



the
innerlink

SPRING 2021

*Socially distanced classes are still super fun!
Check out Holly Holsinger's Principles of Acting!*

Letter from the Dean



As we move towards summer, many more of us are being vaccinated. Along with this comes the promise of our being able to resume our former ways of being. The spring 2021 semester is our fourth pandemic semester and we have figured out ways to make it work. As always, I remain impressed and proud of how we have managed a difficult situation and been able to keep moving forward. That said, we are all ready to take some of the good things we've learned about operations during the pandemic forward and leave the rest behind. I'm happy for our students that we will soon be returning to our more usual way of doing things and I'm hopeful that the lasting effect will be a kind of resiliency that will benefit our students as they head into their futures.

The cover of this issue of "The Innerlink" highlights Holly Holsinger's Principles of Acting class socially distanced but still learning and having fun; this is how we do it. The college's School of Film & Media Arts, "Guest Speaker Series," and the Department of Political Science, "Careers in Political Science," created a speaker series this past year, in spite of the pandemic challenges. Both series were done via zoom with the hopes of in-person meetings next year. Zoom has provided us with a visual lifeline, but I think we are all ready for some 3-D interactions.

We always make sure that our CLASS Valedictorian and Scholars get recognized. Our fall 2020 valedictorian, Darlene Moorman, will be finishing up her Master of Arts in Global Interaction, completing the 4+1 program in the Department of Political Science. In addition, some of our CLASS scholarship recipients give thanks.

This issue allows us to highlight some of our generous CLASS alumni. In June 2020, alumnus Alan K. Nevel created the "Alan K. Nevel & Family Endowed Scholarship Fund." This new fund will support underrepresented students who are majoring in Film and Media Arts at CSU. Advancement was also able to secure the "William H. Roberts History Scholarship Fund." William "Bill" Roberts is a CSU alumnus and Project 60 student. Bill is committed to supporting CSU history students and is providing significant financial support through to the 2024-25 academic year.

Finally, there is much anticipation for the planned in-person graduation for our spring 2021 graduates, which will take place at Progressive Field on Saturday, May 15. Missing in-person graduation in the spring and fall of 2020 was difficult and we look forward to celebrating with those graduates soon.

Allyson Robichaud
Interim Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

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Faculty Award Recipients

2019–20 CLASS Excellence in Scholarship Award

Awarded late due to COVID pandemic

Andrew Rindfleisch
School of Music

2019–20 CLASS Excellence in Teaching Award

Awarded late due to COVID pandemic

Sarah Rutherford
Department of Art & Design

2020–21 CLASS Excellence in Scholarship Award

Samantha Baskind
Department of Art & Design

2020–21 CLASS Excellence in Teaching Award

Shelley Rose
Department of History

Staff Award Recipient

2020–21 CLASS Engaged Service Award for Classified & Professional Staff

Lori O'Laughlin
Department of English

Retirements

Faculty

John Ban
School of Film & Media Arts

Michael Dover
School of Social Work

Tama Engelking
Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Gary Pettey
School of Communication

Staff

David Yost
School of Music



CONGRATULATIONS

President Harlan Sands

The Board of Trustees at CSU announced that they voted unanimously to extend President Harlan Sands' contract through June 20, 2026 to continue CSU's "significant momentum."

Backlash

Libel, Impeachment, and Populism in the Reign of Queen Anne

By Rachel Carnell

A country bitterly divided between two political parties. Populist mobs rising in support of a reactionary rabble-rouser. Foreign interference in the political process. Strained relations between Britain and Europe. These are not recent headlines—they are from the year 1710, when Queen Anne ruled Britain.



In her engagingly written *Backlash*, Rachel Carnell tells the fascinating and entertaining account of the reign of Queen Anne and the true story behind the fall of the Whig government imaginatively depicted in the 2018 film *The Favourite*. As Carnell shows, the truth was significantly different—and in many ways more interesting—than what the film depicted.

The backlash began in 1709 when the Whigs arrested a popular female Tory political satirist and then impeached a provocative High Church clergyman for preaching a sermon repudiating the ideals of parliamentary monarchy and religious tolerance. The impeachment trial backfired, and mobs surged in the streets supporting the Tory preacher and threatening religious minorities. With charges dropped against the satirist, by 1710 she had written a best-selling sequel.

Queen Anne was careful and diligent in her monarchical duties. She tried to run a government balanced between the parties, but finally torn between the Whigs (including her longtime friends the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough) and the proto-Brexiteer Tories, she dissolved Parliament and called for elections. This brought in a majority for the Tories, who swiftly began passing reactionary legislation. While the Whigs would return to power after Anne's death in 1714 and reverse the Tory policies, this little-known era offers an important historical perspective on the populist backlashes in the United States and United Kingdom today.

Overview by the University of Virginia Press.

About the author:

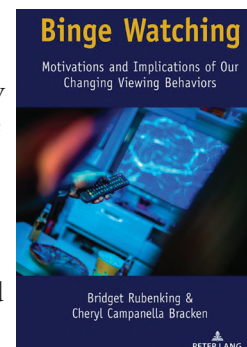
Rachel Carnell is a professor in the Department of English at Cleveland State University.

Binge Watching

Motivations and Implications of Our Changing Viewing Behaviors

By Cheryl Campanella Bracken & Bridget Rubenking

This book situates binge watching as one of several new television viewing behaviors which collectively contribute to a fundamental change in the way we view television today. Simply put, binge watching changes, or has the potential to change, everything: Engagement, immersion, attention to content and other devices, identification with characters and social engagement with fellow viewers, as well as content choices, and cable and over-the-top (OTT) subscription rates. Binge watching has quickly become a new norm in television viewing across audiences.



Binge Watching reviews historically significant advancements in the television industry and in technology that better enable binge watching, such as time shifting, increasing quantity and (sometimes) quality of content, as well as distribution strategies and suggestions algorithms employed by OTT providers. We situate binge watching as human-centered, that is, driven by innate human needs and wants, such as a desire to consume well-constructed stories and to connect with others. We also review the current state of academic binge watching research from motives and habituation to the (over-pathologizing) addiction-based studies. This text concludes with a synopsis of the central arguments made and identifies several areas for future research.

Overview by Peter Lang Inc.

About the author:

Cheryl Campanella Bracken is the interim vice provost of faculty affairs and professor in the School of Communication at Cleveland State University.

Bridget Rubenking is an assistant professor at the Nicholson School of Communication and Media at University of Central Florida.



Darlene Moorman, Fall 2020 CLASS Valedictorian

Fall 2020

CLASS VALEDICTORIAN

DARLENE
MOORMAN

Majors: International Relations and
Political Science

Darlene graduated *Summa Cum Laude*, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations and Political Science. She is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Global Interactions at CSU.

Fall 2020 CLASS SCHOLARS

RILEY BEISTEL

Major: Music Therapy

ANDREA BLISCIK

Major: Music Therapy

ELIZABETH BULLOCK

Major: Music Therapy

CLAUDIA CADOW

Major: Criminology

JARED CRAIGO

Major: English – Creative Writing

CAMILLE FERGUSON

Major: English – Creative Writing

ELIZABETH FRITZ

Major: Anthropology

Minor: History

DAVID HOLCOMB

Majors: Sociology & Social Work

LIBBEY JAEBLON

Major: Theatre Arts – Technical

AUTUMN KLOBAS

Major: Communication

SAMANTHA MEYER

Majors: English & Political
Science

MEGAN MORTON

Major: Criminology

LEAH REINHART

Major: Music Therapy

MORGAN RITTENBERGER

Majors: Linguistics, Speech and
Hearing & Health Sciences

JASIAH SCRIBNER

Majors: International Relations
& Spanish
Minors: Anthropology & Asian
Studies

REBECCA TOUSLEY

Major: Art History

Minor: Anthropology

RACHEL ZVARA

Major: Comparative Religion
Minor: Business

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Give Thanks

"We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives." —John F. Kennedy



RENEE SAROSY

Major: Social Work
Anticipated Graduation:
Spring 2024

Sarah and David Olenik Scholarship Fund

"Without scholarship patrons willing to support education, students such as myself would be unable to pursue their education. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, I have been struggling with financial instability. Your gift of a scholarship is greatly appreciated, and I am very grateful for the support I received."



JAMI BELL

Major: Social Work

Kathie E. Motheral Scholarship for Social Work

"This scholarship means the world to me since it will make my dreams of finishing my degree, and becoming a social worker come true. As a social worker, I will profoundly impact the kidney community on a micro, mezzo, and macro level. This will be in large part due to your generosity."



ISAIAH WILLIAMS

Major: Film & TV Production
Minor: Marketing
Anticipated Graduation:
Spring 2021

Ageleke and Lee Zapis Film & Media Arts Endowed Scholarship

"Your gift has helped me to continue my academic career without financial strain on myself and my family. Gifts such as yours inspire students like me to give back to our communities and invest in generations' success that follows us. I plan to use my CSU education to pursue a career in the film industry while creating educational filmmaking opportunities for underrepresented populations. Additionally, thank you for your continued support of the CSU School of Film & Media Arts and for facilitating opportunities for future filmmakers."



EMMETT PODGORSKI

Major: Theatre (Acting Track)
Minor: English
Graduated: December 2020

The Tony Weinert Theatre Scholarship Fund

"Thank you so much for my scholarship! It helped me out during my last semester at Cleveland State. Thank you for investing in the hard-working students at Cleveland State and for helping to make our academic goals come true."



The Galleries at CSU

SPRING 2021 EXHIBITIONS

From Tuesday, February 23 – Saturday, April 3

Here There Be Monsters by Laura and Gary Dumm and *Glimpses* by Evie Zimmer

In January 2021, Kendall Christian, Director of the Galleries at CSU, contacted both Laura and Gary Dumm and CSU alumna Evie Zimmer to invite them to display their work for a Spring 2021 exhibition. Though the artists expressed some concerns about exhibiting during the pandemic and committing to a rigorous condensed schedule, both the Dumms and Zimmer accepted the offer.

Laura and Gary Dumm's exhibition was entitled *Here There Be Monsters*, and Evie Zimmer's was entitled *Glimpses*. The Dumms submitted a proposal for *Here There Be Monsters* in 2019, and it had been approved by the Gallery Committee but had not been scheduled.

These talented artists were committed to meeting the expedited deadlines, providing text and photographs, and preparing their artwork for transportation and exhibition. They understood the challenges and risks and the rewards and

benefits of opening exhibitions in these strange times. Within one month, the galleries and artists produced a postcard and poster; wrote, designed, and printed a 16-page catalog; received and installed 37 artworks; and fabricated labels and text panels. With the exhibit opening in record time, six student employees along with the artists were up for the challenge of getting it off the ground and running.

The Dumms already have a significant presence on the CSU campus. This husband and wife team co-created the 60-foot mural that adorns the entrance to the Michael Schwartz Library Special Collections area. As with *Here There Be Monsters*, Gary drew and Laura painted the mural in the library, which is entitled *A Love Letter to Cleveland*. The mural features famous people and events from Cleveland's past, presented in their powerful, colorful artistic style. All are encouraged to view this permanent public artwork in person when Special Collections reopens this fall.

Careers in Political Science Speaker Series

In fall 2020, the Department of Political Science created a virtual speaker series.

This speaker series seeks to bring in practitioners from the fields that commonly employ Political Science graduates. They discuss and answer questions about how they got into their careers, what skills are most useful, and also give practical feedback about how to get an entry-level job in the field.

Topics to include in sessions:

- Skills practitioners look for
- Examples of similar organizations students can look to for experience.
- Examples of what they do during the day.
- Resume tips and other hiring quirks for the field (IE KSAs for federal employment)
- Develop potential contacts for internship placements.
- How their coursework helped prepare them for the careers

The first session was held in November 2020, where Carrie Alesbury—a Basic Education Advisor at Save the Children US, where she specializes in inclusive education programming around the globe—spoke about a leading nonprofit organization and how a political science degree can prepare you for a wide range of careers and advanced degrees.

In April 2021, Zack Porter spoke about careers in the federal government. Mr. Porter is a supervisor for the Washington DC Decision Review Operation Center and has spent 14 years working with the Veterans Benefits Administration in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The department hopes to continue this series beyond the pandemic with both virtual and in-person experiences.

CAREERS
in Political Science
SPEAKER SERIES

WAYS OF KNOWING

Public Opinion and the Fracturing of Democracy

On March 24, 2021, the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences held its 11th Annual Ways of Knowing lectures, “Public Opinion and the Fracturing of Democracy” with Dr. Qingshan Tan and Dr. Richard Perloff as the presenters. This event allows faculty to present research projects conducted during their sabbaticals to their peers.

Dr. Tan, who is a Professor of Political Science, presented the lecture, “Public Opinion on Social Justice in China.” He discussed how China’s rise has propelled China to be the second-largest economy in the world and produced an increasing socioeconomic inequality that undermines the legitimacy of the socialist political system. He shared the results of a national survey conducted in China that examined attitudes toward social justice, the findings of which indicate that most of those surveyed are more concerned about the overall benefits to society than the fairness of the processes and procedures.

Dr. Perloff, who is a Professor of Communication, Political Science, and Psychology, presented the lecture, “Why We Assume the Media Hate Our Social Group: Portentous Implications of the Hostile Media Bias for Democracy and Public Health.” Dr. Perloff explained the two components of hostile media effect and the importance of perceived vs. actual biases.

“You can’t have a functioning democracy if you don’t have a functioning media” – Perloff

He drew on research to explain when and why the hostile media effect emerges, why people think the media are biased against their views, and why we sometimes worry that media coverage will sway the public against our partisan group.

Both presentations examined different aspects of the perceptions of people. Dr. Tan focused on perceptions of justice in China, while Dr. Perloff focused on biased perceptions of the media in the United States.



From left to right: Dr. Qingshan Tan and Dr. Richard M. Perloff



From left to right: Erin Oselu; Heather Russell, Director, School of Music; Deborah Layman; Carol Olszewski; and Lori Lundeen Smith

School of Music

MUSIC THERAPISTS ADVANCE CAREERS

WITH NEW MASTER'S DEGREE AT CLEVELAND STATE

The School of Music at Cleveland State University proudly announces its newly accredited Master of Arts in Music Therapy degree program.

As the only music therapy master's program in Northeast Ohio and one of just three in the State of Ohio, Cleveland State School of Music is excited to offer practicing music therapists the opportunity to advance their careers and achieve the highest level of music therapy training.

Fully approved by the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) and accredited by both the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) and the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), the program is in its first semester. "We are so glad to be able to offer professional music therapists a master's degree on the Cleveland State campus where engaged learning helps careers thrive," said Dr. Heather Russell, Director of the School of Music. "We've worked hard over the past two years to secure faculty, align course offerings, and create capacity for this program and we greatly appreciate the support of CSU leadership in this endeavor."

The Master of Arts in Music Therapy at Cleveland State University provides advanced music therapy training as well as interdisciplinary specialization in the areas of health care administration, special education, health sciences, or mental health. Graduate students will grow in advanced clinical and research skills within music therapy as well as a select area of related expertise. "We are thrilled to announce this new degree program. CSU strives to set itself apart by offering advanced degrees to serve professionals and our community," commented Dr. Allyson L. Robichaud, Interim Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

The Cleveland State music therapy program partners with several community agencies and sites in Greater Cleveland, including University Hospitals, Judson Manor and Park, and Joseph's Home, to provide unique clinical training experiences. Enrollment is now open for Fall 2021.



CLEVELAND TEACHING COLLABORATIVE

Associate Professors Shelley Rose (College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences) and Molly Buckley-Marudas (College of Education and Human Services) founded the Cleveland Teaching Collaborative (CTC) in May 2020.

This collaborative is supported by the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, College of Education and Human Services, Department of History, Department of Teacher Education, and the university.

This interdisciplinary network of educators ranging from pre-kindergarten to higher education has created a community of practice around collective reflection, peer support, and pedagogies of care. The Collaborative's primary goals are to curate, share, reflect on, and analyze educators' experiences of remote and hybrid instruction to improve teaching, learning, and student success during the pandemic and beyond. The Collaborative fosters a professional learning community centered in Northeast Ohio. Part of this effort includes curating a resource referatory of over 700 educational resources from CSU and worldwide.

Visit cleteaching.org for case studies of pandemic teaching & learning, calls for contributions, and upcoming events like the monthly Assignment Design Café. The CTC is currently accepting submissions for the Spring 2021 cohort. The call for Summer 2021 will go live in May. The CTC is open to all instructors and staff – we hope you will join us!



CLE teaching collaborative

For more information, please visit class.csuohio.edu/music/mamusictherapy

School of Film & Media Arts

GUEST SPEAKER SERIES

AND DIVERSE VOICES SCREENWRITING COMPETITION

After George Floyd's death in May 2020, the staff and faculty of CSU's School of Film & Media Arts (FMA) asked themselves what they could do in response to help their students, many of whom experience systemic racism daily.

Many film students will be entering an industry historically fraught with racism and sexism. Spearheaded by the FMA Student Engagement Committee, in collaboration with Director Frederic Lahey, the **FMA Guest Speaker Series** was created to allow CSU students to connect with underrepresented voices in the film industry through illuminating conversations and spirited discussions.

Through the Zoom platform, the virtual series was kicked off in October 2020 with Venezuelan-American filmmaker Elan Bogarin, director of the feature documentary *306 HOLLYWOOD* (opening night film of the 2018 Sundance Film Festival). Then, in November, the series featured Sean J.S. Jourdan, a Latino screenwriter who took the top screenwriting prize at the 2020 Austin Film Festival. In the spring semester, Joe "Jody" Williams, Cleveland-native and cinematographer for the TV series *Empire*, and the new Eddie Murphy feature film *Coming 2 America*, was brought in. On Wednesday, February 24, the School hosted a body-positive activist and actress Jen Ponton, star of the AMC series *Dietland*, and featured on *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*, *Orange is the New Black*, and *The Good Wife*.

An unexpected off-shoot of this series was the creation of the inaugural **FMA Diverse Voices Screenwriting Competition**. Seeking to support underrepresented writers at the School of Film & Media Arts, former FMA Guest Speaker Sean J.S. Jourdan generously donated his speaker fee to establish this competition. Students were asked to submit an unproduced screenplay (maximum ten pages), which could take the form of a short script or an excerpt from a longer piece (such as a television pilot or feature).

Following first-round judging conducted by a committee of FMA faculty and staff, Jourdan reviewed the top five submissions. Senior BFA Writing and Directing student Madison M. Woods was selected as the recipient of the \$200 First Place Prize for *Circleville*, an excerpt from an original television pilot she is currently revising for her thesis project. Sophomore BFA Writing and Directing student Katarina Partika was also recognized with an Honorable Mention for her short script, *The Baby Doll Dance*.



Madison M. Woods

On winning the top prize of the competition, which will be held annually, Woods said, "As a graduating senior, winning this competition has been nothing but dream affirming and confidence-boosting. Even more so because it is the result of only a small piece of my thesis pilot script. But, the most gratifying part about this is that it's a story about a queer woman in a world made for men. Part of the reason I want to continue succeeding as a writer is because growing up, at a time when I needed it most (and even still do, as an ever-growing, realized adult), I experienced a severe lack of good queer and inherently flawed but marvelously strong women content. My goal is to continue to write these stories for women and queer folks as a means to satisfy, inspire, embolden and give hope to the little kids like me who longed to see themselves fully and authentically realized on screen."

Alan earned his BA in Liberal Studies in 1996 from CSU, followed by an MBA from Case Western Reserve University. He is Senior Vice President, Chief Diversity and Human Resources Officer for The MetroHealth System, where he is responsible for driving the human resources strategy to attract, engage, develop and retain a highly diverse workforce to fulfill MetroHealth's mission

while leading inclusion, cultural competency, equity and work-life strategies to empower employees. Prior

to his current role, Alan served as Vice President, Global Diversity and Inclusion for Thermo Fisher Scientific, a \$25B global life science solutions, specialty diagnostics, and laboratory equipment company. Alan also served in roles in diversity & inclusion, human resources, supply chain, organizational change, R&D, and production management for L Brands, Accenture, and the Sherwin-Williams Company. He has won numerous awards for his work and is passionate about giving back to his community. Alan is a member of Ethisphere's Equity & Social Justice Initiative Advisory Council and a Board Director for Urban League of Greater Cleveland, Recovery Resources, Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio, Karamu House, and The National Society of High School Scholars Foundation. Alan has maintained his active engagement with CSU as a member of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) Visiting Committee since 2016 and Chair of the Committee since 2019.

CSU holds an important place in Alan's heart, and he credits the university as being a foundation for much of his success. Alan struggled early on in college but recognized the importance of completing his college degree to achieve his personal and professional goals. Unlike other universities Alan approached, CSU opened its doors to him, and he excelled academically. "Completing my college degree was a very significant goal, and I am thankful CSU believed in me. I established this scholarship to give current students the same opportunity I had received to excel in their education and graduate."

CSU's School of Film & Media Arts opened in the fall of 2017 and is the only free-standing film school in Ohio. Currently, close to 400 students are enrolled in the school, representing ten states and countries. The Alan K. Nevel & Family Endowed Scholarship Fund will be awarded to underrepresented students of junior or senior status majoring in Film & Media Arts, with a preference to those who carry a 3.0 GPA who can demonstrate financial need. The scholarship may be renewable as long as the recipient maintains these criteria.

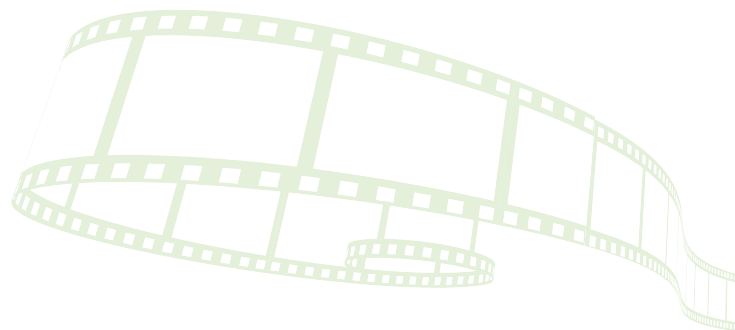
Dr. Allyson Robichaud, CLASS Interim Dean, stated, "I have come to know and respect Alan's commitment to promoting diversity, tolerance, inclusion, and success through his professional work and in his support of CSU. We are incredibly grateful for this scholarship. Through his generosity, Alan will enable current and future generations of underrepresented students to fulfill their dreams of completing a college degree and pursuing a successful career in the film industry."

ENDOWED

Alan K. Nevel & Family

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

CSU alumnus Alan K. Nevel remembers the moment he was accepted into Cleveland State University. "The admissions counselor said to me, 'We are happy to accept you into Cleveland State University. I hope you will remember to give your time, talents, and treasure back to CSU one day.'" Alan agreed, and in June of 2020, he fulfilled that promise by establishing The Alan K. Nevel & Family Endowed Scholarship Fund. This new fund will support underrepresented students who are majoring in Film and Media Arts at CSU.



Through the William H. Roberts History Scholarship Fund, Bill will provide a full in-state tuition scholarship annually and some funding for books and academic materials to a junior, senior, or graduate student in the history department. To qualify for the scholarship, students must achieve a minimum 3.0 GPA and demonstrate financial need; the scholarship may be renewable as long as the recipient maintains these criteria. Along with proving that they meet these criteria, the student must submit an essay. Bill has committed to continue this support through the 2024-25 academic year.

This is the second such commitment that Bill has made. His first provided full in-state tuition scholarships to history students from 2015-2020. In addition, Bill established an immediate-use scholarship for students studying abroad, which he will continue through the 2022-23 academic year.

Bill studied at Cambridge, Oxford, and Jerusalem University. He so appreciated these experiences that he wanted to ensure current students also have the opportunity to study abroad to advance their education.

Bill earned his MA in Education and his BA in History from CSU. An avid life-long learner, Bill has enrolled in several courses as a Project 60 student. He has especially enjoyed classes in subjects that he did not study as a student, including astrology, geology, philosophy, art appreciation, anthropology, and upper-level English classes. When Bill first came back to campus as a Project 60 student, he was amazed at CSU's growth. "I am very impressed with the new CSU," Bill remarked. "The growth has been phenomenal. When I started at CSU, there were only a few buildings; now the campus carries an impressive footprint in Cleveland."

Being on campus and sitting alongside students in class prompted Bill's interest in creating immediate use scholarship funds. One of the things he appreciates most about contributing to this scholarship is getting to know the recipients and learning how the scholarship affects their lives and education. "I appreciate the education I received at CSU and decided it was time to give back. I am honored to help current CSU students achieve their dream of graduating from college and becoming contributing members of society." Dylan Rutherford, a junior majoring in history and recipient of this year's Roberts Scholarship, said, "I am incredibly appreciative of this opportunity. This has truly been one of the highlights of my college experience, and I aspire to continue my education until there is no topic left undiscovered. Your generosity will never be forgotten nor overlooked."

CLASS Interim Dean Allyson Robichaud stated, "We are so grateful to Bill for continuing this level of financial support to our students. It is through our partnership with alumni and donors like Bill that we can maintain our commitment to excellence in education and ensure our students' success."

HISTORY

William H. Roberts

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

CSU friends and alumni provide the foundation for many academic programs and scholarships that benefit Cleveland State University and its students. The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences is pleased to recognize William "Bill" Roberts, a CSU alumnus and Project 60 student, for continuing his commitment to providing significant financial support to our history students.

CLASS Alumni Updates

James Primosch (BMus Music '78) is a composer whose work was featured on the album *Carthage*, released by the Grammy award-winning choir The Crossing. Primosch was also named the 2020 winner of the Virgil Thomson Award for Vocal Music from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Walter Woodward (MA History '89), an associate professor in the University of Connecticut's history department, is also Connecticut's state historian who released his newest book *Creating Connecticut: Critical Moments that Shaped a Great State*.

Matt Hopkins (BA Communication '92) is a senior online editor for AgriBusiness Global at Meister Media Worldwide.

William Perry (BA Communication '92, JD Law '01) was appointed to the Westlake Porter Public Library board of trustees.

Nina Turner (BA History '96, MA History '97), former Ohio state senator and Cleveland councilwoman, was the national co-chair for Bernie Sanders' 2020 presidential bid.

Matthew Castelli (BA Communication '98) is the mayor of Middleburg Heights, Ohio.

John Hughes (BA Communication '99) was named senior vice president of engagement and innovation for Rhino Entertainment, the Warner Music Group catalog division.

Ken Kucera (BA Communication '99) was named vice president of installed sales and manufacturing at 84 Lumber, a building materials supply company.

Melissa Gruszka (BA Communication and English '02) was appointed quality manager for Solar Atmospheres of Western, PA.

Dr. JeffriAnne Wilder (MA Sociology '01) was named the first executive director of diversity, equity, and inclusion for the Shaker Heights Schools in Shaker Heights, Ohio.

Ryan Aroney (BA Communication '07) was named president and CEO of United Way of Greater Lorain County.

Steven Jaworski (BA Communication and Film and Digital Media '08) is vice president of production and post for the A+E Networks.

Bradley Holuta (BMus Music '09) was selected for membership into the National Trial Lawyers' Top 40 Under 40.

Rebecca Repasky (MA History '09) received the Maple Leaf Community Impact award from the Chardon Area Chamber of Commerce.

Kate Warren (BA Communication and Religious Studies '10, MPA Public Administration '15) is an associate at the Center for Community Solutions, a nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank that works to improve health, social and economic conditions in Northeast Ohio.

Marlena Sanchez (BA History '11) is an instructional designer for the Association for Talent Development, an organization that supports those who develop employees' knowledge and skills worldwide.

Jim Tews (BA Film and Digital Media '14) is a comedian, writer, animator, and director who has appeared on NBC and FX.

Jeffrey Nau (BA Anthropology '15) used his combined interest in video games, history, and art to develop the immersive VR Museum, a virtual reality museum featuring works of art spanning from the 1500s to 1800s.

Blake-Anthony Johnson (MMus Music '15) was appointed chief executive officer of the Chicago Sinfonietta. Johnson, a professional cellist, most recently was the Louisville Orchestra's director of learning & community. Previously he has worked with the New World Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, and other organizations.

Audrey Winkler (BA Communication Management '15, MPA Public Administration '17) joined SHIFT, a consulting firm that seeks to engage America's workforce.

Ren (Arenne) Flanders (BA Political Science and International Relations '16) was named executive assistant and chief of staff for Elyria Mayor Frank Whitfield.

Eliese Goldbach (MFA Creative Writing '17), a steelworker turned author and professor, released *Rust: A Memoir of Steel and Grit*, recounting her days as a hot dipper and bander and forklift driver at ArcelorMittal in the industrial Flats of Cleveland, Ohio. Goldbach is now an adjunct English professor at John Carroll University.



CONGRATULATIONS

Martin O'Toole, BA English '82

In May 2021, the Rotary Club of Cleveland and the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship within the Monte Ahuja College of Business co-sponsored the Business Leadership Awards in conjunction with the Manufacturing Advocacy and Growth Network (MAGNET), the Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE) and the International Business Network (IBN).

Mr. O'Toole, the Vice President of Strategic Initiatives at Gojo Industries for Rotary Technology received the **Innovation and Entrepreneurship Leadership Award**.

GIVING DAY BREAKS RECORDS ONCE AGAIN

More than 2,500 individual donors supported Cleveland State University during CSU's eighth annual Giving Day on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. In one day, the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences raised more than \$5,100 in support of scholarships, departments, and the annual fund.

The 24-hour day of giving was driven primarily through social media promotions and an online crowd funding platform. Cleveland State University raised \$450,000 and counting across multiple colleges, student activity programs, and special projects, including scholarships, research, technology, and more.

Support from alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and students contributed to another record-breaking Giving Day. Collectively, individuals contributed to a 7% increase in donations compared to last year's campaign.

Thanks to all who made Giving Day such a success!

 **ANNUAL**
GIVING DAY
Cleveland State University
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021

DONATE TO CLASS:

Contact Constance Karapelou, Director of Advancement,
at 216-875-9838 or c.karapelou@csuohio.edu.