



CENTRAL
STATE UNIVERSITY

**College of Humanities, Arts,
and Social Sciences**

CHAS

College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

Annual Report 2022-23

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Reach Higher. Go Further. Thrive!

LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends of CHAS,

I am pleased to share the highlights of our college this year, my first full year serving as the dean. The 2022-23 academic year was an exciting one for the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHAS). Our college had the largest number of graduates in our history and the largest number of graduates out of the four colleges at Central State University. We launched new certificate and minor programs and saw robust enrollment in our existing degree programs.

We continued to assess our work through two program accreditations and the University's successful reaccreditation through the Higher Learning Commission. A number of new full-time faculty joined our college, enhancing our student-teacher ratios and curriculum development. Finally, the college hosted a full roster of events, both in person and online, for our students and the University community.

The college offers 16 academic degree programs across four departments. This year saw the creation of our newest academic department, the Communications, Composition, and Languages Department, which brings together the existing Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Journalism and Digital Media and the University's Composition, Creative Writing, and International Languages programs. The Humanities Department now encompasses BA degrees in History, English (Literature and Pre-Law) and Humanities, Interdisciplinary Studies, and the Philosophy program. The Fine and Performing Arts (FPA) Department completed a successful site visit in March for re-accreditation with the National Association of Schools of Art and Design, while the Social and Behavioral Sciences Department successfully completed its reaccreditation with the Council on Social Work Education.

Across the college, students were busy with events honoring Homecoming, Black History Month, and Women's History Month. In addition, departments hosted alumni speakers, student honor societies, and academic symposiums. This year, the college brought back the Student Advisory Board, which promotes the college across the campus, assisted with recruiting events, and hosted study tables. Mr. CHAS Davaughn Major graduated with a degree in jazz studies and was named the college's top scholar at the Academic Recognition Convocation in April. The Title III theatre program presented the spring musical, "The Wiz," while the band, choir, and other performance ensembles performed across the nation from North Carolina and Michigan to Missouri. Our faculty continue to research, perform, write, and share their work at academic conferences around the world. As you peruse the student, alumni, and faculty highlights in this report, I know you will agree with me that our college is living up to its mission.

Sincerely,

Amy Hobbs Harris, Ph.D.

Dean, College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences



Amy Hobbs Harris, Ph.D.

MISSION AND VISION

MISSION:

The College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences supports the mission of the University by offering students quality academic programs in the humanities, fine arts, performing arts, and social sciences. We are a community of scholars and teachers dedicated to educating students to become leaders in their careers, active members of their communities, and lifelong learners.

VISION:

The College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences is a welcoming collaboration of educators and students dedicated to fostering excellence, embracing diversity, and inspiring innovation in a global society.

CHAS BY THE NUMBERS

1,646: Students in CHAS degree programs

63: Full-time faculty members

4: Academic departments

90: Honors College students in CHAS degree programs

16: Academic degrees offered

3: Accredited programs

742: Students on the spring 2023 dean's list

CHAS EVENTS

On **Sept. 20**, **Hanif Abduraquib** visited the Central State campus. Abduraquib recently won a MacArthur Genius Grant for his work as a poet and music critic. He told over 100 students about his experiences building his unconventional career. In the evening, he read from his work and spoke at an event that was well-attended by Central State students and faculty and the community and was streamed on YouTube. This event was sponsored in part by the Ohio Humanities Council and was spearheaded by Jennifer Cruz, D.D.A., chair of the Department of Fine and Performing Arts and professor of music.

The week of Homecoming was a busy one for CHAS. On **Oct. 5**, the CSU Chorus, under the direction of **Carlos Brown, D.M.A.**, performed the Heritage Concert in Robeson Hall, Auditorium. On **Oct. 6**, faculty opened their classes for Visiting Alumni Day. In addition, the Social and Behavioral Services Department hosted an alumni session with a focus on those with careers in criminal justice, psychology, and social work. This session was attended by over 45 students. Also on Oct. 6, **Ranicia Ferguson** represented the college as Miss CHAS in the annual Mr. and Miss CSU Coronation.

On **Oct. 20**, Xavier University professor and Central State Alum **ShaDawn Battle, Ph.D.**, came to campus to discuss her forthcoming documentary, “Footwork Saved My Life.” This project, funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities, is a five-part series on the evolution of Chicago-style footwork. Battle presented an afternoon talk about the documentary to 45 students. In the evening, three professional Chicago dancers joined her for a performance, teaching participants how to recognize various steps, and hosted a question-and-answer session. Over 200 students attended the evening performance, co-sponsored by CHAS, Student Affairs, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and the University’s student chapter of the NAACP.



During **Black History Month** in February, the college featured many events, including the following:

- ◆ The Jazz Ensemble participated in the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company Black Tour with a performance on **Feb. 2** at the National Afro-American Museum in Wilberforce, a performance on **Feb. 5** at the Victoria Theatre in Dayton, and a performance on **Feb. 14** at CSU’s Robeson Hall.
- ◆ The concert band performed at Little Caesar’s Arena for the Detroit Pistons’ HBCU Night on **Feb. 4**.
- ◆ Wynton Marsalis visited Central State on **Feb. 7**. WCSU’s Trent Darby interviewed him on the Mid-Morning Jazz Brunch program.
- ◆ The FPA Department hosted a meet-and-greet for students with **Professor Hal Melia** moderating.
- ◆ The CSU Chorus performed at the Christ Church Cathedral in Cincinnati on **Feb. 11**.
- ◆ On **Feb. 16**, FPA faculty and students hosted a Black History Month recital in Robeson Hall, Recital Hall.
- ◆ **English Instructor Naykishia Darby** coordinated the first annual African American Writers in Ohio Read In at the Student Center. This event, in coordination with the National Council of Teachers of English, happened nationwide with faculty and students joining to recite works by Black writers.

In honor of Women's History Month, CHAS held a two-day series of panel discussions titled Homage to Our Hair on **March 29** and **30**. Hosted by **Professor Naykishia Darby**, the panels featured various perspectives from within CHAS and the community.

Speakers included **Professor Erin Smith-Glenn** and **Rakiba Mitchell**, founder, and CEO of HBC&U Legacies.

Open Mic Poetry Night was hosted on **April 13** by the CCL and Humanities departments. The Theater Arts program presented "The Wiz" on **April 14** and **15**, and the CSU Jazz Ensemble performed on **April 18** in Robeson Hall.



CHAS hosted the annual College Spotlight on **May 4**. This event honored top scholars in each academic department, announced Mr. and Miss CHAS for 2023-24, and honored all fall 2023 dean's list recipients.

In the spring, WCSU-FM launched its online partnership with the Ohio Black Media Collective, an independent, Black-owned print, TV, radio publisher, and social media newsmaker across the state. The radio station also debuted the WCSU Public Radio app, which can be found in the Apple App Store.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Davaughn Major, Mr. CHAS and the college's top scholar, graduated with a jazz studies degree. Major took a position as a middle school teacher at the Richard Allen Schools in Dayton, Ohio. He plans to begin graduate studies for a Master of Business Administration.

Jessica McBounds, a senior studio art major, was one of only four students in Ohio to be selected for the Dayton Art Institute Yeck Fellowship for 2023.

Danielle Darkenwald, a history major, was awarded a Boren Scholarship and successfully completed a semester studying Swahili in Tanzania.

Elaina Brooks, a psychology major, was awarded a Strada Presidential Leadership Scholarship.

Faith Bondurant, an English — Pre-law major, completed an internship this summer with Judge Jennifer L. Sargus at the Federal Courthouse in Columbus, Ohio.

2022-23 was the inaugural year of the CHAS Student Advisory Board. This group, advised by **Ja'Nel Ishmel** and **Amy Hobbs Harris, Ph.D.**, created the CHAS Spotlight planning committee, hosted information tables for the college in the student cafeteria and weekly study tables in Wesley Hall, and volunteered on various CSU recruitment trips and at the Career Center's Spring Career Expo. The board includes **Davaughn Major, Mariah Simmons, Prinesha Smith, Nathan Hart, Ashtoni Sands, Booklyn Suber, Makalia Ware, Tiajia Perry, Camron Nesbitt, Tyler Robinson, Keymariah Boatman, Barbara Thomas, Dana Wright, Draion Cession, Keanate Lewis, Morgan Usher, Nya Brunson, Raven Arnold, and Sydney Grayson.**



Sociology Professor Adam Veitch and **Student Raven Davis** co-wrote a forthcoming encyclopedia entry in the Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology. The entry is “Antisemitism.”

Ibrahima Jarjou, an honors student double-majoring in psychology and exercise science, founded his own nonprofit, Casamance Made. A star Central State student-athlete, Jarjou serves his community here and abroad by managing a basketball camp and donation campaign that provides meals and shoes to those in need. Much of his philanthropic activities occur in his home village of Bignona, Senegal.

WCSU-FM launched the Marauder-run On Our Own (OOO) Radio (OOOradio.com). OOO Radio features a promotional YouTube documentary produced, directed, and edited by Mass Communications OOO Radio student-founders **Heaven Miller, Aniah Smith, Darryn Hughes, Jaleel Sanders, Shaniah Hubbard, Keyuana Roberts, Richard Wright**, and **Markya Miles**.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IjM6A3aPZZQ>

Mass Communications sophomores Steven Key and Devon Culliver used their video production experience at WCSU-FM to obtain film production internships in Los Angeles, California.

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

Rashon Barksdale earned a degree in Journalism and Digital Media in 2022 and was accepted into the Television, Film, and Radio Master of Arts program at Syracuse University.

Lauren Brooks earned a Bachelor of Arts in English in 2020. She won the Goal Getter’s Prize from Winn Publications. Her forthcoming novel is titled “Lesidi and the Purple Lotus.”



Sunken Garden

FACULTY AWARDS

Maria del Mar Garcia, Ph.D., was awarded the President's Excellence in Teaching Award, which comes with a \$500 honorarium.

Roger Anderson, Ph.D., was selected for a 2022-23 Faculty Excellence Award from the Strategic Ohio Council on Higher Education (SOCHE) and is highlighted on the SOCHE website, soche.org.

NEW FACULTY AND STAFF 2022-2023

Brittany Brake, assistant professor of Political Science. Brake earned a Master of Arts in Political Science from Western Michigan University in 2016. She is completing her doctoral dissertation, titled "Utopianism Under Siege," at Western Michigan University. Brake has taught at Manchester University, Eastern Gateway Community College, and Western Michigan University. She is a contributor to "Political Groups, Parties, and Organizations that Shaped America: An Encyclopedia and Document Collection" (2019) and has presented at academic conferences including the Society for Utopian Studies and the International Social Theory Consortium.

Flore Chevaillier, teaching assistant professor of Interdisciplinary Studies. Chevaillier has returned to the University as a remote teaching assistant professor. She earned her doctorate from Florida State University in 2008 and has published two books, "Divergent Trajectories: Interviews with Innovative Fiction Writers" (Ohio University Press, 2017) and "The Body of Writing: An Erotics of Contemporary American Fiction" (Ohio University Press, 2013). She teaches courses in Interdisciplinary Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and Literature.

Tiffanie Clark, teaching assistant professor of Spanish. Clark teaches Spanish as a remote teaching professor. She earned her doctorate in Romance Languages in 2020 from the University of Cincinnati and has presented her research at several conferences, including the Society for the Study of Comparative Literature. In addition, she is contributing to a forthcoming anthology on Central American literature.

Naykishia Darby, teaching instructor of English. Darby earned a Master of Arts in English from Jackson State University in 2010. She has taught at Tennessee State University, Jackson State University, Georgia Gwinnett College, and Bowling Green State University and has published her own creative work and scholarship on Black women writers in "Black Magnolias," "Meeting Points in Black/African Women's Literature," and "Tennessee Philological Bulletin."

William Feeny, teaching assistant professor of History. Feeny is a remote teaching assistant professor in the History program. He earned his doctorate from West Virginia University in 2015 and has 10 years of experience teaching and developing courses. His research on wounded Civil War soldiers is featured online for The National Museum of Civil War Medicine and "Encyclopedia Virginia."



Brittany Brake



Flore Chevaillier



Naykishia Darby

Allison Fernandez, teaching assistant professor of Criminal Justice. Fernandez earned her doctorate in Criminal Justice in 2022 from Texas State University. While there, she was named Outstanding Doctoral Student in 2018. She has published in the academic journal, *Deviant Behavior*, and contributed to the Encyclopedia of Research Methods and Statistical Techniques in Criminology and Criminal Justice.

Seth Laffey, teaching assistant professor of English. Laffey earned his doctorate in 2017 from Kent State University. He taught at the American University in Dubai, where he won an award as the most popular English teacher, Columbus State Community College, and Ohio University. He has presented his literary research at the American Comparative Literature Association and the College English Association conferences.

Amber McCurdy, teaching instructor of Philosophy. McCurdy joins the faculty as a full-time remote teaching instructor of Philosophy. She has over 15 years of experience teaching online and in person and has been awarded a 2023 SEED Grant from the CSU Office of Sponsored Programs and Research.

Sandra Riley, teaching instructor of English. Riley earned a Master of Arts in English from the University of Dayton in 2017. She brings over 10 years of experience teaching high school and college students. In addition, she has published her creative writing in *Poets Online*, *The Ekphrastic Review*, and *Autumn Sky Poetry*.

Timbre Wulf, teaching assistant professor of Criminal Justice. Wulf earned her doctorate in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Nebraska Omaha in 2013. Prior to joining the CSU faculty as a remote teaching professor, she earned tenure and served as department chair at the University of Nebraska Kearney. Her research has been published in the *Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice and Criminology*, *The Social Science Journal*, and *Papers in Applied Geography*.

Melanie Zynel, teaching instructor of English. Zynel earned her Master of Arts in Literary and Cultural Studies from Wayne State University. She has taught high school and college students in a variety of modalities. In addition, she has published her literary research in *Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies*. She is currently completing her dissertation for a doctorate in English from Wayne State University.

Ja'Nel Ishmel, administrative coordinator. Ishmel joined the CHAS staff in January 2023. Ishmel completed her degree in Music Performance in 2022 at Central State University. Originally from Flint, Michigan, Ishmel has over 15 years of professional performing arts and programing experience and four years of clerical work experience. In her new position, she coordinates student events, college publications and publicity and supervises the CHAS Student Advisory Board.



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS, COMPOSITION, AND LANGUAGES

The college has added a new academic department: Communications, Composition, and Languages. The department, chaired by Michael Gormley, houses a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Digital Media, minors in communications, creative writing, French, and Spanish, and the general education composition program.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Central State University established a new academic program in the fall of 2022. The Department of Communications, Composition, and Languages was split from the existing Humanities Department after that department became so large that it became difficult to manage. The CCL department offers one major: a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Digital Media. It also offers minors in Creative Writing, French, International Languages and Cultures, Journalism and Digital Media, Public Relations, and Spanish. The department currently has 15 full-time instructors. Faculty members work in Wesley Hall (Composition and Creative Writing) and the Mass Communications Center (Journalism and Digital Media and International Languages and Cultures).



Michael Gormley

During our first year, the department accomplished the following:

- ◆ Established an advising protocol and assigned students to faculty advisors. All full-time faculty members served as academic advisors except one member who holds a remote teaching position.
- ◆ Created a course bank listing of all CHAS courses with course descriptions, learning outcomes, and texts. This project is nearing completion.
- ◆ Provided departmental information to the Office of Assessment as it prepared the University's Assurance Argument for the Higher Learning Commission.
- ◆ Provided copy related to the department for inclusion in the Central State catalog.
- ◆ Revised the department's website.
- ◆ Established a Teams site for faculty members in the department. The Teams site serves as a repository for academic program requests, syllabi, faculty office hours, meeting minutes, travel documents, and more.
- ◆ Encouraged faculty members to complete the University's online teacher training.
- ◆ Engaged in regular contact with students in the department.
- ◆ Hosted monthly departmental meetings.

Professor Michael Gormley

Chair, Department of Communications, Composition, and Languages

COMMUNICATIONS, COMPOSITION, AND LANGUAGES HIGHLIGHTS

The Communications program received a \$6,500 donation from the Public News Service (PNS), funded in part by the George Gund Foundation. With this donation, the program will equip and train student journalists to submit stories to the Ohio office of PNS. The stories, with the students' bylines, can then be picked up by independent radio and news outlets in Ohio and across the country. Students will receive a stipend for each submitted story.

The Communications, Composition, and Languages Department created a new academic minor in international languages and cultures and a new certificate program in Spanish.

The Communications program participated in the new HBCU Communication Ph.D. Pipeline Program. **Colin Lasu** served as the faculty representative. Graduate **Rajah Shepherd '22**, was their first mentee.

Communication students provided support on WCSU's live broadcast from the downtown Dayton Metro Library promoting the launch of nationally syndicated Funky Friday in April.

The 28th Annual Communications Week was held April 10-14 with sessions led by faculty, alumni, and industry professionals on topics ranging from graduate school to the APA style guide to internships to reality television.



28th Annual Communications Week

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

William Abbott, associate professor of English. Abbott attended Southern Fried, the 30th anniversary spoken-word conference, and competed on a spoken-word pick-up team (known officially as “The Pickup Artists,” but unofficially as “The Expendables”). He was also part of a featured reading at the Strauss Gallery in Hamilton, Ohio. The event was run by his publisher, Milk & Cake Press, primarily for poets under that imprint.

Roger Anderson, assistant professor of International Languages. Anderson published “It’s All French Over There!: My Quest for Franco-Ontarians” in the May 2022 “Journal of International Students in Higher Education.” He also published book chapters in “Internationalisation of Higher Education in the Global South” (Yu, C., 2023) and “Developing Intercultural Competence in Higher Education” (Arasaratnam-Smith and Deardorff, 2022). Anderson’s essay, “Returning Home a Guardian,” was awarded first place by the STAR Scholars Network and will be published in the book “Crossing Border, Bridging Cultures” (2023).

Tiffany Clark, remote teaching assistant professor of International Languages. Clark presented “Translating the Poetry of German Salas” at the 43rd Annual Romance and Arabic Languages and Literatures Conference in April 2023. She presented her work, “The Future of Education: An Echo of Gioconda Belli’s Revolutionary World,” at the CTL Brown Bag Presentation in April 2023.

Maria Gamez Garcia, assistant professor of International Languages. Garcia published two plays in “Quebradas. Dramaturgas en tiempos de pandemia” (Soto, 2022) and “Amb lletra de dona” (Pastor and Aillades, 2022).

Andrew Gilmore, assistant professor of Communications. Gilmore won the Outstanding Dissertation Award at the National Communication Association Conference in November 2022. In addition, his article, “They Just Want to Erase Us’: Triumphant Modernity, Catastrophic Witnessing, and Debates about Cultural Genocide in Xinjiang,” was published in the *International Journal of Communication*, and he published a book chapter in “Resistance in the Era of Nationalisms: Performing Identities in Taiwan and Hong Kong” (Hsin-I, 2023).

Obiwu Iwuanyanwu, professor of English. Iwuanyanwu’s work “A Bird in Hand... (A Biography of Rossana ‘Baby’ Nwigwe)” was awarded “Best Concept” at Rossanah Nnenna Nwigwe: Nne Oha Obowo (Nee Iwuanyanwu) in March 2023.

Colin Lasu, assistant professor of English. Lasu successfully defended his dissertation in September and earned his doctorate in Communications from Ohio University.



DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES

The Department of Humanities offers three academic degrees: Bachelor of Arts in English (with a literature or pre-law concentration), Bachelor of Arts in History, and Bachelor of Arts in Humanities, Interdisciplinary Studies. In addition, the department offers minors in African studies, environmental humanities, gender and sexuality studies, history, literature, philosophy, and pre-law.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

The 2022-23 academic year was an exciting one for the Department of Humanities. This was my first full year as chair, and the Department's highlights demonstrate the collaborative work of the English literature, history, philosophy, and religion faculty to increase the course and curriculum offerings in our interdisciplinary program. The two new minors promote important social and University values. The gender and sexuality studies minor trains students to consider how gender and sexuality are informed by our culture and how gender and sexuality intersect with other issues of race, class, and ethnicity. The environmental humanities minor supports the University's 1890 Land-Grant mission, and students learn how literature, environmental history, and the history of science and technology inform humanities questions about the relationship between the study of the environment and society's culture, ethics, and responsibilities to the environment.

The English program also offered its first annual Creative Writing Reading series this year. Students from across the University came out to read their poetry and creative writing. I was impressed by the support that the students gave one another and the rich variety of topics about which our students chose to write about. Their poetry reflected issues of gender, race, university culture, and individualism. Our students have a unique perspective on life and culture, and their creative work expresses their voice.

As a department, we are proud of the academic accomplishments of our students. Our students have been selected for prestigious international awards, internships, and recognition for their research. The first annual Humanities Research Symposium demonstrated the vastness and the significance of our students' research. Two students were highlighted at the College Spotlight for their scholarly achievements in their capstone projects. Michelle White presented her work on the realities of women's lives as they balance personal and professional duties, shedding light on equity issues. Gilbert Polk shared a captivating presentation on his teaching and research on improv, as it relates to our lives outside of the theatre world. As chair, I am especially proud of all of these students who demonstrated passion, talent, and diligence in their work. These students often started off in a basic humanities class and found a place they not only fit but also enjoyed. They are recognized for their ability to synthesize their learning into action, and I couldn't be prouder of them.

Anne-Marie Walkowicz, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Humanities



HUMANITIES HIGHLIGHTS

During the 2022-23 academic year, the Humanities Department created two new academic minors: gender and sexuality studies and environmental humanities. The Department of Humanities held its first annual Humanities Research Symposium on April 6, featuring seven undergraduate panelists presenting to an audience of 60 of their undergraduate colleagues. **Vincent Haddad, Ph.D.**, and **Flore Chevallier, Ph.D.**, organized the symposium.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Patrick Anderson, assistant professor of Philosophy. Anderson presented two papers at the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics International Conference in March 2023. He also received the Surveillance Studies Network 2022 Early Career Research Prize for his paper “Of Cypherpunks and Surveillance,” which was published in *Surveillance & Society*.

G. Jahwara Giddings, teaching professor of History. Giddings published an article, “Cuisine Ecotourism and Guyanese Hospitality,” in *Inside Guianame* (March 2023).

Vincent Haddad, associate professor of Literature. Haddad was awarded the Comics Studies Society Article Prize for his article “Detroit vs. Everybody (Including Superheroes).” He was also recognized by CSS with an Honorable Mention for the Gilbert Seldes Prize for Public Scholarship for his article on conspiracy theories in comics entitled “That Wingnut is Insane: Reality vs. Fictionality in Conspiracy Comics.”

Jonathan Holmes, associate professor of Literature. Holmes presented “Teaching the Winter’s Tale with the Digital New Variorum Shakespeare” as part of the workshop at this year’s Shakespeare Association of America, from March 21 through April 1, 2023.

Anne-Marie Walkowicz, associate professor of Literature. Walkowicz presented at the Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference in October 2022. She also published “Administering Instructional Reform: Interdisciplinary Learning and the Humanities Profession” in “Transforming Leadership Pathways for Humanities Professionals in Higher Education” (Hentschell and Thomas, Purdue University Press, 2023.)

Yugen Yu, assistant professor of History. Yu presented at the World History Association 32nd Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on June 22, 2023. He was also elected as a Councilor of the World History Association.



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

The Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences offers the following degrees: Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, and Bachelor of Science in Social Work. In addition, the department offers minors in criminal justice, gerontology, political science, psychology, and sociology.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

The Department of Social and Behavior Sciences (SBS) was extremely active and had a very successful year. As the largest department in CHAS, we are always striving to provide our students with sound curricula that prepares them for graduate school or employment in their desired fields.

This past year, the Criminal Justice program proposed a collaboration with Greene County Career Center to expand pathways into law enforcement and corrections with a particular emphasis on recruiting, training, and placing African American candidates in Greene County and the Ohio Police Officer Training Academy. As a first step in this collaboration, Commander Bryan Cook from Greene County Criminal Justice Peace Officer Basic Training Academy met with our criminal justice students to discuss pathways and careers in law enforcement and corrections.

Additionally, the social work program received a University Partnership Program (UPP) grant. The goal of the UPP grant is to provide high-quality social work education and training to mitigate the increasing need for social workers in the child welfare system. The UPP grant provides a budget just over \$159,000 per year. Part of the grant includes the establishment of a dedicated field placement coordinator in Child Protective Service, who also teaches two courses per semester in child and family services. The UPP grant also provides a post-graduation employment incentive of \$5,000 or \$10,000 to social work students interested in pursuing careers in child welfare.

The Psychology program completed its program review and is well on its way to incorporating many of the suggestions into its curriculum. Criminal Justice faculty aim to review their own program during the 2023-24 academic year.

Across the department and across campus, many of our faculty are working on collaborative research projects and certifications. Our hope is to improve all our programs such that our students are getting the best education and experience they possibly can while working towards their degree at CSU.

Edison Perdomo, Ph.D.

Acting Chair, Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences



SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES HIGHLIGHTS

The social work program was awarded \$82,500 (renewable annually) as part of the University Partnership Program of the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services. The purpose of this grant is to develop a curriculum focused on child welfare and to recruit students to careers specializing in child welfare.

March is Social Work Month. In support, the Social Work Student Association hosted a career event on March 29 with six practicing social workers. Students were able to ask questions and learn about the day and the life of a social worker.

In April, social work students attended a community event called The Baby Expo in Dayton. The director of this program is a CSU alum and an active board member of the Social Work program. This event allowed students to observe the role of a mobilizer and work with clients on a macro level. **Professors Jonathan Trauth, Omesh Johar, and Nikkita Jackson** were awarded a \$380,000 grant with the Mental Health and Addiction Advocacy Coalition. The grant is titled, “Cross-Sector Partnership to Identify Areas of Racial and Ethnic Inequality in Ohio’s Behavioral Health Systems.” The preliminary report, “An Overview of Opportunities,” was released in February 2023.

Allison Fernandez, Ph.D., and **Virginia Redman, Ph.D.,** have submitted a grant proposal for \$400,000 to the National Institute of Justice titled “Examining the Quality and Impact of Representation Among Public Defenders in Kentucky.” The proposed project period is January 2024 through December 2025.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Brittany Brake, assistant professor of Political Science. Brake was awarded an OER Ohio Link Grant to develop open educational resources for the American National Government course.

Bradley Buckmeier, assistant professor of Criminal Justice. Buckmeier was awarded \$17,000 for the College to Law Enforcement Pathway Program.

Nikkita Jackson, assistant professor of Social Work. Jackson joined The Ohio State University’s Health Resources and Services Administration research team on a new proposal entitled “Developing evidence-based intervention pathways addressing COVID-19 adverse outcomes across the pregnancy continuum.” This research will provide critical insight into the disparate impact of COVID-19 on maternal and child mortality and morbidity.

David Tokar, associate professor of Psychology. Tokar’s publication, “Conformity to masculine norms, the Dark Tetrad, and men’s rape myth acceptance,” was accepted by the journal, *Psychology of Men & Masculinities*.

Adam Veitch, assistant professor of Sociology. Veitch presented at the annual conference of the Mid-South Sociological Association in October 2022 on “Teaching with OER at an HBCU.”



DEPARTMENT OF FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

The Department of Fine and Performing Arts offers the following degrees: Bachelor of Music in Music Performance, Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies, Bachelor of Music in Music, Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art, Bachelor of Arts in Art, Graphic Design, and Bachelor of Arts in Art Education. In addition, the department offers a certificate in music technology and a minor in speech/theatre.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends of the Fine and Performing Arts Department,

Reviewing the past year has been a joyful reminder of why we do what we do. Through our involvement in the community, both locally and in our individual disciplines, the department continued to be the most forward-facing unit on campus. Nationally, our students and faculty won awards, participated in exhibitions, and performed on the stage to much acclaim.

As we look to the future, the art unit is implementing suggestions from a successful National Association of Schools of Art and Design reaccreditation visit and will continue to strengthen its current programs and seek to offer new ones. We are growing our partnership with Proctor & Gamble and will continue to provide students with access to world-class practitioners and mentors.

The music unit's goals include lighting up the stage and field with performances throughout the country. The Invincible Marching Marauders are preparing for repeat appearances during the half-time shows for the Indiana Pacers, Detroit Pistons, and Cleveland Cavaliers, and the Jazz Ensemble will compete at the Elmhurst Jazz Festival just outside of Chicago. We are in the midst of writing our Self-Study for the National Association of Schools of Music reaccreditation visit in April 2024 and are confident that this exercise in strategic planning will lead to exciting short- and long-term visioning for the unit.

Everything we do is in service to our students. As we kick off the 2023-24 academic year, we are excited to provide them with more resources, access, and models of excellence, so that they will leave as Centralians and make their own mark in the world.

Stop by Robeson Hall and see what we're made of!

Jennifer Cruz, D.M.A.

Chair, Department of Fine and Performing Arts



FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS HIGHLIGHTS

Jennifer Cruz, D.M.A., and **Professor Brian Jump** gave a presentation called Demystifying Hip-Hop at the 2022 Group Piano Forum, which took place at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona, on Aug. 5 and 6, 2022. This forum, known as GP3, meets under the umbrella of Music Teachers National Association (MTNA).

Professors Dwayne Daniel and **Erin Smith Glenn** exhibited work in the African American Visual Artists Guild professional artists tent at the annual Dayton African American Culture Fest Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022. Additionally, students created artwork for the African American Culture Fest for the first time in the history of this event.

The CSU Faculty Art Show ran from Sept. 21 to Oct. 26 in the Charles White Gallery in Robeson with an opening reception on Sept. 21. All art faculty, **Professors Jim Champion, Ron Claxton, Erin Smith-Glenn, Dwayne Daniel,** and **Mitchell Eismont**, featured works in the show.

The CSU Band travelled to Montgomery, Alabama, for the CSU versus Tuskegee football game on Oct. 15. The band also performed at the Eagles Landing Battle of the Bands and recruited students for the upcoming academic year.

The Central State University Jazz Ensemble was invited to perform at the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation Awards Banquet at the Ponitz Center building of Sinclair Community College on Thursday, Nov. 5, 2022. The music program has a long-standing relationship with this organization, and in return for the performance, the foundation donated a stipend to help the Jazz Studies program.

The Central State University Chorus performed its program, "Awake, Arise, Achieve, and Live," on a multi-state tour from March 17-27.

The Jazz Ensemble participated in and performed at the Jazz at Lincoln Center Residency in Norfolk, Virginia, in March. Wynton Marsalis and fellow musicians presented our students with an award for Best Soloist and created an award during the residency to celebrate Kamille Austin, winner of Best Original Composition.



*Central State University
Jazz Ensemble*

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Jim Champion, associate professor of Ceramics. In 2022, Champion was accepted into two national art shows: Viewpoint 54 in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Crooked Tree Arts Center: Juried Exhibition of Functional Art, Form and Function in Petoskey, Michigan.

Ronald Claxton, associate professor of Art Education and Art History. Claxton was selected as Artist in Residence through the Aminah Robinson Columbus Museum of Art program (Columbus, Ohio). He also participated as an exhibiting artist in the annual Worthington City Juried Art Exhibition and exhibited in the National Blues Museum and Portfolio Art Gallery (St. Louis, Missouri).

Jennifer Cruz, professor of Piano. Cruz attended the 2022 Annual Meeting of the National Association of Schools of Music in November 2022. She participated in the New Music Administrators in Higher Education workshop along with sessions to help the program prepare for its 2024 NASM re-accreditation site visit.

Mitchell Eismont, associate professor of Art. Eismont won an American Inhouse Design Award from Graphic Design USA, for his work on the Holiscapes LED Bistro Light Packaging, which has been sold at major big box retail sites.

Harold Melia, associate professor of Woodwinds and Jazz Studies. Melia performed at a variety of venues in the Miami Valley this spring from the Hard Rock Casino in Cincinnati to Packard Museum in Dayton and Emporium Wines in Yellow Springs to Xenia High School.

Nanyi Qiang, associate professor of Collaborative Piano. Qiang was invited to give a guest lecture on Sept. 13, 2022, at Chengdu University of Technology, China. In addition, he presented a lecture-recital, "Piano Works of African American Composer: William Grant Still," at the College Music Society Northeast Conference and the College Music Society Great Lakes Conference, both in March 2023. He also presented on "Teach Piano with Technology" at the Ohio Music Teachers Association Mid-West District. In May, he was a guest artist at the Chamber Music Recital at Wright State University, which featured works by Bach, Schumann, and Saint-Saëns.

Erin Smith-Glenn, associate professor of Art. Smith-Glenn was among the first group of 15 artists in Dayton to be awarded an "ArtWrap": a public art initiative of PNC, Care Source, the Dayton Visual Arts Center, and the City of Dayton. In March, HAIRitage: A Cultural Journey & Experience was on exhibit at the Dayton Society of Artists featuring the historically referenced works of Professor Smith-Glenn, made possible through a grant provided by the National Endowment of the Arts. She also had artwork accepted in the 31st annual Colored Pencil Society of America international exhibition to be held in Cincinnati this year and artwork accepted in the annual exhibition at the Zanesville Museum of Art.



Jennifer Cruz



Harold Melia



Nanyi Qiang



Erin Smith-Glenn

THANK YOU, FRIENDS AND DONORS OF CHAS!

William Abbott
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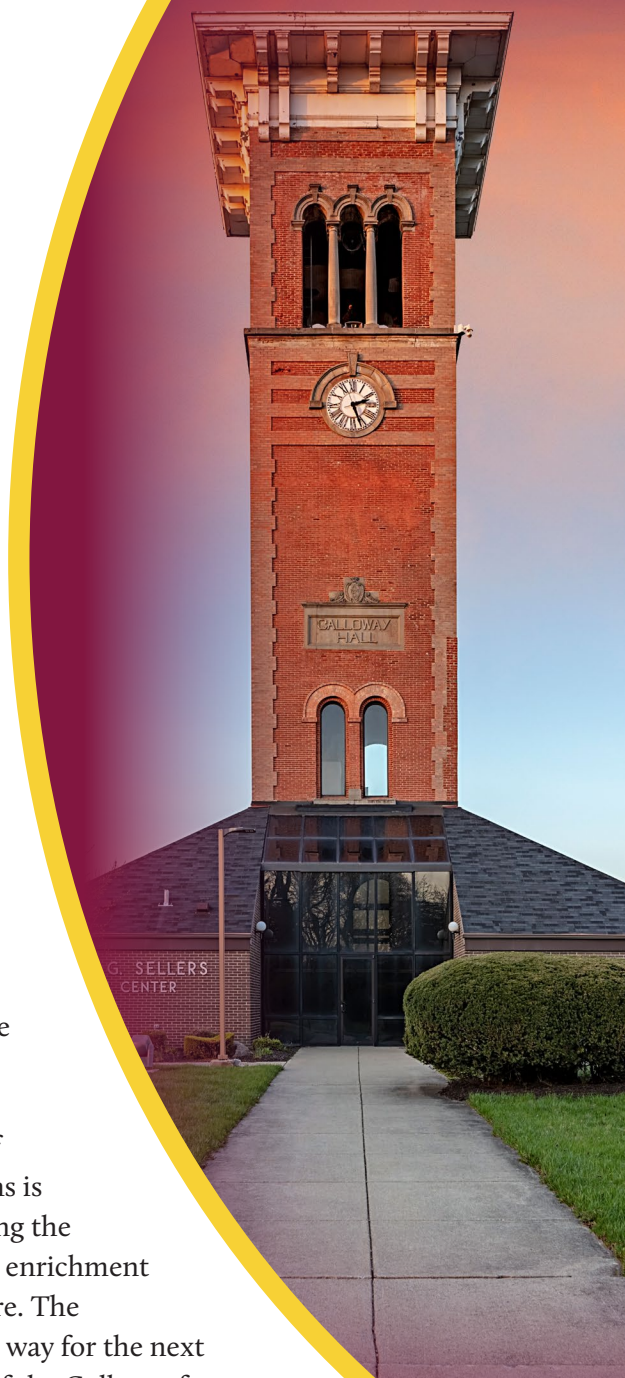
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Eric Whitehead

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Keith Aaron Perkins '82, has 42 years of public service. He has successfully managed community mental health, public health, minority health, chemical dependency, child welfare, criminal justice, and education programs with very innovative approaches. For the past 15 years, Perkins has been employed at Central State University as director of the Office of Alumni Relations in the Division of Institutional Advancement. Additionally, he is the executive director of the CSU National Alumni Association.

Perkins a 1982 graduate of Central State University, received his degree in Psychology. He is a charter member of the Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology. While attending CSU, he served as president of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. Nu Chapter, the Pan-Hellenic Council, and the Inter-Organizational Council. Additionally, he is a 2006 graduate of the Management & Training Corporate University.

Perkins is happily married to Lisa Renee, and they are the proud parents of two outstanding adult sons, Aaron Maurice (Tiara) and Malik Keith. Perkins is a longtime donor to the Friends of CHAS Fund, giving faithfully even during the pandemic. Perkins shared, that "The educational experiences and personal enrichment I received in Wesley Hall have guided me to a quality of life beyond measure. The University is no stronger than its alumni; therefore, we must help pave the way for the next generation." Thank you, Keith Aaron Perkins, for your dedicated support of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences!





Central State University Chorus



Invincible Marching Marauders



CENTRAL
STATE UNIVERSITY

**College of Humanities, Arts,
and Social Sciences**

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