



[www.csuohio.edu/parents](http://www.csuohio.edu/parents)

## IMPORTANT DATES

### Last week of July

CSU Bookstore website goes live for Fall  
[www.csuohio bookstore.com](http://www.csuohio bookstore.com)

Parking hangtags available for purchase

### Mid-July

Tuition bills posted on CampusNet

### Third Week of July

Tuition bills mailed to students

### First Week of August

Sign up for Budget Payment Plan (optional)

### August 7

U-PASS stickers available at Cashier's Office

### August 22 & 23

Class Schedule Tours  
*All new students invited to find class locations w/ the help of Orientation Leaders*

### August 22

First Saturday Fall semester class

### August 22

Residence hall move-in for first-year students

### August 23

Residence hall move-in for upper class students

### August 24

New Student Convocation  
*All new Freshmen students and parents invited*

First weekday Fall semester class

### First Three Weeks of the Semester

Weeks of Welcome

### August 28

Last day to add a class (by 8 p.m.)

### September 4

Last day to drop a class (by 8 p.m.)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Viking Expeditions</i>	2
<i>Meet a CSU Family</i>	3
<i>Faculty Spotlight</i>	4
<i>Financial Aid</i>	5

## Welcome to the Summer Edition of the Parent Connection E-Newsletter

As in the past, the Parent Connection is our way to stay in touch and keep you up to date with what's happening at CSU. This summer has already been full of changes! If you haven't already heard, CSU is saying goodbye to President Schwartz, who is retiring as president and will return in one year to teach in the College of Education and Human Services. President Schwartz brought CSU to a whole new level and inspired

a sincere and deep commitment to students.

Starting July 1, we are excited to welcome President-Designate Ronald Berkman, who is recognized nationally and internationally as a leader in higher education. Under his leadership, we are confident that CSU will continue to be recognized as a top institution, both regionally and nationally.

The next edition of the Parent Connection will hit your inboxes during August prior to the start of Fall classes. If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to contact us.

Have a great summer!

**Abbey Shiban**  
*Manager, Orientation and Family Services*

## Meet the New President, Dr. Ronald Berkman

The Board of Trustees of Cleveland State University voted recently to appoint Ronald M. Berkman as the sixth president of the University, succeeding Michael Schwartz, who will retire from CSU's top post on June 30.

In making the announcement, Ronald Weinberg, Chairman of the CSU Board of Trustees and Chairman of the

Presidential Search Committee, said, "I am delighted that after a diligent and thoughtful national search, we have come up with the best choice for our institution's next president. The fact that we have been able to attract a very special individual of Ron Berkman's caliber is testimony to the achievements of Michael Schwartz

as President for the last eight years. It speaks well for Cleveland State University, the Greater Cleveland region and the opportunities we can pursue. I am confident we have been able to attract the finest person to be our next president, and I look forward to working with him, as I am sure we all do."

## Farewell Festivities for President Schwartz

If only for a day, Krenzler Field became a tropical paradise. Students, faculty, staff and friends recently joined President Schwartz and his

wife, Joanne, for a farewell picnic as he prepares to retire on June 30. "A Special Tribute to Michael Schwartz" is planned for Tuesday, June 23

from 6-8 p.m. at the Allen Theater at PlayhouseSquare. Call 216.875.9855 for more information.

## CSU Art Gallery Presents Summer Exhibition: "On the Other Side" through June 27

The Cleveland State University Art Gallery will present the exhibition On the Other Side, opening Friday, May 29 and running through Saturday, June 27.

On the Other Side features paintings and sculptures by four artists whose art reflects their experiences of alternately working in two distinct cultures — living, working and exhibiting on

the other side of their worlds. The exhibition includes Tracy Heneberger, Yong Han, Kam Shun Lee and Andrzej Siwkiewicz. The Cleveland State University Art Gallery brings together these artists of different origins but common traits, demonstrating that Cleveland is a venue for artistic exploration that spans cultures and builds bridges between them.

The Art Gallery is located at 2307 Chester Avenue. Summer hours are Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. For more information, please visit [www.csuohio.edu/artgallery](http://www.csuohio.edu/artgallery) or call 216.687.2103.

## Doing Good One Trip at a Time

As a college student, spring break should be a time of fun and relaxation. However, most students stress to scrape together thousands for a hotel room, a plane ticket to the beach, and friends that won't back out on a deposit. Cleveland State, however, has a solution to all students' spring break woes.

roof two houses of elderly residents affected by Hurricane Katrina. During January 2009, 20 students drove to Almost Heaven, West Virginia to assist in structural work on trailers of two disabled families.

More recently, students volunteered at the Greater New Orleans Habitat for Humanity. Since Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast region in 2005, thousands of students have spent their spring break helping this largest Habitat affiliate. On March 15, 40 CSU students left on a bus for the 20-hour drive to New Orleans. After spending an afternoon in the French Quarter, students began to foster an appreciation for the importance of rebuilding New Orleans and sustaining its

unique and artistic culture. Students then devoted five days to working on a new house. They shingled the roof, completed the outside walls before siding, painted trim, caulked, and put

in doors and windows. Students also spent time in group reflection led by faculty, in order to fully appreciate the issues of homelessness and sustainable housing that they were addressing through their service work.

I may be a little biased, but Viking Expeditions is one of the best experiences available to students at Cleveland State. You can travel across the country, address social issues, and work with your hands. So often I'm frustrated by tests and paper, professors and work, friendships and the Cleveland weather. Viking Expeditions allows students a chance to work with their hands, whether shingling for the fourth time like a pro or learning to use a hand saw for the first time. Students also gain insight into the efforts of nonprofit organizations, especially Habitat's mission that engages homeowners in the service experience.

Viking Expeditions typically recruits students at the beginning of the semester, but spots fill up fast! We work hard to do good, one trip at a time.

**For more information about Viking Expeditions, contact the Department of Student Life at 216.687.2048 or email [Viking.expeditions@gmail.com](mailto:Viking.expeditions@gmail.com).**

**Heidi Vielhaber**  
*President, Viking Expeditions*

Viking Expeditions is a student-led, service-learning program begun in 2007 to offer students alternative spring break opportunities. Partnering with Habitat for Humanity, students spend five days of their trip working on local Habitat houses. Whether rehabbing existing homes or working on new sites, Habitat provides on-site contractors to teach and guide students through the various tasks on site. Students also immerse themselves in the culture of the area by staying in a volunteer center in the community, eating at area restaurants, and visiting local attractions.

Students have already participated in two trips. Thirty students went to Slidell, Louisiana over spring break in 2008, partnering with the Louisiana United Methodist Disaster Recovery Ministry to re-



## Meet the Gearo and Dombard Family



When I asked my son Justin to describe what he felt about Cleveland State University after the first week of school as a freshman, he said, "It feels like home, mom." I could not agree more. We looked at several schools in Ohio during Justin's junior and senior year in high school. They were all nice. Once we stepped onto the Cleveland State campus, it just fit. We have lived in the suburbs of Cleveland all of our lives and always had the idea that you had to go away to school. Little did we know that our best option was right in our own

backyard. How cool is that!!

The Cleveland State experience is seamless. From applying to CSU to new student orientation to registering for classes, the staff and students gave us comfort and welcomed us... just like home. The campus is located in the heart of downtown Cleveland, close to everything. Justin loves that you can go to class, catch an Indians game and see the lakefront all in a single afternoon.

As a parent with four teenagers, CSU is affordable, friendly and encourages family involvement. As a family, we have gone to Vikings basketball games, a tailgate party and I have had the opportunity to stay engaged with CSU and Justin as a parent ambassador. We could not have asked for a better fit for Justin and ourselves as parents. Cleveland State University is home to us.

**Go Vikings!!**

**Stacy Gearo**  
*Cleveland State mom*

## CSU Team Takes Fourth Place in American Advertising Federation Regional Competition

Competing against 11 colleges, a team of students from Cleveland State's School of Communication placed fourth in the regional round of the 2009 Student Advertising Competition, organized by the American Advertising Federation.

The CSU team participated for the third year, competing in District 5 against colleges in Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky. Each district winner goes on to the national competition in June.

"In the three years that we have competed, Cleveland State has placed twice, which is very unusual for a school with such a short history of participating in this challenging competition," said Rob Spademan, Assistant Vice President of University Marketing and Admissions, who served as team advisor.

The teams' challenge was to create a \$10 million, research-based marketing and advertising campaign to reduce binge drinking among college-age students. Cleveland State's plan, "Beyond the Bottle," went beyond traditional social marketing plans, utilizing such tactics as a Beyond the Bottle street team, mock bars set up at top spring break locations, a website in which students can upload videos or pictures of themselves having a good time without drinking, and a mix of new media such as Facebook, Pandora.com and mtvU.com.

Cleveland State team members are Jesse Morgan, Stef Potgieter, Abigail Ransom, Cody Peck, Katrina Catacutan, Silvana Medukic, Colleen Reynolds, and Jevon Cooper. All are students in the School's Journalism and Promotional Communication program.

"This experience prepared us for challenging careers in the advertising and PR field, or any other challenge we might face," said Jesse Morgan, president of the Cleveland State Advertising Association. "Coming out of school with a plans book as well done as ours will set us apart from most other college graduates in our field."

After the presentation and Q&A period, the judges complimented the CSU team on their strong creative platform, "Beyond the Bottle," which they felt addressed the issue of binge drinking in a positive way. In addition, the judges commented on the excellent presentation skills of the group, which enhanced the information in the plans book and brought the theme to life.



## Faculty Spotlight

### Meet Dr. Conor McLennan, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology

*“Encourage the CSU student in your family to get involved, and show interest in their activities. Let them know you're proud of all their efforts, time, and hard work.”*

#### 1 Tell us a little about yourself.

I'm a cognitive psychologist and my research program is primarily focused on a specific area within language, namely trying to understand how listeners are able to recognize the same words when spoken by different talkers. That is, how is it that you can recognize the word "computer" (or any word for that matter), regardless of whether it was spoken by me, your father, or someone you never met before?

I mainly teach PSY 311: Behavioral Science Statistics and PSY 372: Memory and Cognition. I also supervise undergraduate and graduate students in my lab as Research Assistants.

I earned my B.A. in 1999 with a double major in Spanish and Psychology from the University at Buffalo, The State University of New York (UB), and my Ph.D. in 2003 in Cognitive Psychology, also from UB. I spent three more years at UB on a postdoctoral position to gain additional research experience. I started my current position at CSU in August 2006.

#### 2 What classes will you teach in the Fall?

I am teaching two: a Special Topics course, The Psychology of Language (at LCCC as part of CSU's partnership) and a small, hands-on lab course, Laboratory Research in the Psychology of Language. I hope to develop both into regular courses in the next year or so.

#### 3 What do you like about Cleveland State?

I like that there's a lot to like. I enjoy the balance between research and teaching. I also enjoy working with and engaging students in and outside the classroom, such as in a hands-on laboratory environment. I also appreciate

that many students at CSU are first generation college students and/or a bit older than traditional college-aged students. As a result, they may be more dedicated to working hard and doing their best to learn all they can to succeed in accomplishing their goals.

#### 4 What advice do you have for students?

I think undergraduate students should seek out opportunities to work closely with graduate students and faculty, such as volunteering to work as a Research Assistant. I know many students are thinking about their college degree as a means to help reach other goals (getting a job, getting into graduate or professional school, etc.), but also try to enjoy learning for the sake of learning. You might be surprised what courses and topics you think about and appreciate that you had the chance to learn while at CSU — two years from now, or even 10 or 20 years from now.

#### 5 What advice do you have for parents and/or family members?

Encourage the CSU student in your family to get involved (see above), and show interest in their activities. Ask questions. Let them know you're interested in hearing about what they're up to. Also, let them know you're proud of all their efforts, time, and hard work. A little praise can go a long way.

#### 6 What are some common careers for Psychology majors?

One route is to go on to graduate school and eventually earn a Ph.D. There are many options with a Ph.D., including academic (professor) and non-academic (working for the government or various companies as a researcher). However, there are also options with an M.A. or B.A. degree, including working in one

of Cleveland's many health care facilities and hospitals. Psychology has a number of different areas, including Cognitive, Experimental, School, and Clinical, so career possibilities will vary depending on the area of interest and educational background and training.

#### 7 Anything else you would like to share?

If you're interested in learning more about my research or teaching, please e-mail me at [c.mclennan@csuohio.edu](mailto:c.mclennan@csuohio.edu) or visit <http://web.mac.com/languageresearch>.



## Financial Aid

This is our second year writing this column and I am pleased that we have the opportunity to address parents of both new and continuing students. A common thread exists in these economic times and that is affordability. Cleveland State University has held down a tuition increase for the past three years. This fact, and the federal government's response of increasing the Federal Pell Grant for 2009-2010 and adding additional loan borrowing eligibility to the undergraduate population, has made college more accessible.

The Ohio General Assembly is debating the budget bill that will appropriate funds for the next two years. There could be some major changes to state grant programs that affect new and continuing students. We anticipate the budget will be signed into law by July 1. In July, we will have more details on state grant programs. As parents, I encourage you to be sure that your students have completed the financial aid process and have their financial aid in place to begin their studies in August. Here are a few steps for your student to follow:

**1 Calculate how much it will cost for the fall and spring semesters.** Full-time tuition (12 to 16 credits per semester) tuition and the required Upass (RTA bus pass) will cost \$7,970. Students who are non-residents of Ohio will pay \$10,714 a year. Depending on the academic major, books are estimated to cost \$800. Students living on campus will have an average room and board cost of \$9,000, depending on the plans they choose. Students who commute should budget for food, transportation and parking expenses.

**2 Review the financial aid award letter.** All grants and loans are awarded with the assumption that the student will attend full-time. Grants are adjusted according to the enrolled credits after the start of each semester. Be sure that you review the types of financial aid that have been offered to you so that you can make an educated decision on how much you and/or your student may need to pay out of pocket or borrow to pay for tuition and other expenses. If students have been awarded scholarships from outside the University, they should note the amount and the source on the back of their award letter, as federal regulations require our office to consider these scholarships as part of their financial aid package.

**3 Students should sign and return the financial aid award letter as soon as possible, but no later than July 15, 2009** to allow timely processing for the fall semester. If they wish to borrow under the Federal Stafford Loan programs, new students must indicate a lender on their award letter. Returning students who wish to borrow again for the 2009-2010 year should continue with the same lender.

Freshmen may borrow up to \$5500 of combined Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford Loans for the 2009-2010 academic year. Sophomores (30 or more earned credits) may borrow up to \$6500 in Stafford Loan funds.

New students or first-time CSU borrowers must complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN) and complete the loan

counseling session. Both are available online at [www.csuohio.edu/enrollmentservices/financialaid](http://www.csuohio.edu/enrollmentservices/financialaid).

Parents who wish to borrow a PLUS (Parent Loan for Undergraduate dependent Students) should download the PLUS form from the CSU website. Once you submit the form, we will perform the pre-approval process, which includes a credit check. The PLUS form includes a designation of where the PLUS funds are to be directed and a student request to provide up to an additional \$4000 Federal Unsubsidized student loan should the parent be ineligible to borrow.

An eligible parent may sign the master promissory note online at [www.csuohio.edu/enrollmentservices/financialaid/loans](http://www.csuohio.edu/enrollmentservices/financialaid/loans) (select "FastLoans").

CSU bills will be due August 17, 2009. Financial aid amounts will not be displayed on University bills that will be issued beginning in July. Students who have completed all the necessary steps will have their financial aid grants/scholarships and student loans displayed as payments on their University bills beginning ten days before the start of the fall semester.

Congratulations to all the students for their acceptance to CSU and a round of applause to those who have successfully completed their freshmen year. Best wishes to their parents, whose support has played an important role in their student's educational journey.

**Anne Coburn**  
**Associate Director**  
**Financial Aid Office**

*The Ohio General Assembly is debating the budget bill that will appropriate funds for the next two years. There could be some major changes to state grant programs that affect new and continuing students.*