

# 4.0

CLEVELAND  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Spring 2019

JACK, JOSEPH  
AND MORTON  
MANDEL  
HONORS  
COLLEGE  
NEWSLETTER



*engaged learning*<sup>TM</sup>

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Julia Anderson



## CORRECTION

It has occurred to the staff of the 4.0 that an unfortunate formatting error occurred in the last issue of our newsletter.

In the article describing the history of the Mandel brothers and their generous contributions to CSU's Honors College, it was the author's intention to thank the Mandels in Hebrew, the language of the Jewish people. However, the digital program used to create the newsletter reversed the order of Hebrew letters since the language is read from right to left, not from left to right like English.

The result ended up looking like this:

הבר הדות

However, it was our intention for it to look like this:

תודה רבה

We would like to apologize for this unfortunate error and properly thank the Mandel brothers in Hebrew, as the author of the article originally intended.





*Jack, Joseph, &  
Morton Mandel  
Honors College*

CLEVELAND STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*4.0 Honors College  
Newsletter*

**Spring 2019**

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# Interviews with Graduating Honors Students

by Ariana Chriss

## Mac Lewis

### What is your major? Why did you pick it?

Urban Studies/Regional Planning and Communication Studies. I have had a fascination with infrastructure and how cities operate ever since I was a child. Over time, I have come to love communication fields like social media, marketing, and public speaking, hence my pursuit in that field. Cleveland State's flexible academics allowed me to pursue both degrees as an undergraduate.

### Do you have any plans following graduation?

After graduation, I plan on traveling abroad to Germany and then coaching one more summer at my local swim club back at home in Cincinnati, Ohio. Following the summer, I plan on starting a job in either non-profit management, government, or sports administration. Following at least one or two years of work, I plan on enrolling in graduate school.

### What was the best part about being in the Honors College? How was your experience as an Honors student?

The best part of being in the Honors

program was having the opportunity to meet and build relationships with other dedicated, academic-oriented students just like me. In addition, the Honors program has provided me opportunities to represent my university to prospective students, further strengthening my loyalty to the school.

## Jen Wisniewski

### What is your major? Why did you pick it?

My major is Mechanical Engineering. I picked it because I like math and science, so engineering was a good mix between the two.

### Do you have any plans following graduation?

I hope to travel when I'm done with school. I want to see as much of the world as possible!

### If you are considering graduate school, what are you thinking of studying and where would you like to attend?

I'll be enrolled in CSU's 4+1 program, which means I'll go right into my Masters after I graduate this spring. I'll be studying

mechanical engineering but obviously on a much deeper level.

### Do you have any jobs or internships planned for after graduation?

I have an internship at Parker Hannifin lined up for the summer in their Engineered Materials Group.

### What was the best part about being in the Honors program?

The best part about being in the Honors program is getting to meet people who I would now consider lifelong friends. It gave me an immediate community to be involved in, and as a freshman it was nice to have a built-in group of friends. Overall, I've really enjoyed my experience as an Honors student.

### What opportunities did being in the Honors program provide for you that you are grateful for?

The Honors College gave me the opportunity to excel academically. It also gave me the opportunity to be independent and focus on my studies because they helped pay for so much of my schooling. I'm really proud to say I'll be graduating debt-free, and that's because of everything the Honors College has done for me.

## Isaac Kuragayala

### What is your major? Why did you pick it?

I will be majoring in Biology. Originally this was not my major when I first came to CSU. I actually picked finance as my major, then I switched over because I wanted to do Pre-Med. Medicine had an appeal to me, although it was very daunting when I switched majors. As I kept going through the medical school pre-requisite courses, I gained an avid fascination for the subject that hasn't ceased.

### What are your plans for after graduation?

I enrolled in the CSU NEOMED partnership program for Urban Health, and I will be continuing on to NEOMED in July after I graduate. The way that this program works is that after two years as a CSU student, you can apply to the partnership program. If you get selected through the interview process, you are considered what is a "C1." You have to do two years at CSU, and then you continue on to NEOMED. It's like a provisional admission, so throughout the two years remaining at CSU, you have to meet certain requirements set by the program. If you meet those requirements and get the MCAT score that they want, you can continue on to the medical school. NEOMED is located in Rootstown and is about 10-15 minutes from downtown Akron.

### What did you like about your experience as an Honors student?

The Honors program encouraged me as a student to push myself in areas of research that I wouldn't have originally thought to do. As part of my biology degree, I could have gotten a Bachelor of Arts degree, in which case I would not need to do any research. But, being part of the Honors program helped me push myself to do research and therefore get a Bachelor of Science degree. While doing research, I found an interest in it, and that original

impetus for me to go into research was the Honors program. Now, I enjoy research, but more importantly, research was invaluable in helping me connect theory and application. I only read and learned about biochemistry and genetics. In the lab, I can perform the very experiments that led to the scientific discoveries society relies on today. Without research, I would have missed a key link in bridging that gap between theory and application.

## Alec DeBoard

### What is your major? Why did you pick it?

I am a math major. I always liked math growing up. I got bored of middle school math pretty quick and enrolled in Geometry and Algebra II in eighth grade. I ended up taking an independent study in Calc II my senior year of high school because my school didn't offer anything else. Going to college, I wanted to continue exploring mathematics and how I could practically apply it to the real world. It seemed like an obvious choice.

### Do you have a minor? If so, why did you pick it?

I've been through a handful of minors: economics, accounting, finance, psychology. I eventually stuck with computer and information systems. I didn't know any programming before picking up the minor, so I have enjoyed the challenge. It also seems to be a useful skill, regardless where I eventually end up.

### Do you have any plans following graduation?

I plan to apply to jobs in a wide variety of fields. I have already applied to positions for software engineering, financial analytics, and government positions such as with the NSA. I am interested in a wide variety of things, so I am hoping that I find a position and see what works for me. If I haven't found a calling in a year or two, I plan to pursue a masters in Statistics at CSU.

### Do you have any jobs or internships planned for after graduation?

Nothing yet! I am applying to several places and attending career fairs when I can. If nothing pans out immediately, I am happy relaxing for a few months after graduation and moving up to full time in my position at Whole Foods.

### What was the best part about being in the Honors program? How was your experience as an Honors student?

The best experience has been the opportunity for more engaging classes. The Honors courses I have taken have been the most thought-provoking and life-changing during my time at CSU. These are the classes that make you question why you think the way you do and go as far as challenging things you previously thought to be true. My experience as an Honors student was more rewarding than I ever could have imagined. The extra challenges in ordinary courses and opportunities granted through the experience courses added immeasurable value to my education at CSU.

### What opportunities did the Honors program provide for you that you are grateful for?

The Honors living community on the fifth floor of Fenn my freshman year was a great experience. It created a community among the Honors students, setting us apart from the thousands of students at CSU. While we may not all be friends, it has been fun growing up alongside all of these great people. I am grateful for this experience, even though I regret not getting more involved and getting to know these individuals better. The most remarkable experience, however, was a trip we took to the Adler Planetarium in Chicago. I and a few others were provided with plane tickets to and from Chicago, tickets to the planetarium, and the opportunity to meet with an astrophysicist from the area. I cannot thank the Honors College enough for providing the small group of us with this amazing experience.





# Cleveland Says Yes to Education

by Emily Zhao

From a Philadelphia program that aims to give free college tuition for high school graduates of a given school district, Say Yes to Education has come to its fourth location-- Cleveland, Ohio.

Recipients of this program will be granted scholarship money to attend colleges around the state, including several private schools. In addition to financial aid, students will also be supported with wraparound services which provide counseling and other mental health opportunities to ensure student success.

## How does it work?

All graduates from the Cleveland city schools and participating charter high schools are eligible for the program. Students who have not been at a district school for four consecutive years are also eligible if enrolled as of January 2019.

If a family receives an income of over \$75,000, financial aid is set at a maximum of \$5,000. Conversely, the cost of tuition will be covered for students whose families earn less than \$75,000. With this flexibility and the promising outlook of already securing

a majority of the funds necessary to pay for the next 25 years, Say Yes to Education will benefit many students and their families.

## Who is invested in it?

Numerous groups such as the College Now Greater Cleveland and the Cleveland Foundation have teamed up to make sure that the program will thrive. CSU Vice Provost for Academic Programs Peter Meiksins believes that “the key will be providing CMSD [Cleveland Metropolitan School District] students with a welcoming environment and providing them with the services they need to succeed. We’ll also need to provide programming that’s responsive to the kinds of things that students who grew up in Cleveland are likely to be concerned about and interested in.” Ultimately, the Say Yes to Education will be an incredibly beneficial opportunity to Cleveland and an integral element to the future of Cleveland State University.

# I'm In Love With My Career

by Leah Bunnell

As students at Cleveland State University earn their degrees, they might become curious about what career they should pursue after completing their degrees. While some individuals might decide to work in traditional fields, others might find themselves working in non-traditional fields just like the members of a famous rock band. It seems nearly everyone has heard of Queen, a British rock band formed in 1970 in London. While some people know their songs word for word, others may not know that all members of Queen earned college degrees and used their degrees to ensure the success of their band.

The late lead vocalist of the group Freddie Mercury studied graphic design at Ealing College of Art in London. Mercury managed to utilize his degree in several creative ways while in Queen. Besides giving the band its lavish name, he used his designing skills to create the band's crest logo. Mercury also took it upon himself to design the cover art for various albums the band released. In addition to this, he used his expertise in graphic design in conjunction with his keen eye for fashion to create the outfits he and his bandmates wore while performing.

Bassist John Deacon studied electrical engineering at Chelsea College in London and graduated with honors. Deacon's musical virtuosity and electrical engineering skills are what caught the other band members' attention when they were holding auditions for a bassist. Deacon's electrical engineering skills proved to

be quite impressive, as he created a plethora of electrical equipment for the band. One of his most noteworthy inventions was an amplifier dubbed the "Deacy Amp," which was used to record several popular Queen songs.

Lead guitarist Brian May studied physics and mathematics at the Imperial College in London

is found in none other than the band's hit, "We Will Rock You." The band wanted the signature stomp-stomp-clap beat to sound like many people were participating, when in fact they were limited to the number of people in their studio. May was able to use his strong physics background to engineer the sound waves to accomplish this specific sound.

Drummer Roger Taylor originally studied dentistry at London Hospital Medical College, but decided to study biology at East London Polytechnic after realizing that dentistry was not right for him. Taylor felt that his degree helped him understand more about the human body and how to care for his bandmates when they were not feeling well. Additionally, Taylor's scientific background allowed him to further understand the electronic equipment required to record and engineer music. He used this set of skills to help bring the music in his mind out into the studio and to compose hits like "Radio Ga Ga."



## QUEEN

and graduated with honors. He also continued his education and received a Ph.D. in astrophysics from his undergraduate alma mater. Before he attended college, May's immense love for physics was obvious, as he built his signature "Red Special" guitar with his father when he was young. Additionally, May used his knowledge of wave physics to help the band engineer their songs to perfection. A prime example of this

Life is full of surprises; while a person may earn a degree and expect to work in a traditional field, he might end up working in an entirely different field like the members of Queen.

Individuals who have earned or are currently earning a degree should keep an open mind when exploring potential careers; who knows what opportunities it will create and what success it will bring.



# CONNECTING TO THE PAST

by Elizabeth Striker

## Student Perspectives:

**Umida Burkhanova:** I was lucky to have a chance to participate in two “Reacting to the Past” games, and I enjoyed the results of both of them. Despite the fact that the process of the game in one of my classes was sufficiently stressful, ultimately, I felt how much knowledge I gained and how strongly I advanced my skills of researching, building arguments, critical thinking, building relationships, and communication skills. Therefore, recalling that experience I appreciate a chance to learn so efficiently in such an interesting way.

**Hannah Layman:** Participating in Reacting to the Past was a unique experience. I was able to dive even deeper into the material, being specific to my character and the time period. While the game was overwhelming (and for me, emotionally taxing) at times, I still prefer it to having to write an essay or two. Perhaps my favorite part was being able to create strong bonds with my peers while we struggled to come to a consensus and achieve our victory objectives.

It was fall semester, freshman year. I was reading the syllabus for my honors history class and I wasn't sure what to think. It said students would be playing two role-playing “games,” part of a program called Reacting to the Past (RTTP). A couple days later, I found out that my honors English class would also include an abbreviated version of one of these games. My first thought was, how in the world am I going to survive these classes? I'm quiet and reserved, certainly not the outspoken student I assumed this kind of course required. I dreaded the speeches I'd have to give, and I was more than a little anxious.

RTTP is a teaching pedagogy that was developed at Barnard College in the late 1990s. The curriculum consists of games based on various historical events. Students are each given a role based on historical figures of that time. Students must follow the ideology of their characters but get to choose the most persuasive approach to express those beliefs through papers and speeches. Each player also has victory objectives to fulfill in order to win the game. Students are given most of the control over how the game turns out and they primarily run the class. The games can play out very similarly to the historical events of the time or could result in a much different narrative. The teacher acts only as Game Master, observing and guiding the students, as well as grading their work. It is, therefore, much different from your typical lecture setting. According to Barnard College, RTTP was designed to “draw students into the past, promote engagement with big ideas, and improve intellectual and academic skills.”<sup>1</sup> Since 2001, hundreds of colleges and universities have brought RTTP to their classrooms, and CSU is one of them.

I focus here on my experience with the RTTP game in my English class rather than those I played in history. I did learn more about the ideas and motivations during those particular moments in U.S. history than I would have learned from any lecture, but my experience with the English game was truly special. It was focused on the United Nations' response to the Rwandan genocide in 1994.

RTTP games are all about what you make of them, and you get out of them what you put in. If you put in the effort, the rewards will be many. I was given a major role in the Rwanda game that required me to lead the meetings, and I would be in a position to shape the outcome of the game. I was terrified. I was accustomed to reserved roles, like in my history class. This was totally out of my comfort zone, but I dug in and put in the effort, and the results have been invaluable. I'll admit it was incredibly stressful, yet I learned so much more than I would have ever learned from lectures. I gained so much knowledge about the Rwandan genocide, the international community, the United Nations, and even humanity itself. I also learned many other helpful skills throughout the course of the game.

RTTP taught me how to...

- research effectively
- write persuasive papers and speeches
- lead when I thought I couldn't
- cooperate within a team
- grow as a class
- learn profound truths about humanity
- argue with civility
- engage with material

My experience with RTTP pushed me and I discovered parts of myself I hadn't known existed and strength I didn't know I had. I learned how to allow my passion and drive to break through the barriers of my quietness and my fears of public speaking. I found confidence in myself and my abilities. My outlook shifted from “I can't” to “I can.” I grew as a student in my speaking, writing, and researching skills, but I also grew as a person throughout the course of these games.

Therefore, I would whole-heartedly recommend CSU students, specifically students in the Honors College, to seek out and take courses that involve RTTP.

#### Sources:

1. “The Concept.” Reacting to the Past, Barnard College, 2019, <https://reacting.barnard.edu/>.



# Summer Courses

by Umida Burkhanova

Summertime is a great time for chilling, as well as for studying and working toward your academic success. Many students think about taking summer courses. To make that decision, they should consider the advantages and disadvantages.

## Advantages:

- 1** If you are planning to start taking a course which requires pre-requisites, summer is the best time to complete the pre-requisite course so you can take the higher level course during fall semester.
- 2** Taking one or two summer courses means you can focus and concentrate your attention on them, which enhances learning progress and efficiency.
- 3** Taking classes during the summer will allow you to graduate earlier.
- 4** Summer classes generally have fewer students, which means a better environment, so the lectures will be conducted in smaller groups, cultivating an efficient learning environment for student-teacher interaction.

## Disadvantages:

- 1** Summer semesters are much shorter, so the coursework and the classes are taught at faster pace. Therefore be ready to study every day!
- 2** Some classes are offered in the first 6 weeks of the summer, others are offered during the second 6 weeks, and other classes are taught during the first 8 weeks. So make sure that the class you are going to take is offered during the period you are planning to study.
- 3** If you are an international student, you will have to buy health insurance for the summer semester as well and sponsor these expenses.
- 4** Not all the courses are offered during the summer.



# Commuter Services

by Umida Burkhanova

Cleveland State University cares about its students. To target the interests and needs of commuter students, and to make their college experience more comfortable and safe, CSU recently inaugurated new programs and services.

## Commuter Lounge – SC 350

Few students know about a “Commuter Student Lounge,” which is a nice place for commuter students to hang out with their friends, have some food, and study in a quiet place. It has space for bringing and eating lunch because it offers a refrigerator, microwave, fancy dining tables and flatware utensils. There is a designated zone for studying, and the zone offers tables and computers for any student to use. This lounge operates under the coordination of the Commuter Lounge Assistant, who welcomes students when they check in at the entrance.

## Escort services

The safety of the students is the primary concern of CSU. The safety escort service operates 24 hours, 7 days a week to ensure the safety of both on-campus and commuter students moving to or from any location on or near campus. Don't walk alone - use the Safety Escorts! Call (216) 687-2020 to request an escort, and someone will come to take you to your bus or car.

## Locker rental service

On the second floor of Berkman Hall commuter students can find lockers available for rent for \$10 per semester. Go to the Recreation Center's shop to get yourself one and store your items safely and comfortably.

All of these services are designed to enhance and support commuter students' experiences at CSU, so feel free to use all of them for your convenience and success!



# Connecting with ODS

by Cameron Caputi

According to the Anxiety and Depression Association of America, 24.5% of college students take psychotropic drugs to help combat anxiety and/or depression. With almost one in every four students suffering from one of these mental conditions, it is fair to ask, "what is Cleveland State University doing to help accommodate these students?"

Students who battle anxiety and depression may need to miss a couple classes, or even turn in work a little late, which can have a negative impact on grades. If you are diagnosed with either depression or anxiety, your best protection from inadvertent grade loss due to your condition is to register with the Office of Disability Services (ODS). The Office of Institutional Equity described the process for registration below. Registration with ODS is easy.

- 1 Go to the ODS web page at: <https://www.csuohio.edu/disability/disability>
- 2 Select the first menu item on the left (Disability Services Online System) and follow the instructions to register
- 3 Then go to "Forms for ODS" (second to last menu item on the ODS homepage): <https://www.csuohio.edu/disability/forms-used-office-disability-services>
- 4 Select the form that is second from the bottom for Psychiatric Disability Verification Form
- 5 Print out that form and have it completed and signed by your doctor. Then you can bring the completed form to ODS (BH 147) or you can scan and upload it to ODS' online accommodations management system
- 6 Then, please call ODS at 216-687-2015 to set up an intake meeting

After that meeting, ODS will issue appropriate accommodations for you.

This is the process that protects students with anxiety and depression from unjust treatment by professors who may seem inflexible. Please reach out to the Office of Disability Services if you have any other questions about this process.



# Places of Faith

by Ahmad Ghiba

Cleveland State University has a very diverse student population. The student body is composed of a plethora of religious and racial groups.

In response to the needs of these groups, CSU provides some different spaces for prayer on campus. The Multi-Faith Room is a common location for students to pray. It is located on the 4th floor of the Main Classroom (BH) building. This room is always open for everyone regardless of creed. Books and events for different religious groups can also be found in this room. Sometimes, meetings with the religious groups on campus are held there as well.

The Church across the street from the BH building is a common location for Christians to pray. The Friday prayer for Muslims also takes place at the church every Friday starting at 1:30 and usually ending around 2:00.

The seminar rooms on the third floor are also always available for students as study rooms.

Even though these seminar rooms are not necessarily prayer rooms, they can be used to pray in private and can be a good option if the student is closer to the third floor.

The Muslim Student Association at Cleveland State University has been trying to get a slightly larger prayer space, but that is still a work in progress. The MSA has been in contact with Student Life to find a way to get more prayer space on campus. Due to the high population of Muslim students in Cleveland State University and the fact that Muslims have five mandatory prayers a day, providing places for prayer is very important.

However, Cleveland State University must see an increased need for the prayer space in order to provide Muslims with a room specifically for prayer. The Muslim Student Association is working on gathering statistics and surveys from students on campus to help obtain this prayer room in the future.

# Counseling Connections

by Julia Anderson

Dealing with the stress of higher education, jobs, and everyday struggles can be extremely draining. Many students talk about mental breakdowns and overwhelming stress at some point during their college career. However, there are resources at Cleveland State dedicated to bettering the students — and their minds — in times of crisis. For example, CSU provides students with a counseling center, whose mission statement “is to support and empower our diverse student community through the provision of psychological services.”

The services in the counselling center include “couples and group counseling, crisis intervention, consultation, psycho-education, and referrals.” All services are confidential and provide further direction for specific cases, guiding students down the right road for a happier, healthier life. No matter the issue, counselors are dedicated to providing students with academic advice as well as personal psychological advice. These counselors

include “psychologists, licensed counselors and licensed social workers, and counseling and psychology graduate trainees.”

Taylor Moisia, a freshman at Cleveland State, endured a few troubling experiences during her first semester. After debating what to do, she finally decided to attend a counseling session at the center with a psychologist. She asserted that although she would have preferred a legitimate counselor at a private office, her experience was helpful and convenient in her time of need. She encourages other students to seek help at the counseling center even if they just want to talk to someone who is willing to listen.

Office hours for the counseling center are Monday-Friday 9am-5pm and available by appointment at 8am and 5pm. The counseling center is located at 1836 Euclid Avenue, UN 220, Cleveland, Ohio 44115 and can be contacted by phone [(216) 687-2277], email (c.bober@csuohio.edu), or fax [(216) 523-7219].

# Careers in Campus Housing

by Julia Anderson

Everyone knows college can be extremely expensive, and that it can be a huge problem trying to balance the responsibilities of both a job that pays now and coursework that will aid in the long-term goal of a job after college. Of course, a high grade point average, a promising work ethic, and good test scores are encouraged — and, in a way, required — in order to obtain and keep academic scholarships. Aside from these scholarships, grants, and federal aid, most students still find their college experience to be financially demanding. Indeed, apart from academic responsibilities, students are often responsible for their living situations — including housing, food, and transportation. It is well known that Cleveland State offers on-campus housing, but what often slips the minds of students is what exactly this entails.

Although there are many on-campus jobs at Cleveland State, one of the most beneficial is becoming a resident assistant (RA) at one of the dorms (Fenn Tower and Euclid Commons). In the application to become an RA, CSU expects the applicant in their hiring to “facilitat[e] positive relationships among students and staff, and... [perform]

a variety of duties critical to the success of the community.” RAs must also maintain a “minimum of a 2.5 GPA, at least 12 hours (or 8 hours for graduate students, or 12 hours for law students) of enrollment each academic term through employment, [and] good academic and judicial standing.”

Among some of the serious responsibilities of a resident assistant, RAs get to make student living more fun, creating bulletin boards for their floors and making mandatory floor meetings more lively with games and crafts. However, being an RA also helps with students’ financial situations. Cleveland State covers all housing and meal plan fees for their resident assistants, eliminating a commute to school, providing a resource for food, and presenting a lovely place to sleep.

Sydney, an RA in Fenn Tower, states that she “really enjoy[s] being an RA.” She asserts that “it trains you in so many different aspects that you wouldn’t even know of — like budgeting and building community.” Sydney “feel[s] as though [she has] made lifelong friends and experiences” throughout her time as a resident assistant at Cleveland State.



