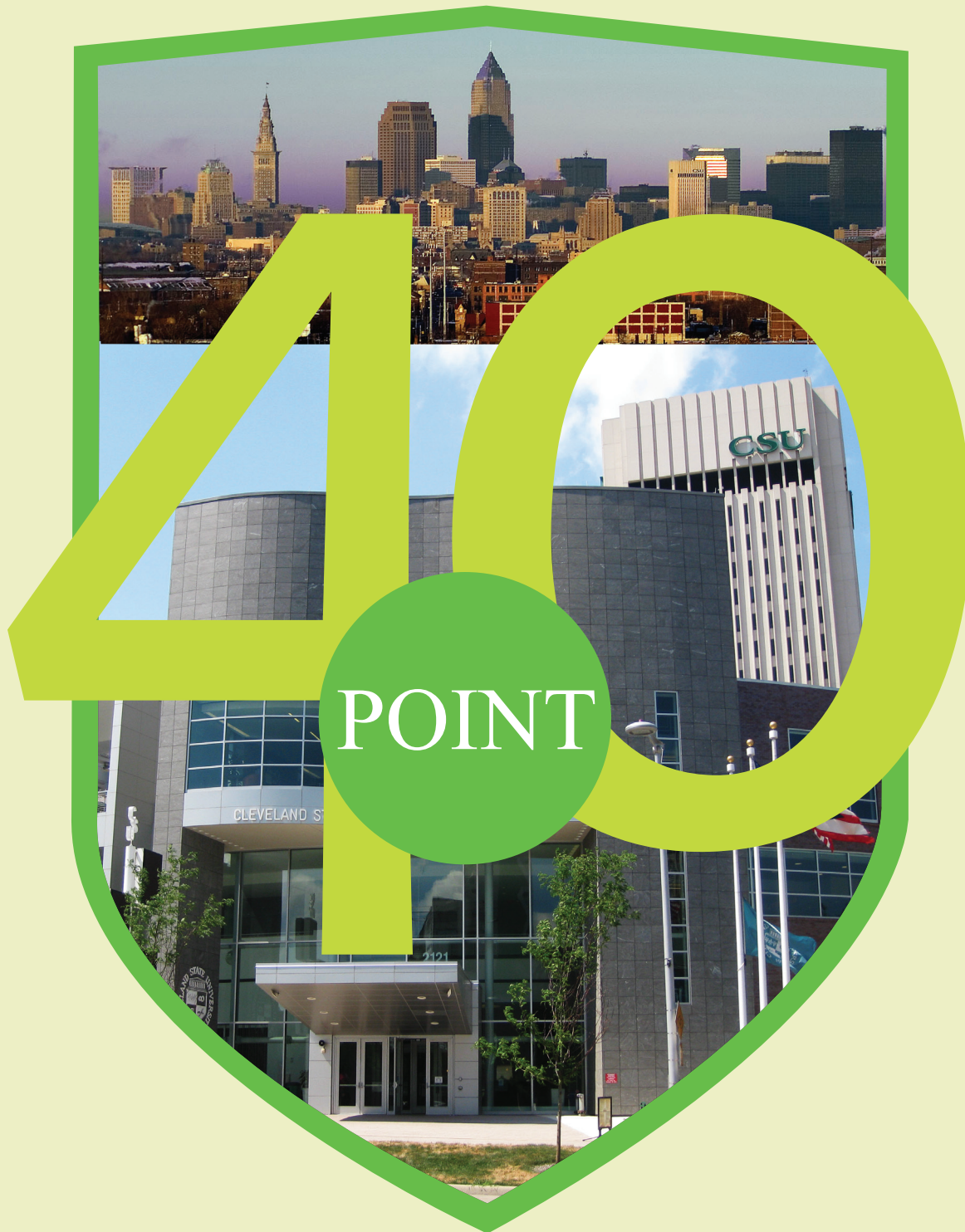


# HONORS NEWSLETTER

Cleveland State University

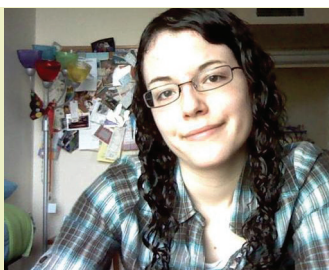


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## WHY CSU?



“There are a multitude of reasons. The Honors Program first drew me in, not only because of their financial assistance, but because of their unique opportunities for research and jobs in the sciences. It is also a career goal of mine to work at the Cleveland Clinic one day, and when I learned of not only CSU’s connections with the Clinic but also the Honors Program’s, it





# BUILDING TRADITIONS

BY MEREDITH HORRIGAN

It is well known that Cleveland State University is a young school. Established in 1964, CSU has comparatively fewer traditions than other Ohio universities. However, in the past couple years, CSU has worked very hard to change its image and foster school pride in its students. The event around which all students, faculty, staff and alumni of a university can rally is Homecoming. We've all experienced the excitement of our respective high school's traditions. The sense of community and pride is never as strong as during that fall weekend. Homecoming, the largest event planned for CSU students, should help to "create an engaging atmosphere on campus that will hopefully build university-wide pride and community," says Student Government Association (SGA) Vice President, Chris Caspary. There are many entities working to make Homecoming bigger than ever: the Department of Student Life, the President's Office, University Marketing, Alumni Affairs, the Office for Advancement, Athletics, and the student-run Campus Activities Board, among others. According to Caspary, these departments "have come together to put together what appears to be the most comprehensive and expensive event-oriented weekend in the history of Cleveland State University." SGA has worked with the President's Office and appealed to increase funding for student organizations. Last year, SGA lobbied for \$400,000 of General Fees to be allocated to these groups. Of that,

\$100,000 was reserved for Homecoming. This is in addition to other funding sources at CSU. The investment by the university in this weekend is substantial, but the administration believes that such events will help CSU reach its fundamental goal of increasing retention and even encouraging students to stay on campus. Caspary cites a report submitted to President Berkman by SGA in 2011, which details research studies that support the importance of belongingness. "Basically," says Caspary, "involvement and community on campus will dramatically increase the likelihood that people will stay at the university, go to class, and eventually graduate." To draw alumni "Back to Campus, Back to Town" and to better connect with current students, the schedule of events is ample to fit most schedules and interests. CSU is continuing certain traditions from previous years, such as Plazapalooza, the Bar Uno Pizza Contest, Viking Madness Kickoff for basketball, and a Homecoming dance.

The calendar has expanded to include the MidTown Cleveland Healthline Classic 10k/5k, the Huber-Westfall Garden Continental Breakfast and Speaker, the Homecoming Parade and Tailgate Party, and the Homecoming Concert Event. For those of us who have experienced past Homecoming weekends, this year is, by far, more exciting than before.

was an obvious career advantage to go here rather than say, Case, which was a tad bit expensive. Then I learned about the Fenn College of Engineering, and their fantastic opportunities and I fell in love. CSU is also far enough away that I could reasonably stay on campus, but not close enough to home to make it feel like high school. That and no one from my high school goes here. It's nice to get away and meet a whole new class of people." - Teisha Mullins

# DIG IN!

BY SALIHA QADIR & FELICIA CHAPLIN



## NOODLECAT

234 Euclid Ave. (216) 589-0007

Noodlecat's specialty is ramen, from Takahachi Ramen, with pork, sesame seeds, garlic, scallions, and eggs, to College Ramen, with chicken and vegetables. As a side dish, you can get steam buns, Japanese white bread stuffed with your choice of meats and vegetables, or a salad.

## THE CHOCOLATE BAR

347 Euclid Ave. (216) 622-2626

This restaurant is heaven for any chocolate lover. For dinner, they offer a variety of dishes, some that include chocolate, such as the chocolate bar pasta. The best thing about the Chocolate Bar is their decadent desserts, many made with chocolate, of course.



## HARRY BUFFALO

2120 East 4th St.

If you're looking for a place to watch the game, Harry Buffalo is the place to go. Located near Progressive Field and Quicken Loans Arena, it's also the place to go after you attend a game or concert. Try their award-winning baby-back BBQ ribs.

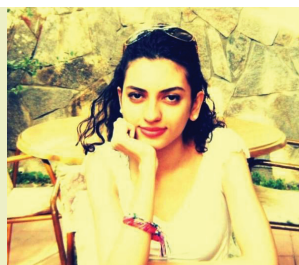
## HOUSE OF BLUES

308 Euclid Ave. (216) 523-2583

The House of Blues has a Southern-inspired menu created by Aaron Sanchez. You can enjoy typical American cuisine, such as a build-your-own burger or a flatbread, or you can transport to New Orleans and have a shrimp Po-Boy or their popular shrimp and grits. Don't forget a side of jalapeño corn bread with butter. In addition to dining, you can shop in their gift shop or see a concert at the Cambridge Room.



## WHY CSU?



"Because it gives me the opportunity to become who I want and pursue my passion, dentistry." - Ghazal Sadeghi





## COLOSSAL CUPCAKES

530 Euclid Ave. (216) 938-9609

If you want a unique dessert experience then their cupcake milkshakes are an amazing treat to have! What makes this milkshake different is that your choice of cupcake is whirled with some whole milk and vanilla ice cream, topped with whipped cream and a mini cupcake on the straw. You can also enjoy some delicious cupcakes such as their popular chocolate salted caramel cupcake.

## GINZA SUSHI HOUSE

1105 Carnegie Ave. (216) 298-8503

Want to eat tasty Asian food? Then this is the place for you! Ginza Sushi House offers a variety of sushi dishes to choose from, all served with seasoned rice. You can also enjoy flavorful appetizers such as Gyoza: dumplings stuffed with beef and vegetables, served with a tangy sauce. All the dishes that they offer are reasonably priced.



## ISTANBUL GRILL

2505 Professor Ave. (216) 298-4450

This restaurant is one of the best Mediterranean restaurants in Cleveland, offering customers pleasant ambience in which to enjoy delicious Turkish cuisine. You can eat hot, flaky rolls filled with feta cheese and fresh parsley or choose from a range of well-seasoned kebab platters. Whatever dish you decide to eat, you will surely enjoy the unique flavors of the dishes that Istanbul Grill has to offer.

## LE PETIT TRIANGLE CAFE

1881 Fulton Rd. (216) 281-1881

Le Petit Triangle Café is the place to meet up with your friends to relax and delight in good food. From soft, flaky croissants to an assortment of crepes, and warm chocolate soufflé, their menu offers scrumptious food based on French-European culture.



“I chose CSU because I fell in love with the urban environment of the campus, and the Honors Program offered a tight and supportive community. Also, as a non-profit administration major, I was overwhelmed with opportunities in the area to work with different organizations and be a part of the Levin College.” - Olivia Smosarski

# HONORS 200/201

BY HILLARY MORGAN AND FELICIA CHAPLIN



**“You get to go somewhere you’ve probably never been, have fun, do good for a community, AND fulfill an Honors requirement without taking time out during the school year. Perfection for a hectic schedule.”**

If you’re interested in taking an intellectually challenging course, perhaps the Honors Book Club, Film Club, Reacting to the Past, or Model UN would be the right fit for you.

In Book Club, Honors students will read, and take part in the discussion of, multiple books over the course of the semester. The books will be chosen by the students during the first week of class. April Miller enjoyed taking Book Club. She says, “I love to read, but during the school year I have the tendency to let reading for fun fall by the wayside because there are so many other things I have to do. The discussion group forces me to sit down and relax a little bit. It’s so nice to read something that isn’t a text book or academic article. Plus, the group makes me read things that I would ordinarily not read because I didn’t think I would like them.”

Film Club presents students with the opportunity to see movies they may not have otherwise been exposed to because there is an emphasis placed on American classics and foreign

films. The class will meet every two weeks to view a film. The films shown in class will be selected by the students. Participation is mandatory in this class. Josh Crawford says Film Club has been his favorite Honors Experience course. He says, “The opportunity it gave me to see films that I never would have otherwise and actually think about them in a logical and analytical way was something I enjoyed very much. I’m planning to take it for both of my remaining spring semesters.”

In Reacting to the Past, students will prepare a role and roleplay a character from a certain era of time. Students will be able to explore a different time period and explore it personally. In spring, students will get to experience India in 1945, where many groups struggle for independence from Britain.

In Model UN, students will volunteer at high school Model UN events throughout the semester. The course entails a one-time, mandatory training session, followed by participation at Model UN events. If you consider

yourself more of a creative person, you might enjoy taking Newsletter or Drawing.

Each semester, the Honors Program distributes a newsletter, 4.0, to Honors students, staff, faculty, and perspective students. 4.0, which has been nationally recognized on more than one occasion, is created entirely by the students in the Newsletter class. They decide everything from content to layout, meaning each semester produces a unique newsletter. Students in this class are expected to write articles, take part in the editing process, and contribute ideas to other aspects like layout and design throughout the semester, finishing off with a complete newsletter that is ready to be distributed. Andy Pallotta really enjoyed working on the Honors Program Newsletter (as well as taking part in Film Club and Book Club). He says, “The Newsletter is great because you get to make something you can be proud of. For me, it was my article on Lewis Carroll last year.”

In Drawing, Honors students looking

## WHY CSU?



“I chose Cleveland State University because I am in the PSEO (Post-Secondary Education Option) program, which has allowed me to attend CSU on a scholarship while still in high school. Also, I was interested in applying to Cleveland State’s NEOMED or Pre-Podiatry program.” - Jessica Suba



THE CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM IS MADE UP OF A DIVERSE GROUP OF STUDENTS. They come from many different backgrounds and have many different interests. **ONE THING THAT UNITES US IS OUR EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS.** This common thread has brought us together, and Hon 200/201 classes are a great (and mandatory) way to build and strengthen the bond between us.

to learn the basics of drawing will be introduced to the processes and means of the subject. The class focuses on representational drawing, but may also look into other approaches. Multiple forms of artistic media will be used, including graphite and ink. This class is intended for students with little to no experience.

Many Honors students love to volunteer, but don't have the time. However, honors students have various opportunities to volunteer for credit. The first is Viking Expeditions trips. Viking Expeditions is an organization that plans local service events and holds student-led service trips on break. There are two winter trip options: Habitat for Humanity in Chatham, NC and Camp Restore in New Orleans, LA. Spring break trips will be announced during spring semester. Students are required to attend a pre-trip orientation and two Honors-only discussion meetings. Travel costs are not covered by the Honors Program but are usually under \$250. Honors student Teisha Mullins worked with Habitat for Humanity in NC last winter break. "You get to go somewhere you've probably never

been, have fun, do good for a community, AND fulfill an Honors requirement without taking time out during the school year," she said. "Perfection for a hectic schedule."

Another option is Service Learning. Students enrolled in this class must complete 15 hours of community service in spring semester. Those enrolled in the course can complete their hours at one institution or can volunteer at many places. The last option is International School Volunteer. Taking this HON 200 class offers students an opportunity to volunteer at CSU's new International School, which serves children from kindergarten through the 12th grade. Honors students in this class will take part in volunteer activities in the afternoon, as a part of the International School's afterschool activities. The activities participated in will be determined based on the interests and skill sets of the Honors students taking the class.

Honors students are active students but sometimes they don't always have time to participate in athletic activi-

ties. For those honor students who want to get a workout, or just want an outlet to release stress, Yoga and Sports Appreciation are good for them. Yoga class teaches the basic fundamentals of the popular practice that derived from India. Yoga involves breathing, stretching, and relaxation techniques in order to de-stress and increase health. This class is for beginners and experts, so no experience is necessary. Sports Appreciation is for an active student, or a student who wants to become more active. Students will play sports that aren't traditionally played or appreciated, such as table tennis, pickleball, and badminton.

Since all Honors students are required to enroll in an Honors 200/201 course each semester, they might as well choose one that fits their interests. There is truly a little something for everyone, whether you're athletic, creative, a do-gooder, or academically-focused. Few things are better than taking a required course that is actually enjoyable, and educational.

**"The Newsletter is great because you get to make something you can be proud of. For me it was my article on Lewis Carroll last year."**

"I choose to teach at CSU because the diversity in the student body is inspiring. I enjoy being in a classroom with people who are different ages, who are from different countries and different cultural backgrounds, and who aspire to different careers. I learn a lot from my students and I think that they learn a lot from one another." - Emilie Zickel



## CLEVELAND SCENE



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO TONIGHT? The city is our campus and there is *always* something to do in Downtown Cleveland.

BY FELICIA CHAPLIN & SALIHA QADIR

With ten theaters located around E 14th Street, **Playhouse Square** is the second-largest theater complex in the United States. The KeyBank Broadway series brings Broadway plays to Cleveland. Upcoming plays include the classic, *Guys and Dolls*, and the smash hit, *The Book of Mormon*. To learn more about upcoming events, call (216) 771-4444. For tickets, call (216) 241-6000.

No matter what, you can find something to do downtown thanks to **Tower City Center**. Located at 230 W. Huron Road, it is a major hub of downtown Cleveland. Whether you want to shop, see a movie, dine at Houli-

han's or the Hard Rock Café, or grab a quick bite to eat, you can find that all in the heart of downtown. To get more information, call (216) 623-4750.

Music lovers can experience a range of melodious events at **Severance Hall**, which is said to be one of the most beautiful concert halls in America. Located on 11001 Euclid Avenue, every week, people can go to Severance Hall to enjoy the amazing acoustics and the charming ambiance that the musical events have to offer. The Cleveland Orchestra, along with New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Boston, is considered one of the "Big Five" symphony orchestras in the United States due to

## WHY CSU?



"I was accepted to a ton of different colleges and universities. But when I visited them, none of them seemed right for me. Cleveland State was low on my list, but when I got accepted into the Honors Program, I figured I'd at least visit and see what CSU had to offer me. I still remember when I came to visit near the end of 2009, during my senior year. I was surprised [by] how cool the campus was, even



their excellence in the field of music. For information regarding their upcoming events, call (216) 231-1111.

If you're a fan of basketball, hockey, or music, the **Quicken Loans Arena** is the place for you. Located at 1 Center Court in downtown Cleveland, it hosts two professional sport teams. The Cleveland Cavaliers, who include 2012 NBA Rookie of the Year Kyrie Irving, and The Lake Erie Monsters, an American Hockey League affiliate of the Colorado Avalanche, play from October to April. In addition, it hosts several concerts. For more information, call (216) 420-2000.

If you're a fan of rock music then the **Rock and Roll Hall of Fame** is a must see. This museum, located at 751 Erieside Avenue, is devoted to collecting and displaying the history of the most influential artists in the genre of rock music. The museum exhibits various items like guitars and clothing items of popular artists like John Lennon, Kurt Cobain, and Johnny Cash. For more information, call (216) 781-7625.

**Little Italy** is an urban neighborhood on the East Side of Cleveland where you can eat, shop, and explore art galleries. If you're in the mood for some Italian food you will find plenty of restaurants to choose from, such as Algebra Tea House, Mia Bella, Valentino's Pizza, and

Presti's Café and Deli. There are also many specialty shops and wonderful art galleries to see. For a directory of all the shops and restaurants in Little Italy visit their website, [www.littleitalycleveland.com](http://www.littleitalycleveland.com).

Located in the heart of downtown at 100 Public Square, **Horseshoe Casino** is the perfect night spot if you're over the age of 21. With over 2,100 slots and 65 tables, there are a lot of opportunities to win money. Even if you don't gamble, the casino has a lavish buffet that includes American, Italian, and Asian foods, with salad and pastry stations. To contact the casino, call (216) 297-4777

**The West Side Market** is one of Cleveland's oldest markets and home to over 100 vendors. Located at the corner of West 25th and Lorain, the market was established in 1912. This year, the market is celebrating its 100th year. At the West Side Market you can buy fresh meat, vegetables, baked goods, and seafood. Not in the mood to cook? Then drop by the West Side Market and enjoy eating various food items like falafel sandwiches, pizzas, pierogis, tamales, enchiladas, and pastas. There are also booths selling various cheese products, candy, and nuts. For more information, call (216) 664-3387.



though it was a part of downtown Cleveland. I fell in love with the campus and didn't realize how many opportunities I had as a Viking. Dr. Meikins was the first faculty member I met, and when I told him my major, he named a ton of opportunities at CSU related to my major right off the top of his head, including research opportunities at the Cleveland Clinic, etc. After talking to him, it seemed like CSU could fit me pretty well. After a campus tour and meeting with Ronnette, I really viewed CSU as a place I could call home. From Fall 2010 until now, it has been, and I couldn't be happier with the experiences I've had so far." - Matt Rasanow

# INTERVIEWS WITH ALUMNI

BY MANUEL CONDE



## KRISTINA HEUER

born in Germany  
International Business major  
graduated in May 2012

### I CHOSE CSU BECAUSE....

The CSU Honors Program offered me a full scholarship.

### SOMETHING UNIQUE I HAD THE CHANCE TO DO IN THE HP WAS....

Model UN! Model UN was a very cool experience, I enjoyed it a lot. I would have never volunteered for it if I had not been part of the Honors program.

### HONORS STUDENTS SHOULD...

Always manage time very wisely. An Honors student should always have weekly and monthly to-do-lists. You have to look ahead and be proactive!

### THE LEGACY OF THE HP IS...

That being part of the Honors program builds up a resume, and that jumps out of the page for any employer.

### MY FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT THE HP ARE...

The very nice and cozy Honors Lounge. I liked the Apple computers and the clean microwave in there! Honors Yoga was one of my favorite classes that let me relax and get out of my routine. I love Dr. Meiksins! Dr. Meiksins is an awesome professor and was always there for me.

### CURRENTLY...

I work for Dealer Tire, located on 3711 Chester Avenue. Dealer Tire is an international tire distribution company. I work on the Canadian side of the business which is awesome since I was an international business major. My current position is called Program Operations Coordinator and starting January 1st, I will be a Program Operations Manager. It is actually a great job, and I love the people that I work with.

### I CHOSE CSU BECAUSE....

CSU has both degrees I wanted to do! My undergraduate and graduate one, and I wanted to stay in the same school for both of them.

### SOMETHING UNIQUE I HAD THE CHANCE TO DO IN THE HP WAS....

To go to Punderson, Ohio, on a weekend trip with a political science professor. I met awesome people and reenacted the writing of the Constitution.

### HONORS STUDENTS SHOULD...

Definitely plan ahead! They need to be more on top of their game than regular students! Be organized!

### THE LEGACY OF THE HP IS...

Connections and more connections! You get to know different kinds of people that can help you get your foot in the door in many places. For example, my advisor during my senior research project was also the Head of the Physical Therapy department I applied to for my Graduate Degree.

### MY FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT THE HP ARE...

The Honors Lounge! I learned how to play Wii there! Dr. Meiksins! He is always willing to help out with anything you need, like Graduate School Applications. I like how jobs, internships, and scholarship opportunities are always posted on our Facebook page. I like how Honors students and Alumni stayed connected to the Program. We are like a little family!

### CURRENTLY...

I am enrolled in the doctorate program in physical therapy at CSU. I am also the only student in the Board of Trustees of CSU, appointed by the Governor.



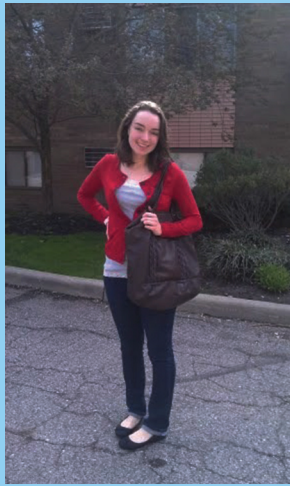
## AMBER ALT

class of December 2011  
majored in Health Science

## WHY CSU?

"I chose to attend CSU because the Honors Program offered me, not only a chance to get a quality education for free, but also many opportunities to further myself with internships, and the chance to meet new friends." - Hillary Morgan





JUSTINE KEENAN

Justine Keenan is a linguistics major, and she is focusing her senior project on the role of word collocations in individuals who are learning English. She is working with people from Cleveland's refugee community to research links between American and Nepali collocations and their respective cultures and what collocations are the hardest for these Nepali-speaking refugees to learn.

MELISSA RIEDTHALER

Melissa Riedthaler is a chemical engineering student and her senior project is called "Low-Temperature Catalytic Gasification of Polymeric Waste". The goal of Melissa's project is to find a more efficient and less hazardous way to turn common garbage into synthetic fuels to create a sustainable form of waste disposal.

MARK BIRO

Mark Biro is a biology major and is working on two research projects. Both of his projects involve determining the impact of zero gravity on the vascular supply surrounding bones. A practical application of this research would help to treat an astronaut who breaks a bone during a mission.

# SENIOR PROJECTS

BY OLIVIA SMOSARSKI

BRITTANY ELMLINGER

Brittany Elmlinger is a health sciences major and is measuring the efficacy of CSU learning trips in increasing cultural competency. Brittany is analyzing the trips of 6 CSU Doctor of Physical Therapy students to Belize. The purpose of this trip was to increase cultural competency in these students so that they can apply them to the cultural diversity in U.S. patients.

KAITLIN VANDERMARK

Kaitlin Vandemark is a physics and communication double major. Her senior project is on characterizing thermally reversible nanoparticles synthesized from elastin-like polypeptides using light scattering spectroscopy. She had the opportunity to go to Germany this past summer to continue her research at the Technical University of Munich. Her project is a collaboration with the Biomedical and Chemical Engineering Departments.



"I chose CSU because when I finished Grad school there were only two jobs in the country with the possibility of becoming a tenured professor. CSU was the better and bigger school where I thought I could be more productive!" - Dr. Jearl Walker

# A CHAT WITH THE PRESIDENT BY MANUEL CONDE

## WHY CSU?

I chose CSU for a couple of important reasons. One, I was always interested in being in an urban university. CSU is not only an urban university by category, but also because it is located in the heart of the city. Being in a university in the heart of the city was extremely important for me. The second reason was that I have always been interested in being in an institution whose general mission is to provide academics for large numbers of first generation students. The fact that CSU has a very large number of first generation students, which last year was 57% of the student body, was attracting to me. I resonated with the vision at this institution of being a mobility change for first generation students. These reasons added to the very good faculty and solid academic programs were the recipe to come to CSU.

## WE ARE KNOWN TO BE A COMMUTER SCHOOL, ARE WE TRYING TO CHANGE THAT?

As you can see with the housing going up on Chester Avenue, we are trying to increase the student population in and around the campus. We are trying to do it because it is one of the best ways to jump start student life on the campus. There are advantages to hav[ing] a bigger residential population on campus. Residential students generally do better academically. We are increasing the residential population but we will always be a commuter school. We have definitely expanded residential opportunities. We are talking

about 10% of the student population living on campus right now. If we can get to 20% living on or around campus, and we may be close to that if you count those students living in the downtown area, it would be a great goal to achieve.

## WHAT NEW CONSTRUCTION IS PLANNED FOR THE UPCOMING YEARS (5 YEARS)?

I do not know if we are going to construct anything immediately after finishing the housing on Chester Avenue and the Center for Innovation in Health Professions. Down the line in five years, I think that we will have a good, modern, and well-equipped university for students and we might look to build more student housing. We have a present issue with parking, so we will keep an eye on the parking situation. I have talked to the student government and they have said that we have implemented a new parking system that is working better than the previous system. With the new parking system we are trying to not oversell passes so everyone with a pass could find a parking spot.

## HOW IS THE STAFF INCREASING IN COMPARISON TO THE STUDENT BODY?

Yes, we try to increase the number of staff proportionally with student body increment. However, while we are taking more freshmen, overall the student body has not increased dramatically. That is because graduate students have lost many sources of financial aid. Although the freshman class is up 20%, the

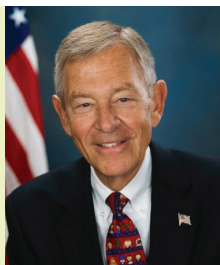
student body increased by 1%. Because freshmen require a different-kind of instructional experience, what we have done is hire over the last two years a lot of faculty who focus more on teaching rather than researching. The Provost and I think that it is extremely important for students, during the first couple years, that the faculties are really dedicated to the teaching mission.

## HOW ARE WE HANDLING THE FUNDING CUT FROM THE STATE?

It is a big challenge to handle! One of the things is that we have been raising more outside scholarship dollars. Last year at Radiance, our major scholarship event, we raised \$ 500,000. This year, the goal is to raise \$750,000 at Radiance, which is done at the end of the school year. Also, in the Business School, the Ahuja family provided around 8 million dollars for scholarships.

## WHAT ARE ACTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO IMPROVE SECURITY ON CAMPUS?

What we did last spring and continued to do this fall is to put more police officers on the streets. Having more police officers on the streets-gave us an opportunity to deal with individuals on campus that maybe did not need to be on campus or were not on campus for the best purposes. In addition to more police presence, they are also more assertive in making sure that the streets and parking lots are secured. That has helped a significant amount. We now have an 18-hour shuttle service to and from the Student Center to anywhere on campus and parking



## WHY CSU?

After receiving offers from both Case Western Reserve and a prestigious law firm, Senator George Voinovich decided to hang his hat at Cleveland State after his time in the Senate. The Senator's vision of setting up partnerships with Ohio University was much more realistic with Cleveland State, and

lots. Students can also call a police escort at any time. I think us acting quickly and effectively, plus adding more police officers on campus made a difference. The campus was already a safe place in general, and we have made it safer. Every once in a while in an urban environment you are going to have ebbs and flows. Fortunately, this semester things have been very, very good!

#### **WHAT ABOUT THE MEDICAL SCHOOL - NEOMED?**

It will actually be called the Center for Innovation in Health Professions which will have the Medical School, NEOMED, but will also have nursing, physical and occupational therapy, and everything related to the health sciences, including biomedical engineering. NEOMED will actually be a small portion of the building. Three quarters of the building are CSU programs. NEOMED is a really important program and the medical school is an important piece for the university.

#### **ARE WE TRYING TO INVOLVE THE CITY IN OUR GROWTH?**

Yes we are. Some of this is going to come through more co-op and internship opportunities. There is a large amount of students that are [doing], or have done, internships with Cleveland's companies. It is a major goal to increase the amount of students with internship experiences in Cleveland. We have been talking about doing something called Semester in the City which would be a course requiring [students] to do research and to investigate in the city, using resources of the city and trying to weave it into what they are doing academically.

#### **ANY PLANS FOR THE ENGINEERING SCHOOL?**

Yes we do. Last year, the governor made capital dollars available to the university, and they are building dollars and improvement dollars. These dollars are for the President to decide where they should be allocated. There were lots of request[s] for allocations of dollars, but I decided to ask that our entire allocation, about 13 million dollars, is directed to totally redo the engineering building. We have not started yet because there are many projects on the drawing board and we just got a new Dean. We want to give the new Dean some time to get to know the program and the needs of the program, so she can play an important role in the process of renovating the engineering building.

#### **WHAT WERE YOUR GOALS BEFORE COMING TO CSU? HAVE YOU ACCOMPLISHED ANY OF THEM?**

The main goal was to build the campus community and to build the neighborhood and we have made dramatic [strides] in that direction. That was the reason, in my first year, [that] we open[ed] the Campus International School. We opened it because we thought it would promote [the] neighborhood and would ultimately promote people to live in the campus district. So I think we have made really good [strides] in the development



**Dr. Ronald Berkman**  
President of Cleveland State University

of the campus and the campus neighborhood. I also wanted to sharpen the strategic focus of the university. The 13 million dollar investment in the engineering building and the 45 million dollar investment in the building of the Center for Innovation in Health Professions are examples of sharpening the strategic focus of the university. I think we have made real good progress in this area. It would have been good to have more discretionary dollars to increase the faculty in some areas, but in my first year we had a 13% budget decrease that changed our plans.

CSU offered him the freedom to enjoy his retirement and provide him with the resources he wanted. Senator Voinovich has had a long relationship with the Levin College of Urban affairs, which he helped facilitate funding to many years ago.



# A CHAT WITH THE DIRECTOR

BY HILLARY MORGAN

**EVERY HONORS STUDENT UNDOUBTEDLY KNOWS DR. MEIKSINS.** Dr. Meiksins



Dr. Peter Meiksins  
Director of Honors Program

has been teaching at Cleveland State since 1991, and has been the Director of the Honors Program since 2009. That being said, with all of the change and growth going on at CSU as a whole, it would be interesting to see how the Honors Program has changed in the past, and is still changing, over time. Dr. Meiksins just happens to be the perfect person to ask.

**Q: What kind of changes have you seen in the Honors Program over the span of your time as director? For example, has there been much growth?**

A: The Program hasn't really grown, because we're limited by the number of scholarship slots we have. I think we've gotten somewhat more applications, and more strong applications, so that's a difference. The

Scholars program has gotten larger—we've made more of an effort to recruit people into that, and now freshmen with a 26 ACT and 3.5 G.P.A. are automatically admitted to Scholars with a partial scholarship from the University.

Some differences I've noticed involve the kinds of majors people choose. We've always had a lot of engineers, but we're seeing more students in

health-related fields (nursing, pre-med, health sciences) and fewer in business, I think. Another big change has to do with our space—when I started, we had some really dingy offices down on the 2nd floor of Main Classroom. But, now we've moved to the 4th floor offices which are light and cheery. The Honors lounge has been a big plus, too, as it creates a place where students (espe-

## WHY CSU?

Dr. Richard Perloff has been a communications professor at CSU since 1979. He said he enjoys the communication department here because he shares the same values with his colleagues. In addition, even though he is a published author, he likes that the department is not focused solely on grants and publishing. He said CSU has had a top-ranked communication department and he

cially commuter students) can hang out and study with friends. I think that's created more community among the students. We've also tried to do more social events to get students together (pot-lucks, field trips, etc.) and the Honors floor in the dorm has expanded a bit too. So, I think the Honors and Scholars students know each other more than was true in the past. We did have a big change last year, when the scholarship for Honors students was modified (no more book scholarship for new students). So far, that hasn't made a huge difference, but I know some students were disappointed by that. Also, the Scholars freshmen now have a partial scholarship, so the gap between the two groups isn't as big as it once was.

**Q: How are all the changes going on at CSU as a whole affecting the Honors Program?**

A: I think some of the changes have helped create more of an Honors community, but I think we can still do more along those lines. I think the scholarship changes haven't really made a huge difference—as long as things stay as they are now, I think the program will still be attractive to students looking for an academic challenge and a good deal, economically.

**Q: Where do you see the Program going in the future?**

A: I'd really like to expand the range of things students can do to earn honors—so that it wouldn't just be about taking a bunch of honors courses. I think the programs where students do a senior project or research experience are really the most valuable ones, so I'd like to encourage more programs to create that opportunity for their students in Honors and Scholars. I'd also like to encourage more students to get involved in research experiences, summer programs, study abroad, internships, etc. We're talking about ways to build that into the program and to provide honors credit for that sort of thing. It would also be good to encourage CSU Honors students to get involved in Honors nationally. I'm hoping that if more students get involved in research projects, that we might be able to have some of them attend regional or national honors conferences and present their work. There are also publications and competitions our students could participate in. Finally, I'd like to see more of our students apply for national recognition, through programs like Goldwater, Fulbright, Rhodes, Truman, etc. These are very competitive and hard to get—

but, I think CSU's best students should be able to compete for these honors—it's just a matter of encouraging students to try.

**Q: Why did you choose to work at CSU/What is special about CSU that brought you here?**

A: Partly it was a family decision—my wife also teaches at CSU and this was an opportunity for both of us to work and live in the same city. That certainly beats a four-hour weekend commute!! I also liked CSU because it's an urban university—I grew up in New York City and spent most of my life in urban centers (NY, Toronto, Boston), so Cleveland seemed like a better place to be than Geneseo (a town of 5000 people!!). I also enjoy the fact that CSU is so diverse—the student population here is incredibly varied in all sorts of ways—age, race, ethnicity, academic background, you name it. Since I'm a sociologist, I find that stimulating and refreshing—teaching a course on race, class and gender, for example, is a lot more fun when the students in the class themselves reflect those differences.

would rather teach at a school that has a great communication department than a bigger name school with a communication department that is overlooked. In addition, he likes the environment of Cleveland, which he describes as: “not arrogant or complacent, but this kind of determined angst.” Finally, he feels he can contribute to the students, department, and university.



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