

# Letters & Sciences Today



COLUMBUS STATE  
UNIVERSITY

College of Letters and Sciences  
Highlights Vol. 21 - Spring/Summer 2024

CSU students  
at UN in NYC



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**The interaction of knowledge and skills with experience  
is the key to learning.**

*– John Dewey, American Philosopher and Scholar*



Dean Annice Yarber-Allen

The end of the academic year is a time of celebration and excitement! In April, Columbus State University held the 2024 Employee Recognition and Awards Program, celebrating employees' commitment to excellence. Congratulations to all CSU awardees on a job well done. The College of Letters and Sciences proudly acknowledges our faculty for their awards.

- Faculty Research and Scholarship Award: Dr. Guihong Fan, Mathematics
- Faculty Service Award: Dr. Kimberly Gill, Political Science
- Teaching Excellence Award: Dr. Kerri Taylor, Chemistry
- 2024 Educator of the Year: Dr. Kerri Taylor, Chemistry

I am also honored to recognize the outstanding achievement of one of our students within the College of Letters and Sciences. Bailey Melton, a Columbus, GA native, earned the prestigious USG Academic Recognition Day Award. This award is granted to a top-achieving student at each USG institution who's a Georgia resident, has a 4.0 or close to it, and represents the system's highest scholastic ideals. These students strive for excellence and can share knowledge in various areas of expertise. In addition, Ms. Melton was awarded the CSU Faculty Cup. The Faculty Cup is the highest award presented annually to a Columbus State University student and signifies superior academic achievement, participation in university organizations, leadership, service to others, and a potential for future achievements. Congratulations, Bailey!

We congratulate ALL CSU faculty and staff for their achievements and successes!!! The College of Letters and Sciences faculty and students are always at the forefront of academic and experiential endeavors, contributing significantly to the vibrant Columbus State University community. Our dedicated faculty constantly create a diverse range of content and experiences that enrich learning. In this edition of *COLS Today*, you will discover the myriad immersive opportunities available to our students. These include challenging labs, study-away trips, engaging conferences, and impactful service-learning experiences, all designed to foster personal growth and skill development.

Please enjoy reading this fascinating and inspiring *COLS Today* edition, which highlights the many exciting activities and adventures our students and faculty have participated in over the last year, a year filled with exciting learning opportunities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Annice Yarber-Allen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Annice Yarber-Allen

Dean of the College of Letters and Sciences

## Letters & Sciences Today

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## Conference Presentation

# CSU Chemistry Students Present at Georgia Academy of Science Spring 2024 Conference

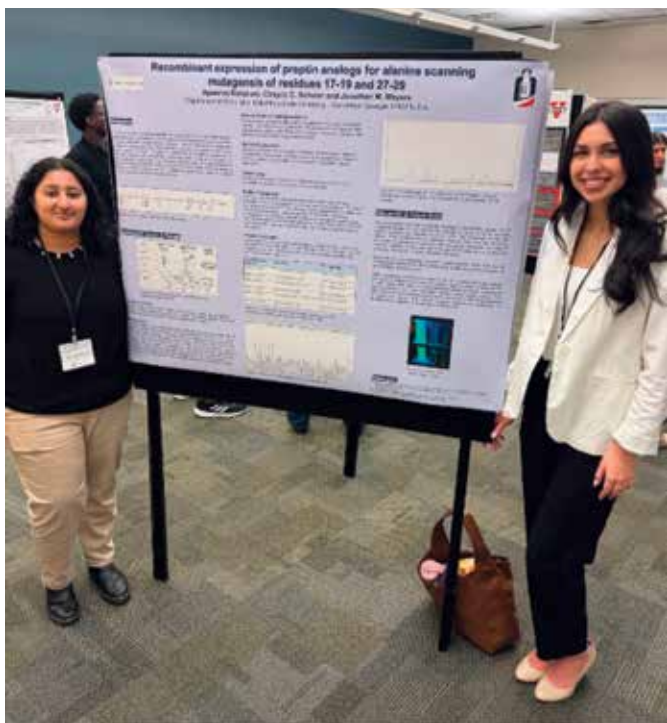
By Drs. Kerri Taylor, Jonathan Meyers and Daniel Holley

Columbus State University Chemistry Students, Ms. Apoorva Kollaram, Ms. Chayce Schuler, and Ms. Elise Snow, attended and presented their research at the Georgia Academy of Science Annual Conference, held in Kennesaw, GA. This two-day conference occurred March 1-2. The team of Kollaram and Schuler (both Senior Chemistry majors, Dr. Jonathan Meyers - mentor) presented a poster on the *Recombinant expression of preptin analogs for alanine scanning mutagenesis of residues 21-24*. Ms. Elise Snow (Senior Chemistry major, Dr. Daniel Holley - mentor) presented a poster on *Isolation, Characterization and Bioactivity of Secondary Metabolites in E. Serotinium*. Ms. Snow was awarded the Best Poster Award for the 2024 GAS conference.

These CSU students wrote 3 of 94 abstracts presented by talented undergraduate and graduate students from colleges and universities across the state of Georgia. The students showcased the outcomes of their hands-on research and learning under the

mentorship of faculty members in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) at their institutions.

All of the Chemistry students' involvement demonstrated one of CSU's goals for the conference: to highlight the value of student research and to provide underrepresented minority students the opportunity to showcase their scholarly accomplishments and personal commitment to disciplinary learning. The poster session offered a unique opportunity for students to learn from each other, network, engage with faculty and administrators in career development opportunities, and to experience the essence of disciplinary professionalization. The CSU Department of Chemistry program wants to thank their CSU mentors, Drs. Jonathan Meyers and Daniel Holley, for their hard work and commitment to providing laboratory experiences to these scholars of this program.



**Apoorva Kollaram and Chayce Schuler** present a poster on the *Recombinant expression of preptin analogs for alanine scanning mutagenesis of residues 21-24*. Mentor: Dr. Jonathan Meyers.



**Elise Snow** presented a poster on *Isolation, Characterization and Bioactivity of Secondary Metabolites in E. Serotinium*. Mentor: Dr. Daniel Holley.

## English Majors Take Service-Learning Trip to Guatemala



*Back row, left to right, excluding the women in logo shirts (first two women on left and last woman on right): Students Ana Dinis Perez; Elise Smith; Nadia Jacobs; Jonathan Stringfellow; John Pollock; Chase Duke; Lennox Dodd; Brian Nguyen; and Quinnon Wiggins.*

A group of nine Columbus State University English majors spent Spring Break 2024 (March 18-26) in Guatemala on a service-learning trip. Dr. Allen Gee, the Donald L. Jordan Endowed Professor of Creative Writing, and Dr. Leslie Haines, Lecturer of English, guided the group of CSU students as they taught English to Vuelta Grande students each morning. "Our work with the children encourages them to continue on to classes at the local public school," says Dr. Gee.

During the week-long trip, the afternoons



**Guatemala is located in Central America.**

were spent installing energy-efficient ecological stoves in family homes. "The majority of families have to cook with just a fire pit inside their homes without a chimney, which is incredibly unhealthy," notes Dr. Haines. Dr. Gee adds, "The stoves vent smoke out of the kitchens, preventing respiratory and ocular diseases, increasing life spans by decades."

In addition to English lessons and ecological stoves, CSU students had individual service projects to benefit the



village. "This year, they brought the children dozens of blankets," says Dr. Gee.

For four years, Dr. Gee has enjoyed meeting the people of Guatemala and learning about the dynamics involved with village improvement. The trip was also memorable for Dr. Haines, who recalls, "When the students finished building the second stove, one little girl gave us peaches from her dress pocket. The way that these girls interacted with us felt so welcoming and generous. Visiting the coffee plantation was also a highlight. I was excited to see how coffee is grown and to enjoy some of the best coffee I've ever had the pleasure of drinking."

The trip is designed to transform students' lives by first helping them transform the lives of others. Dr. Gee states, "What I hope, and what Mr. Jordan hoped, is that students will become more inclined to do service work in their futures. Many students go on to sign up for more Study Abroad trips after this one. So the trip is a springboard, helping to make CSU students more global in their thinking and awareness. This is just one more aspect of Creative Writing at CSU that makes it a destination creating writing undergraduate program in Georgia."

The trip was an initiative of the Donald L. Jordan Endowment, which graciously covered nearly all student costs. Foundations CEPA (Cultural and Educational

Programs Abroad) and FUNCOLI (Fundacione Corazones Libres) partnered with CSU to make the trip a reality.



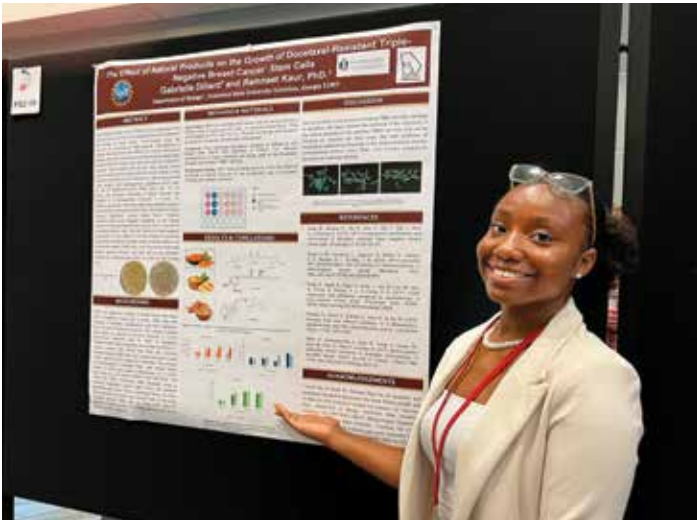
CSU student Lennox Dodd talks with a young student.



(Far left ) CSU students Jonathan Stringfellow, Nadia Jacobs, Brian Nguyen, and family members (right) after completing a stove installation.

# Tower Day Presentations

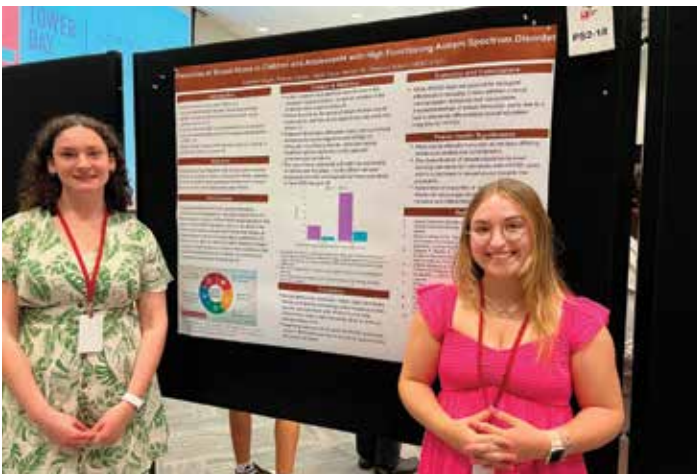
## Student Presentations on Tower Day (April 26, 2024)



**Gabrielle Dillard**  
"The Effect of Natural Products on the Growth of Docetaxel-Resistant Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Stem Cells"  
Mentor: Ramneet Kaur. Major: Biology.



**Zachary Brundidge**  
"More Than Just Her Black Bottom: An Exploration and Analysis of the Legacy of Gertrude Ma Rainey"  
Mentor: Bryan Banks. Major: History.

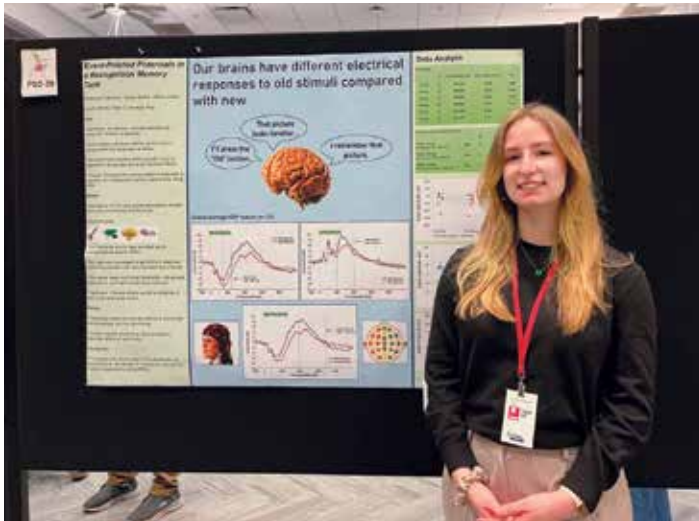


**Victoria Canedo** (pictured right of poster), **Najah Dixon** (not shown), **Schaefer Hogan** (pictured left of poster)  
"Prevention of Sexual Abuse in Children and Adolescents with High Functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder"  
Mentor: Rebecca Toland. Major: Health Science.



**Alyssa Schmitz** (pictured), **Emily Urban** (not shown)  
"The Dangers of Pregnancy in Women Under 20"  
Mentor: Rebecca Toland. Major: Health Science.





**Anastasia Robertson** (pictured), **Schae Morton, Allison Jordan** (not shown)  
 "Event-Related Potentials in a Recognition Memory Task"  
 Mentor: Mark Schmidt. Major: Psychology.



Oral Presentation, **Natalie Fleury**  
 "How Age of the Tallow Tree Affects Surrounding Plant Growth"  
 Mentors: Troy Keller. Major: BA Fine Arts.



**Ashton Johnson**  
 "The Revolutionary War: Effect on Georgia's People"  
 Mentor: Laura June Davis. Major: History.



Oral Presentation, **Jiayu Wang**  
 "The Effect of Natural Products on the Growth of Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Stem Cells (Mammospheres)"  
 Mentors: Ramneet Kaur, Monica Frazier. Major: Biology.

# The CSUMUN Competition Team Visits the United Nations Headquarters in New York City



**From Left to Right:** Karlene Muwakkil (Political Science Major), Kayla Pipkins (Sociology Major), Daphne Bryant (Communications Major), Royal Walker (Political Science Major), Arshman Balouch (Political Science Major), JB Belle II (Environmental Science Major), Adrian Peterson (Political Science Major), Agnelo Lopes (MPA Graduate Student).

The Model United Nations Competition Team of Columbus State University, also known as the CSUMUN Team, traveled to New York City from March 15-19, 2024, to embark on a “city-as-text” journey, which included a special tour of the United Nations Headquarters. As part of their journey through the “Big Apple,” the CSUMUN Team explored the city through the lens of “New York City as an International Hub.” They were tasked with examining the physical spaces, architecture, social dynamics, unique sounds, and cultural expressions of the city. These activities challenged the students to consider historical, social, and cultural issues and served in enriching their understanding of New York City’s role as a global cultural, political, and economic hub and its impact on the connections and collaborations between nations.

During their visit to the United Nations Headquarters, the CSUMUN Team was greeted by Ms. Julia Maciel, a diplomat serving the Permanent Mission of Paraguay to the United Nations and friend of Dr. Eric Spears, Executive Director of CSU’s Center for Global Engagement. Ms. Maciel gave the Team the “VIP Backstage Tour” of the United Nations, providing them with a unique opportunity to observe the daily operations of United Nations diplomats firsthand. The Team sat in the same committee chamber where Ms. Maciel works every day on the Consultative Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs of the United Nations.

The Model UN Competition Team of Columbus State University is a registered student organization open to all disciplines across campus whose purpose is to foster a better understanding of the role of the United Nations in diplomacy, global security, international politics, and humanitarian efforts. It is housed under the School of Policy, Justice, and Public Safety’s Political Science Department and works closely with the Center for Global Engagement in promoting international education on campus, in the local community, and abroad.

The trip to New York City was funded by the Center for Global Engagement as part of its faculty-led study away initiative. Dr. Eric Spears, Executive Director of the Center for Global Engagement, has been a great supporter of the Team since its inception in Fall 2022. Along with the CSUMUN Team’s faculty advisor and Chair of the School of Policy, Justice, and Public Safety, Dr. Kimberly Gill, and staff advisor, Ms. Raquel Aponte, Dr. Spears helped to plan the trip during Spring Break so that students could visit the international organization they represent on campus. Ms. Julia Maciel also played a crucial role in making this visit a unique experience by obtaining security clearance to bring the CSUMUN Team behind the scenes at the United Nations Headquarters, which is not something that is usually included on the tour.



Visiting New York City and the United Nations Headquarters has been an invaluable educational experience for the CSUMUN Competition Team as it has allowed the students to deepen their understanding of global issues and diplomatic processes. By investing in pedagogical endeavors, such as the CSUMUN Competition Team's visit to New York City, that expose our students to multiple perspectives and real-world challenges, the School of Policy, Justice, and Public Safety and the Center for Global Engagement not only enhance the educational experience of CSU students but also contribute to the cultivation of future leaders who will be prepared to address the intricate challenges of our increasingly globalized world.



**Front Row (left to right):** UN Headquarters Security Chief Malinda McCormack, Kayla Pipkins (student), Royal Walker (student), Dr. Kimberly Gill (CSUMUN Team Faculty Advisor), Julia Maciel (UN Diplomat from Paraguay), Raquel Aponte (CSUMUN Team Staff Advisor), Makiese Augusto Kinkela (UN Diplomat from Angola).  
**Back Row (left to right):** Karlene Muwakkil (student), Daphne Bryant (student), Agnelo Lopes (student), JB Belle II (student), Arshman Balouch (student), Adrian Peterson (student).



# Study Away Trips

## Class Trip to FSU Napoleonic Special Collections



Dr. Banks and his HIST 3555 Napoleonic World class took a day trip in early March to the Florida State University Special Collections in Tallahassee. FSU has the third largest collection of French Revolution and Napoleonic documents in the world.

Students got to see and touch one of only two death masks of Napoleon Bonaparte in the world, along with wartime correspondence, papal indulgences, memoirs, and even drawings produced by Napoleon's "savants" from his Egyptian campaign. The trip gave the students a chance to get unprecedented access to an archival collection, build relationships with their classmates, and further their research and analysis skills. Sonja Mahan, a student in the class, remarked: "This was such a cool experience and one that CSU students are lucky to have."



Napoleon's death mask.

## What Makes a Culture Unique?

By Anna Dimitrova, Lecturer of French

The Perspectives class "What Makes a Culture Unique?" is a CSU first-year experience course and is open to all freshmen. It provides information and analysis on some basic questions concerning culture (ex. arts, language, identity issues, history, and politics). Since we are unable to study every culture, I rely on French and Francophone cultures as a base for reflecting on other cultures, and on the importance of culture in general. Exposure to authentic material takes students beyond the classroom and promotes awareness of the role of culture in societies. In class, we use clips, videos, films and songs related to each topic. The readings are from Joe Lurie's book *Perception and Deception: A Mind-Opening Journey Across Cultures*.

In February, we visited the "World of Coca-Cola" museum in Atlanta for our Experiential Learning Field Trip "Coca-Cola as a Cultural Phenomenon." As Richard Kuisel once said, "Perhaps no commercial



product is more thoroughly identified with the United States...Coca-Cola was fast becoming a universal drink. "While Coca-Cola is part of our daily life, the students discovered the long journey of this popular drink. Based on the exhibitions, they reflected on how and why Coca-Cola has become so prominent in the world.



## Faculty Cancer Research

### Ramneet Kaur Researches Effects of Natural Products on Triple Negative Breast Cancer Stem Cells

Dr. Ramneet Kaur, Assistant Professor of Biology at Columbus State University, is researching the effects of natural products—such as ginger, turmeric, herb (ashwagandha), grapefruit, lemon peel, etc.—on the growth of triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) stem cells. Another area of research she is conducting is that of androgen independent prostate cancer.



A cell and molecular biologist with cancer biology as her research area, she holds a Ph.D. in Biotechnology and post-doctoral training in cancer biology from Harvard Medical School and Emory University. At CSU, she teaches a 5000-level course (undergraduate and graduate level) in Cell and Molecular Biology,

Microbiology, Anatomy & Physiology I, Bioinformatics, and general biology courses to major and non-major students.

Her research is well published in 1<sup>st</sup> tier journals (*British Journal of Cancer*, *Organic & Biomolecular Chemistry*, *Journal of Ovarian Research*, etc.), and she has received many research grants, including some from CSU (Faculty Development Grant, grant from COLS Dean's office) and University of North Georgia, where she has also taught.

In addition, one of her graduate students has received a SRACE grant and two of her undergraduate students have received a SRACE grant and a TriBeta grant to do cancer research. SRACE stands for Student Research and Creative Endeavors and is a grant established by CSU for graduate and undergraduate student research; TriBeta (Beta Beta Beta) is a national collegiate honor society and academic fraternity for students of the biological sciences.

In her research, she notes that chemotherapy is often "not the best option because it cannot distinguish between healthy fast dividing cells and cancer cells." Some patients who receive "chemotherapy get very sick and die of the side effects of chemotherapy rather than cancer itself. Docetaxel (a chemotherapy drug given to TNBC patients) kills most of the cancer cells, but some cells are resistant to docetaxel. These resistant cells survive; they express cancer stem cell markers on them and are responsible for the relapse of cancer."

In her current research, she is "checking the potential of the natural products to kill the docetaxel



Lemon Peel



Tumeric



Ginger

resistant TNBC stem cells. This is a new direction in the field of cancer biology as natural products are not much explored to solve the problem of drug resistance and the enrichment of cancer stem cells in the field of oncology." She has found similar resistance to docetaxel chemotherapy in prostate cancer as well.

To hear a podcast of her explaining her cancer research, listen to this AACU (American Association of Colleges and Universities) broadcast from *The Academic Minute* (November 2023).

<https://academicminute.org/2023/11/ramneet-kaur-columbus-state-university-natural-products-and-triple-negative-breast-cancer-stem-cells/>

# New COLS Faculty, Fall 2023



## **Qi Zou-Assistant Professor of Robotics Engineering, Department of Earth and Space Sciences**

Dr. Qi Zou received his Bachelor's degree (Mechanical Engineering and Automation) and Master's degree (Mechanical Design and Theory) from Beijing Jiaotong University (China) in 2012 and 2016, respectively. He received his PhD degree (Mechanical Engineering) from York University (Canada) in 2023. Before joining Columbus State University, he was a postdoctoral fellow in Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Hanyang University (Republic of Korea). His research fields include parallel robotics, medical robotics, mechatronics, solid mechanics, linkage mechanisms and innovative mechanical design. He teaches a broad range of undergraduate and graduate courses in Mechanical Engineering, Robotics and Mechatronics.

## **Daewoo Jin – Assistant Professor of English, Department of English**

Dr. Daewoo Jin is committed to helping students make meaningful connections between their life experiences and the process of writing. He believes that students can greatly benefit from engaging in thoughtful reflection about their own learning and writing practices. His current projects include an exploration of writing center tutors' epistemology and a longitudinal study on composition teacher epistemology.

Dr. Jin has received degrees from these schools of higher education: Ph.D. in Composition and Applied Linguistics, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, 2021; Master of Arts in ELT Materials Development, South Korea, 2014; and Bachelor of Business Administration, National Central University, Taiwan, 2002. Prior to joining CSU, Dr. Jin taught at the University of Montana, where he worked with a diverse range of students, including adult learners, military students, and traditional undergraduates.



## **Laura June Davis – Assistant Prof. of History, Department of History, Geography, and Philosophy**

Dr. Laura June Davis's teaching and research focus on American history through the 19th century, with an emphasis on gender, identity, community, and the military. Her current manuscript project focuses on sabotage, irregular naval warfare, and masculinity during the Civil War. She has appeared on C-SPAN multiple times, won three teaching awards at her previous institution, and published a portion of her research in *The Guerrilla Hunters: Irregular Conflicts during the Civil War* (LSU Press, 2017). Dr. Davis joined CSU this fall and will be teaching courses on the Civil War, military history, and gender history.

## **John Cumming – Lecturer of Psychology, Department of Psychology**

Dr. John Cumming completed his Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology at the University of Toledo, where he taught a variety of undergraduate psychology courses both during and following his doctoral training. His doctoral specialization involved studying the hearing abilities of animals through psychophysical experiments (i.e., audiometric testing). Dr. Cumming began teaching at CSU part-time during the spring of 2023. As an instructor, he specializes in psychobiology and perception but enjoys teaching many different courses. He finds great fulfillment in teaching and strives to continuously improve his pedagogical skills by seeking professional development opportunities and soliciting student feedback.

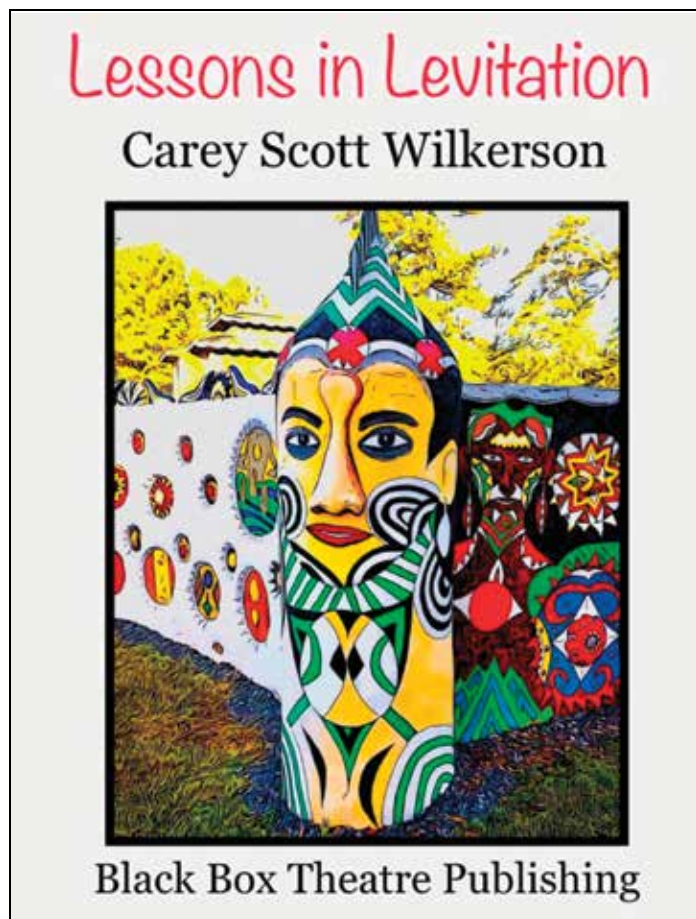




## Faculty Book Publications

### Another Book Publication for Dr. Scott Wilkerson

The English Department's Dr. Scott Wilkerson marks Spring 2024 with the publication of his new book, *Lessons in Levitation*, by Black Box Theatre Publishing Company. It's an edition of two opera libretti: the original, unexpurgated "blue" text of *Eddie's Stone Song: Odyssey of the first Pasaquoyan* and *The Ariadne Songs*. The former is the origin story of Pasaquan and its creator Eddie Owen Martin and the latter, a retelling of the Minotaur/Theseus myth from the perspective of Ariadne, the forgotten girl and also the secret heroine of that story. This is his second publication with Black Box Theatre. His first, the play *Seven Dreams of Falling*, explores the Icarus myth as the artist's reflex to meet the world on his own terms: freedom and flight even if the cost is plummeting from the sky. "I like characters who live on the outside or at the margins, you know, irrational dreamers," Wilkerson says, "and I want to tell their untold stories."



### CSU History Professor Co-Edits OpenStax Textbooks



Dr. Ryan Lynch served as one of the lead editors and writers for a pair of new, Open Educational Resource (OER) World History textbooks that are available in a digital form for free for students and instructors and inexpensively available in a print-on-demand option. The books were commissioned by OpenStax.

The textbooks are designed to be used in World History classrooms

at the college and/or the advanced high school level and cover prehistory through to the present day in two volumes. In addition to being free in digital form, the volumes are designed to be inclusive in foundation, involving more than 90 writers, editors, peer reviewers, and other contributors from across the country.

They provide additional coverage to areas of world history and voices that oftentimes receive less attention in mass-market World History textbooks and introductory classes. They also place great emphasis in both content and assessments on connecting the past with the present. Additionally, with a digital-first focus,

the textbooks can be edited into the future as our understanding of the past may be augmented or even change. The textbooks can also be used in a modular format—instructors can choose to use all or only part of the book to augment any other materials they may already really like and are comfortable using in their classrooms. Volume 2 (1400-present) was published in December 2022, and Volume 1 (prehistory to 1400) in May 2023.



## In Memoriam: Dr. Craig Lloyd

By Dr. Gary Sprayberry

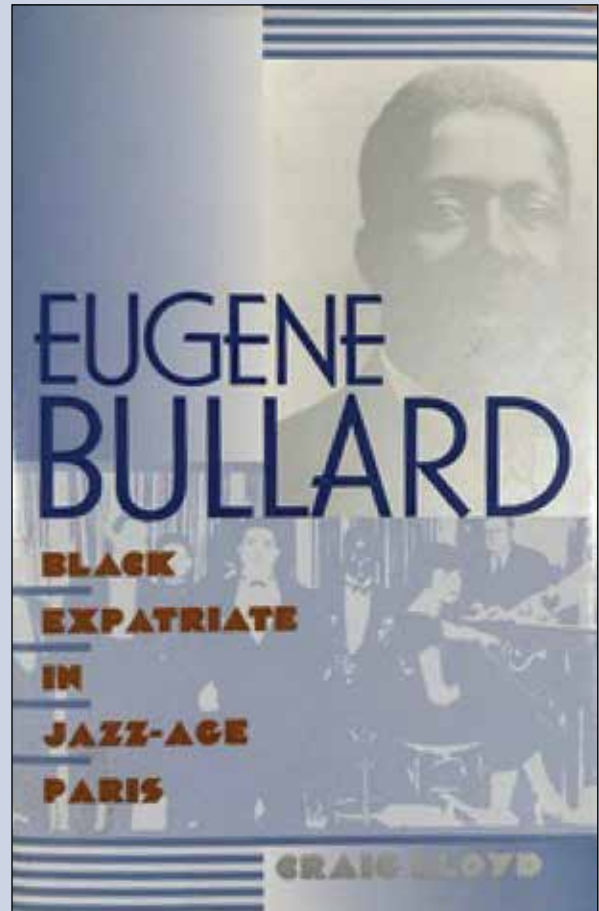
Dr. Craig Lloyd (1940-2022), a longtime member of the Department of History at Columbus State University, passed away on Saturday, October 15, 2022, in Cookeville, Tennessee.

Dr. Lloyd was born on February 15, 1940, in Bronxville, a small town in Westchester County, New York. He earned a bachelor's degree from Middlebury College in Vermont. Dr. Lloyd joined the faculty at Columbus College in 1971, after receiving his Ph.D. in history from Iowa University. While at CSU, he published two outstanding monographs, *Aggressive Introvert: Herbert Hoover and Public Relations Management* (1973) and *Eugene Bullard, Black Expatriate in Jazz-Age Paris* (2000). The latter work has been described as "the definitive biography" of Bullard, the world's first black combat aviator.



In 1985, Dr. Lloyd became the head of the Archives and Special Collections at Columbus College, splitting his time between the archives and the Department of History until his retirement in 2001. Dr. John Lupold, one of Dr. Lloyd's longtime friends and colleagues in the Department of History, remembers Dr. Lloyd as "a great friend, a wonderful scholar, and an excellent traveling companion, especially in Morocco and Brittany. I constantly learned from him, about history, political philosophy, the Mid-West and France. He even tried, usually in vain, to teach me French pronunciation."

Dr. Lloyd is survived by his companion Catherine (Kit) Walden and her family; his son and daughter-in-law, John (Jack) Lloyd and Sian Wu; his sister and brother-in-law, Jennifer and John Maxson; and his grandchildren, Max Craig Lloyd-Wu and Wren James Lloyd-Wu. In addition to his parents, Dr. Lloyd was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Caryl Ann Lloyd.





## Retirement

### Dr. Jim Owen Retires from the Department of English

By the time Dr. Jim Owen was hired at Columbus College in 1995, he had earned a B.A. and M.A. in English from North Carolina State University and a Ph.D. in English from the University of Virginia. He had taught English at North Carolina State, Peace College, the University of Virginia, and had most recently earned an Assistant Professorship in English at James Madison University.

"When I started teaching at Columbus College," Owen says, "we were a small commuter school. When I came for my job interview in February 1995, Dean Vander Gheynst had the blueprints for the RiverCenter on his office desk."

It didn't take long for Owen to find his footing and become a student favorite, teaching classes on Victorian and Romantic literature, the 18th century novel, and introducing students to Jane Austen and Thomas Hardy, among others.

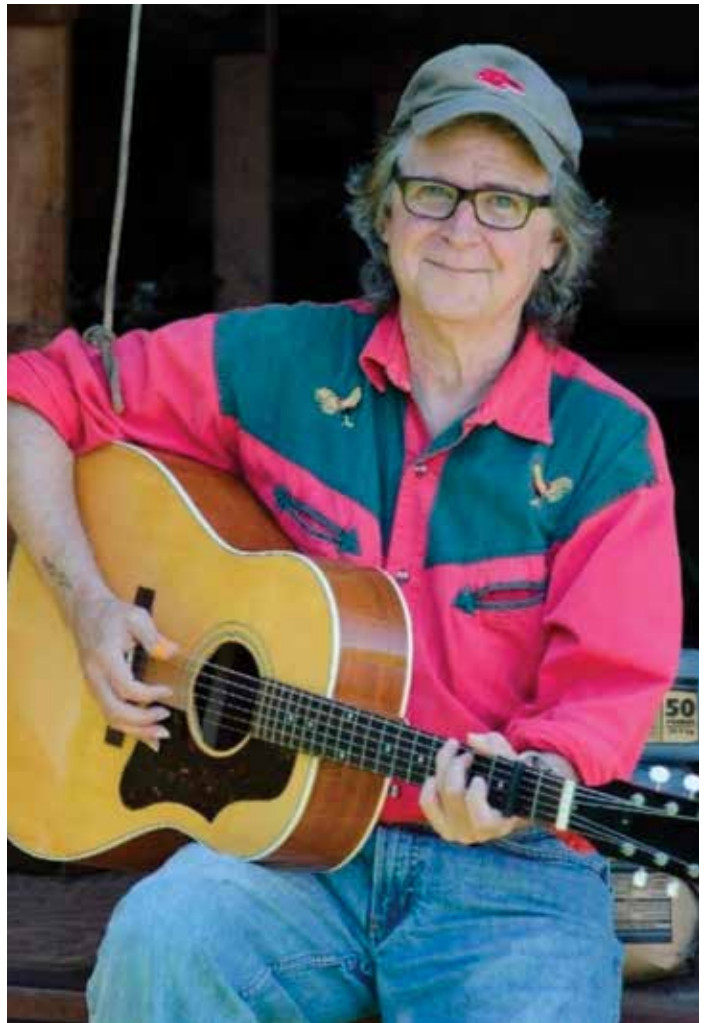
Students responded to his teaching with superlatives. He was the CSU Nominee for the USG Regents' Teaching Excellence Award for Online Teaching in 2013, and in 2018 was voted Educator of the Year. "The Educator of the Year Award came from my students. I view that as a lifetime achievement award," Owen says.

Faculty across campus admire and respect Dr. Owen as well. His leadership and work ethic are the stuff of legend. He has chaired or been a member of practically every committee he was eligible to sit on, so it was no surprise when he received the Faculty Service Award in 2006.

It's these relationships he says he will most miss, citing "the atmosphere of camaraderie and collegiality with my co-workers and with my students. I'm a career academic, so I have worked in places where relationships were less than cordial."

A teaching career of nearly thirty years at the same university is an impressive achievement. "The secret to a long, productive career is to not get fired," Owen reveals with the deadpan delivery he is known for by students and colleagues alike. "I have learned to run out of the building if someone says, 'The Provost is looking for you.'"

After this semester, no one from CSU will be looking for Dr. Jim Owen, at least not to ask him to chair committees. He and his wife Yvonne are looking forward to spending



Dr. Jim Owen at a music festival  
(photo by Michael Rominger)

"more time catching up with old friends, traveling, and relaxing. I hope to renew my work with the Wilkes County Acoustic Folk Society, and I hope to maintain my membership with the College English Association. Right now, I'm just hoping that I can return to working the Sunday Crossword Puzzle in the *Washington Post*."

## Scott Nadelson Feted at CSU



In January at the Bo Bartlett Center, writer Scott Nadelson gave a reading from one of his books for CSU students and community members. Several students also had dinner with him after the reading. Pictured left to right are Sarah Woessner, Lennox Dodd, Samira Hibbler, and Scott Nadelson.

According to his website, Scott Nadelson grew up in northern New Jersey before “escaping to Oregon, where he has lived for the past twenty-seven years. He has published a novel, a memoir, and six collections of short stories, most recently *While It Lasts*, winner of the 2022 Donald L. Jordan Prize for Literary Excellence. His new novel, *Trust Me*, is forthcoming from Forest Avenue Press in September 2024.

“Winner of the Reform Judaism Fiction Prize, the Great Lakes Colleges Association New Writers Award, and an Oregon Book Award, Scott’s work has appeared in a variety of magazines and literary journals, including *Ploughshares*, *STORY*, *The Southern Review*, *New England Review*, *Harvard Review*, *Glimmer Train*, and *The Best American Short Stories*. He teaches at Willamette University, where he is Hallie Brown Ford Chair in Writing, and in the Rainier Writing Workshop MFA Program at Pacific Lutheran University.”