruiters. Some 20 colleges and universities were represented in 2014, schools as small as Thomas College (enrollment 1,090) near the Florida line, as large as UGA (enrollment 35,000).

When the high-schoolers arrived, Nekiesha and Ivan went to work. I might say they came to my rescue. I knew the technical stuff—the programs we offer, people to contact on campus, and the like—but they were better recruiters than I could ever be. They know about dorms, sororities, and meal plans. They could walk the walk, not just talk the talk.

I quickly found myself taking pride in spending the day of recruitment with Nekiesha and Ivan. Here were articulate and attractive CSU students, soon to be CSU alums, representing the university and its educator preparation programs ever so well.

On our 80-mile drive to and from Macon, I got to know them both.

Nekiesha Gordon, age 22, finished student teaching at Key Elementary in South Columbus. She told me that she had spent her younger years in Queens, New York, then—when her parents moved south due to its lower cost of living—finished high school in Loganville,
midway between Atlanta and Athens. Enrolled at CSU on a HOPE scholarship when, in 2011, her parents returned to New York, she continued her studies here. She struck me as being very comfortable, “at home” in Columbus. She told the high school kids that she really likes CSU, our smallish, lively university.

Nekiesha changed her major twice at Columbus State. She advises others to “go with your gut feeling when picking a major. It will save you time and money.” She started out in middle-grades education, switched to nursing, then—“on a bright sunny Tuesday morning”—went back to education, this time early childhood. She said, “I wasn’t sure why I wanted to be a nurse, but I had ample amount of reasons for why I wanted to be a teacher.”

When Nekiesha visits family in Queens, she finds the crowds, the noise, and the fast pace of everything in New York too much. That said, she sees herself as leaving the South in time, and she would like to be an elementary school principal someday. Graduate school, then, is in the offing.

Ivan Hartle, age 24, was my navigator to and from Macon. Nekiesha nursed a head cold in the back seat.

In December, Ivan completed student teaching at Richards Middle School. From Vancouver, British Columbia, he entered CSU as a graduate student with a degree in exercise science. An international student, Ivan received certain benefits and took on certain obligations. “CSU offered a scholarship that would help pay for my international tuition.” This, he said, was “a huge factor” in his decision to enroll. Like other international students, he earned his scholarship in several ways, among them taking part in Global Dialogues, sponsored by the Center for International Education, as a discussion leader.

As an undergraduate, Ivan played baseball at Western Kentucky University. He chose an M.A.T. program because he was interested in teaching but lacked a professional education background.

Ivan found it easier to bike around Columbus, to and from campus and practicum sites, than it would be to get a US driver’s license and a car. (It is hard to imagine a native Georgian with this mindset.)

In Atlanta, some Georgians, I’ve heard, walk their dogs through their car window.)

By mistake, Ivan was set to meet us at Jordan High School at 7:30 a.m., not far from his Lakebottom apartment, rather than Jordan Hall, our rendezvous point. When he realized he was at the wrong place, he biked quickly to campus. Ivan didn’t sweat a drop while making it to campus on time. Lacking a car, he said, was no more than a minor inconvenience to a Canadian.

Our team of recruiters left Macon a bit after 2:00. Back on campus, we parted company, Nekiesha on her way to a server’s shift at a local eatery, Ivan to a stint at the welcome desk in University Hall.

Returning to my office, I reflected on my day with two bright young professionals who are savvy about their education, goal-oriented, and open to possibilities in Columbus and the world beyond. I for one am optimistic about them and their future, and I am confident that, in the future, Columbus State teacher educators will—if Nekiesha and Ivan are representative—have reason to think, “well done.”
Hassell: Where are you from? Would you tell us a little about your family/background?

Green: I am from Ohio, but I grew up in Stockbridge, Georgia. I moved to Stockbridge in first grade and attended elementary, middle and high school there. I have one little brother. We are four years apart, so this semester our parents will be attending two graduations in the same month.

H: Why did you choose CSU?

G: CSU wasn’t too big or too small. It was just the right size for me personally from the class sizes to the on-campus housing. I am so happy that I did pick CSU as my first choice because it has sculpted me into the person I am today by providing me with many opportunities to succeed.

H: What has your experience been like as SGA President?

G: It was an honor taking the oath to represent the student body, for me, because we have the most amazing students on this campus who come from all different backgrounds and walks of life. It’s been an incredible experience thus far. I have been able to work with faculty, staff, and CSU students in so many different aspects. I am currently sitting on the Presidential Search Committee, and I am beyond honored to be the voice of the students as we continue through the process of selecting the next President of this miraculous university. The journey has been amazing, and I am so thankful for the opportunity to be able to serve the students on this campus, because I believe the students are what make CSU so exceptional.

H: Why early childhood education? Was it your first choice?

G: When I was 15 years old, my teacher let me and my classmates write lesson plans and co-teach in the pre-K classroom we had as part of our classroom. It was a half day program. I loved it! I loved the program and the students. I also loved my teacher; she inspired me so much.

The next year, she allowed me to intern at the elementary school across the street, I would walk over every day for about two hours. The cooperating teacher would let me teach—she let me teach at the age of 16!

I never forgot her, and I actually ran into her about a month ago at the bank. I told her, “I’m getting my degree in early childhood education because you gave me a chance, you believed in me when I was 16.”

I wish you could have seen her face.

But I did not originally start out as an early childhood major. When I first came to CSU, I was a psychology major. I wanted to be a child psychologist, but as I went through the semester with no interaction with children, I realized that I had picked the wrong major. I need to be teaching like I had done the last three years of high school. I went straight to my psychology advisor and changed my major my second semester, and I have been an early childhood education major ever since. I know that, if I had not had that amazing teacher in high school and that amazing cooperating teacher, I would not be where I am right now. They inspired me and they gave me an opportunity to see what teaching was like at a young age. I think this is the best thing about being a teacher. Teachers inspire lives each and every day and the impact lasts forever.
**H: Do you have a coach or mentor (here at CSU or elsewhere)? How have they influenced you?**

**G:** I actually have an abundance of mentors on and off campus. I learn so much from other people and their past experiences. The mentor on this campus that has influenced me the most since my freshman year would have to be Dr. Stuart Rayfield.

**H: You will graduate this year. What’s next? What are your plans for the future?**

**G:** Yes, I graduate May 11, 2015. My plans are to attend law school part-time and become a first-year teacher. I know it sounds like a lot, but I aspire to work in educational law and continue child advocacy. My biggest plan for the future would be to run for Congress.

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**Daniel Thatch Heads Georgia Student Nursing Group**

Senior nursing student **Daniel Thatch** is a busy young man. In addition to wrapping up his spring classes and preparing for his nursing board examinations, Thatch has responsibilities as chair of the Council of Student Presidents, an arm of the Georgia Association of Nursing Students (GANS).

Thatch, who will graduate in May, explained recently that 40 Georgia institutions have student organizations affiliated with GANS. The Columbus State GANS chapter is well known on campus for community-building and special projects, such as competitive, game-like study sessions.

Thatch’s passion for his chosen profession is infectious. While enrolled at CSU, he has worked in the emergency department at Midtown Medical, employment he plans to continue after graduation. He also intends to pursue specialized training through enrolling in a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program, chances are through the School of Nursing’s new program.

A Phenix City native, Thatch is a graduate of Central High School (2005) and Chattahoochee Valley Community College (2012). He enrolled at CSU later the same year and entered the nursing program in 2013.

**Math Education Alumnus Honored**

**Mohan Sadhasivan,** who earned a Columbus State Education Specialist degree in mathematics education in 2005, has received a prestigious award and cash grant from the Georgia Innovation Fund. Sadhasivan and 7 other teachers were named in round four of the “Innovation in Teaching Competition,” a recognition and reward opportunity for teachers modeling innovative teaching strategies.

**Students and Alumni Make the COEHP Proud …**

If the College of Education & Health Professions does its work well, it attracts exceptional students like Rachel Green (opposite), Nekiesha Gordon, and Ivan Hartle (pages 18-19). There are others, among them Daniel Thatch who, as a senior nursing student, has been chosen to a statewide leadership role in his field.

Alumni also make the COEHP proud. For example, among 57 teachers representing their Muscogee County school as “teacher of the year” for 2015, 31 have one or more degrees from CSU. Others earn recognition from fellow practitioners, political leaders, or both. Henry County teacher Mohan Sadhasivan (right) is just such an alumnus.

As noted by Gov. Nathan Deal, the program “allows us the opportunity to recognize some of our state’s best and most deserving teachers.”

Sadhasivan will receive a $2,000 stipend, and Stockbridge High School in Henry County, where he is math department chair, will receive $5,000 for implementation of Georgia’s instructional standards. Georgia Public Broadcasting will film the teacher at work before the school year concludes. Videos, along with supplementary materials, will be made available through Georgiastandards.org and iTunesU.
Thinking Global Goes Both Ways

Columbus State promotes internationalization on campus in many ways. Among other endeavors, bringing foreign nationals—young and old—to CSU contributes to their understanding of America while helping US born-and-bred college students come to know citizens of other countries.

Through its Immersion Excursion, the English Language Institute (ELI) is a major player in hosting international students. English professor Seon Jeon was instrumental in establishing the ELI in 2002.

This past summer (2014), 8 Korean middle-schoolers participated in the Immersion Excursion on campus over a 24-day period. The young visitors practiced English skills, enjoyed Activ8 classes through the Continuing Education Division, and took field trips to Disney World, Callaway Gardens, and Atlanta.

In Activ8 classes—among them rock climbing, chess, and sewing—the Korean kids interacted with American boys and girls, this being a significant part of their immersion in local culture and the English language.

Luisa Gonzalez-Hurt, who supervises the Immersion Excursion, ensures the program runs smoothly from arrival to departure. This is a multi-faceted task.

Beverly Hendrix was lead ESL (English-as-a-second-language) teacher. With the ESL instruction housed in Jordan Hall, she and Teacher Education Department faculty collaborated on an informal basis, an arrangement which led to the teenagers picking out a young adult novel from the department’s collection to read and take home with them. One Korean boy has since started a correspondence with a faculty member.

For the summer 2015 “Immersion Excursion,” as many as 20 Korean youngsters are anticipated. “They had a wonderful time while they were at CSU,” reported ELI Coordinator Cynthia Cook. She sees the program as “an opportunity to show off CSU” as well as to encourage participants to “come back to CSU to obtain a degree from an American university.”

Korea is known as an education superpower. To find out what school life is like for Korean teenagers, INNOVATION recommends Amanda Ripley’s The Smartest Kids in the World: And How They Got That Way (Simon & Schuster, 2013).
Columbus State is among four universities which received the prestigious Senator Paul Simon Award for Campus Internationalization. Other 2014 recipients were Rutgers, Ohio State, and North Carolina State.

“This is a tremendously powerful recognition,” said Neal McCrillis, who directs CSU’s Center for International Education (CIE). Provost Tom Hackett and outgoing CSU president Tim Mescon praised both McCrillis’ role and the participation of many faculty members.

A unique aspect of CSU’s study abroad program is its ownership of a large former residence in Oxford, England. Named the Spencer House to honor the Columbus family that gave it to the university, it has—beginning a decade ago—accommodated 500-plus faculty and students living and studying in England.

Global Dialogues is a popular campus-based program under the CIE’s aegis. “For our students — many of whom are first-generation college students and most of whom have never visited another country—Global Dialogues are their first chance to hear viewpoints and attitudes other than those expressed by their Georgia-born and raised neighbors,” McCrillis said.

Busy Times at CSU—Mark Your Calendar!

(Right) Turner Business School dean Linda Hadley and leadership professor Eddie Obleton are pleased as punch to remind us that graduation is on May 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Columbus Civic Center.

(Left) Camp Abilities Columbus, which introduces visually impaired children to sports such as Beep Ball, is a summer fixture on campus. Write wert_jeanine@columbusstate.edu for details.

*** COEHP Honors Reception, April 9, 6:00 p.m., University Hall ***

*** School of Nursing Pinning Ceremony, May 11, 10:00 a.m., University Hall ***
What’s Red All Over? Health Educators Have the Answer

For three years, Columbus State has hosted a Go Red Day event in February to promote women’s heart health. The 2015 affair on February 6 included a buffet dinner, conversation among friends, and a motivational speech by Biggest Loser personality Julie Hadden. Alicia Bryan Tatum of the Health, Physical Education, & Exercise Science Department (HPEX) coordinated the event.

Launched more than a decade ago by the American Heart Association, Go Red Day reminds Americans that heart disease is the number one killer of women, more than all forms of cancer combined. “One in three women die of heart disease and stroke each year.” That said, the flip side of the coin is that many factors contributing to heart disease may be brought under control through lifestyle changes—better diet and increased activity.

Looking fine in red! (left to right): Beth Bussey, Midtown Medical; Katrina Hill, KBH Fitness; featured speaker Julie Hadden; Dee Armstrong, WLTZ 38; nursing professor Gail Jones, Co-Chair Women’s Issues Committee; Deloris Doleman, NURSES, Inc.; CSU professor and Wellness Coordinator Alicia Bryan Tatum, chair, CSU Women’s Issues Committee