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Main Building construction projects improve energy efficiency

By Alexis Boesken

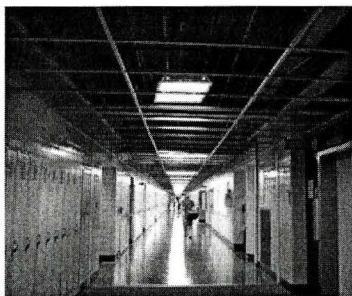
Jul. 3, 2010

If you walked through the Main Building during the past few weeks, you surely noticed the missing ceilings. On all three floors, for several weeks the overhead view featured the bare essentials—pipes, wires, and hanging light bulbs reminiscent of a mining shaft.

"It's all part of the construction we have going on [in Spring term]," Mike Cassidy, the building manager at Cincinnati State, said. "We have three different projects in the Main Building—two of them are just about finished, but the third is going to take up to two more months."

Cassidy said the first project took place at the start of the Spring term, and involved replacing windows in the Main Building.

The new windows are bigger than the old ones, which allows them to let in more light, supporting Cincinnati State's energy reduction plan.



Lighting renovation, phase 2: Getting brighter.

The second project replaces the Main Building hallway lights and ceiling panels. According to Cassidy, this three-week renovation project contributes to reduced energy use, and also improves the acoustics in the hallways.

The biggest maintenance project is the infrastructure renovation that will upgrade the power sources for all of the rooms in the Main Building.

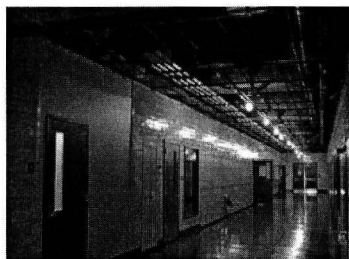
"Some of this equipment is at least 55 years old and outdated. It's time for them to be replaced," Cassidy said. "Not only are we upgrading our systems, but we're also reducing our energy [use] significantly."

Cassidy said that when the infrastructure project is completed, every third light in the Main Building will go out automatically at 11 p.m. and come back on at 6 a.m.

"This is basically to reduce unnecessary energy," Cassidy said. "There is no need to have all of the lights running when there are no students on campus."

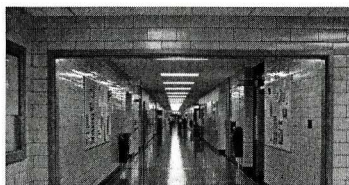
Cassidy doesn't think that the construction projects will interfere with classes.

"We're doing the construction during the term because there simply isn't enough time during breaks," Cassidy said. "I don't think our renovations will bring about any problems for our students. If



Lighting Renovation, phase 1: It's dark and gloomy.

Photographer: Ayesha Nurreddin



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Occupational Therapy labs moving to state-of-the-art training facility

By Sarah M. Kranjc
Jul. 3, 2010

Soon, students in the Cincinnati State Occupational Therapy Assistant program will need to walk a little to get to their new lab, but they probably won't mind.

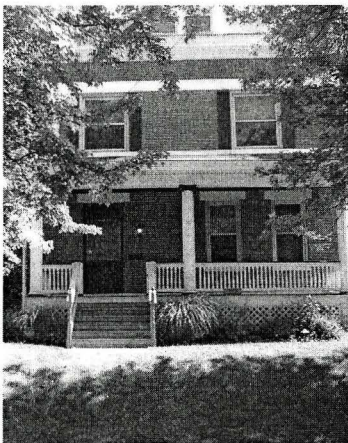
In Early Fall the Occupational Therapy students will begin using a state-of-the-art training facility located at 618 Ludlow Avenue, directly across the street from the Cincinnati State greenhouse.

Claudia Miller, Program Chair for Occupational Therapy, has been working on creating this space for hands-on training since 2006.

According to Miller, Occupational Therapy students to learn to help patients maintain their livelihoods, or daily living activities. The program focuses on the elderly and people affected by strokes or debilitating illness.

The program typically has 25 to 35 students enrolled at any given time.

The current lab is a classroom in the Main Building that tries to replicate home spaces such as a kitchen, bathroom, and bedroom.



In Early Fall, Occupational Therapy labs move to a spacious house on Ludlow Avenue.

Photographer: Sarah Kranjc

"If we have eight students in the lab, they can hardly move," Miller said.

"The initial thought [for the Occupational Therapy House] was that students needed more space," she added.

The house on Ludlow Avenue contains three bedrooms, a large bath, kitchen, foyer, living and dining rooms, and usable spaces in the attic and basement.

When Miller first viewed the house she knew the \$400,000 price tag was too high, so she began making phone calls to try and find support.

The house was donated to the school by a former stroke victim who had been helped by the Cincinnati State Occupational Therapy program.

Vendors of occupational therapy equipment will provide state-of-the-art materials to be used by students and others.

"The house will be a showcase of technology," Miller said.



The current Occupational Therapy lab tries to replicate home spaces in a crowded Main Building classroom.

Photographer: Sarah Kranjc

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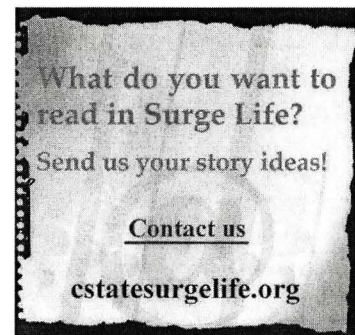
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Adult learners can get support to succeed at CState

By Hope C. Esposito
Jul. 3, 2010

Nearly half of all students enrolled at Cincinnati State are age 25 or older.

Statistics provided by Anne Foster, Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness at Cincinnati State, report that in the Early Fall 2009 Term, 5009 students, or 49 percent, were 25 years of age and older.

Michelle Ballew, a 36-year-old mother of three and a full-time Associate of Arts student, is a non-traditional student who has come back to school to further her education.

"I want to get a bachelor's degree in social work, so I can advance my career at the Talbert House, where I currently work," Ballew said.

Ballew said she has struggled at Cincinnati State because she feels the pace is too fast, that everything is rushed and no one has time to help.

Older students who share Ballew's sentiments and who may be struggling with the demands of going back to school can find support on campus from their numerous peers, as well as an organization created specifically for them: The Adult Learners on Campus (ALOC) chapter at Cincinnati State.

Sandra Dees, a College staff member who is the advisor for ALOC, said, "We seek to encourage, uplift, and motivate non-traditional students who may have been out of school for a very long time."

Dees added that ALOC offers workshops that provide hands-on activities such as computer training for those who are less comfortable with technology. ALOC also present seminars where College instructors speak on topics such as career goals and college success, and time-management strategies.

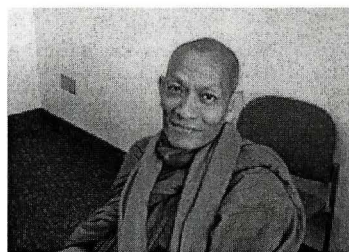
"Activities are supported solely through donations. We hold fundraising events like bake sales and grill-outs to raise money for the organization," Dees said.

Dees said ALOC has about 50 active members and the organization holds monthly meetings.

"ALOC acts as a support mechanism to ensure the success of students who have been out of school a long time and need extra help," Dees said.

Mr. Chey Chomneas Sok, a 51-year-old Cambodia native and United States naturalized citizen, has been chipping away at an Associate of Arts degree at Cincinnati State for four years.

Sok, a Buddhist monk perpetually clad in orange robes and sandals, has studied in France, obtained degrees from Cambodia and Russia, and is fluent in five languages.



Chey Chomneas Sok has been attending Cincinnati State for four years.

Photographer: Hope Esposito

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Cincinnati State golfers finish in top five at national tournament

By Nick Novy, Marketing Intern, Cincinnati State Athletics
Jul. 3, 2010

The Cincinnati State golf team placed fifth in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division III National Championship Tournament, held June 7 to 11 in Chautauqua, New York.

The Surge shot a collective team score of 1245 for the four-day tournament, only one shot behind Nassau Community College of Garden City, New York, and ahead of seven other teams.

Cincinnati State's Blake Harpenau, the conference player of the year, finished 10th in individual scoring, with a combined four-day score of 304 (76 strokes/round). Brian Warken placed 14th with a combined score of 307 (76.65 strokes/round).

The Surge were in third place after the first day of play, with a team score of 311. Rainy weather affected play on days two and three, and the team shot their highest rounds of the tournament, 314 and 315.

"The wet fairways, combined with the length of the course, really challenged some of our guys," Coach Scott Webb said.

"From top to bottom I think we could have played better in those middle rounds. But I was proud of the way our guys came back to finish in the fourth round," Webb added.

On the final day of play the Surge bounced back with their lowest team score, 305.

Three players shot in the 70s for the Surge on the final day, led by Harpenau with 72, while Warken shot a 74.

Adam Endres, who opened up the tournament with disappointing rounds in the 80s, turned in rounds of 76 and 78 as the Surge climbed back into the top five.

"It was hard for me to start out the way I did," team co-captain Endres said. "I wanted to come out and shoot two solid rounds that would help give us a chance to have a high finish."

"I was proud of the way our whole team came out the last day and performed so well," Endres said.

Monroe Community College of Rochester, New York, won their second consecutive championship title, with a combined team score of 1217.

Coach Webb said he looks forward to another trip to the national tournament in 2011. Five of this year's players are expected to return, including Harpenau.

"We have guys coming back who know how to win," Webb said.



Cincinnati State golfers celebrated their regional championship.

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CState students learn homeland security skills

By Melissa Ann Coleman

Jul. 3, 2010

In 2007 Cincinnati State began offering a degree in the field of Safety and Security Management, to address the need for graduates with these skills.

Safety and Security Program Chair Robert Baylor said that in 2006 a group of industry leaders met to address local needs related to safety and security. "This group led to the creation of the Safety and Security curriculum," he said.

According to Baylor, the Safety and Security field will continue to grow. "Unfortunately the world is becoming more of an unstable place, so the need for people trained in these topics is going to continue to increase."

According to the Cincinnati State website, the program prepares students for entry level or advanced management positions in the Safety and Security field. The curriculum includes course in basic law, hazardous materials, emergency response, domestic and international terrorism, disaster preparedness, and other topics.

Baylor said that technology used in the Safety and Security field is changing, and includes processes like biometrics, which uses electronics to positively identify individuals through fingerprints, eye scans, or hand prints.

Students enter the Safety and Security program for many different reasons.

"I was in the Navy for four years," said Vincent Jodice, a Safety and Security Hazardous Materials Incident Major. "9/11 made me want to enter this field even more."

Some students in the program are already working in the field.

"I am a Homeland Security Liaison for thirteen counties in Ohio and am involved in Civil Air Patrol and the Red Cross," said Lee McElwain, a Safety and Security Management Leadership Major.

In addition to classroom study, students gain experience with exercises like searching for hidden explosives attached to cars.

"The hands-on experiences have helped to build my confidence and show me the types of things I will be doing in this field," said Jodice.

McElwain added that the exercises "give me the confidence so when I need to perform in the real world I will have some experiences to draw on." Students gain co-op experience also with employers associated with Hamilton County's Homeland Security efforts.

Baylor said, "We are working to set up co-ops with the Cincinnati Police Intelligence division and we hope to add more agencies in the near future."



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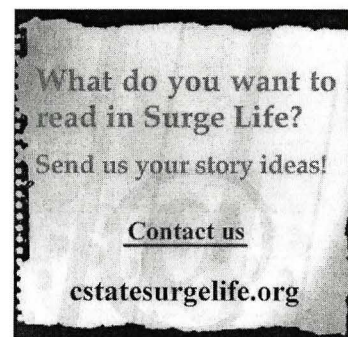
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Search for new College president continues

By Ashley LaCalameto

Jul. 3, 2010

A consultant who is helping Cincinnati State choose a new College president was on campus June 7 and 8. The purpose of the visit was to gain information from students and College employees about the characteristics and qualities of the next president. The information gathered will help the consultant develop a candidate profile.

The Presidential Search Committee hired the executive recruiting company Isaacson, Miller to assist in finding candidates. Michelle Cruz-Williams, Vice President at Isaacson, Miller, is the lead consultant for Cincinnati State's presidential search.

The Search Committee is chaired by College Trustee Mark Walton and includes nine other committee members who represent the Board of Trustees, students, faculty members, and other groups.

Cruz-Williams has been working with the search firm since 1985. "I am typically the person who does consulting for community college presidencies," she said. "I am proud to bring women and people of color into these roles."

According to Dr. Paul Davis, a faculty member who serves on the Search Committee, selecting a president is one of the most important decisions a college can make. "In the end Isaacson, Miller was the best choice for us because they will lead a national search to find the candidate who is the best fit," Davis said.

Cruz-Williams said she will use the information gathered during her campus visit to "complete the presidential profile, which will be shared with the search committee in draft form before it is made available publicly." The profile will be used to give potential candidates "as much information about the position as possible."

Davis said that he hopes the next College President is "someone who is a visionary, someone who can look at the College's past and use it to help improve the future."

According to Davis, the Search Committee hopes to complete its process in July or August. "When finalists are selected, students will have the opportunity to meet with them to talk and ask questions," Davis said.

~ More Information ~

Presidential Search - Cincinnati State

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New registration policy intended to help students succeed

By Roger Hodge

Jul. 3, 2010

Long lines at the Registrar's office might start forming a little sooner each term as a result of the new registration policy that went into effect in the Summer 2010 term.

Under the new system, a student must begin registration before the new term starts to avoid a late fee of \$100. Students who have registered on time can still add or drop courses during the first week of the term without paying a late fee.

Additionally, students are no longer allowed to register for classes during the second week of the term.

Students who begin registering for their classes during the first week of the term must have the course instructor's consent, and must pay the late fee.

Joyce Rimlinger, a faculty member who is co-chair of the committee that recommended this change, said, "The goal here is to help students be more successful."

"National research and Cincinnati State research shows that students who do not register before the next term starts are less likely to succeed," Rimlinger said.

According to Rimlinger, the new policy is meant to increase student retention, or how many students continue to attend school term after term, and go on to earn their degree or certificate, and better their future.

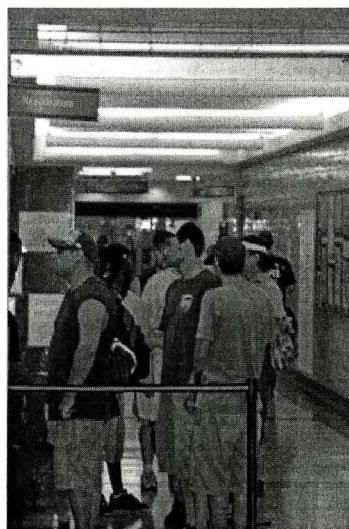
"This is not intended to become a new profit center for the College," Rimlinger said.

Rimlinger added that some of the funding the College receives from the State is based on measuring student retention. These funds provide services for students that improve the learning environment.

According to research data provided by Rimlinger, Cincinnati State students who register 22 or more days prior to the next term are the most likely to attend school four or five terms a year. These early registering students are also the least likely to drop out of college.

Rimlinger said that Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio, made a similar change to its registration system in 2003 and "retention increased substantially the following term and continued to increase for 2 to 3 years after."

Registration for co-op after the term begins will not require payment of the late fee, since employers sometimes decide to hire a student after the term has started.



Students line up to avoid the late registration fee.

Photographer: Dave Killen

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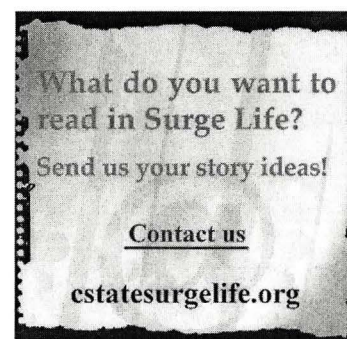
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CState hoopsters sign with Division I program

By Nick Novy, Marketing Intern, Cincinnati State Athletics
Jul. 3, 2010

Cincinnati State forward Rayshawn Goins and guard James Millen have both signed letters of intent to play at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, in the 2010-2011 season.

The James Madison Dukes are part of the Colonial Athletic Association, classified as NCAA Division I for basketball.

In his two years at Cincinnati State, Millen averaged 15 points and 5 assists per game. His great play as a freshman earned national attention and an invite to participate in the Jerry Muellens Junior College Top 120 Camp in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

More than 450 campers from over 40 teams took part in the two day event, which is considered a national showcase for junior college basketball talent.

In 2010, Millen was named the Cincinnati State's Male Athlete of the Year in recognition of his outstanding leadership and play, and representative of Surge athletics. A graduate of Cincinnati's Shroder High School, Millen is the first player from his high school to have an opportunity to play on a Division I team.

"Cincinnati State and Coach Tate believed in me and gave me an opportunity," Millen said. "I am thankful and blessed for the experiences that have helped lead me to this point."

Rayshawn Goins led the Surge in scoring this year, averaging nearly 23 points and 8 rebounds per game. The forward from Cleveland, Ohio, came to Cincinnati State as a sophomore.



Rayshawn Goins (33) will join the team at Division I school James Madison.



Surge guard James Millen will play next year at James Madison University.

"With Ray coming in, we were way tougher than in years past," Coach Andre Tate said. "Nobody in our conference could guard him. I expect big things from him in the future."

Despite options for some Big Ten programs, Goins chose James Madison and hopes to show his physical play and scoring abilities as a starter for the Dukes next fall.

"It was a tough decision for me, without a doubt," Goins said. "When I heard what Jay (James Millen) said about the program and talked to the coaching staff, I realized that there would be an opportunity to make an impact from the start."



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Newport offers entertainment beyond the Levee

By Roxie Blevins

Jul. 3, 2010

Many neighborhoods in the tri-state area offer arts and entertainment for individuals of all backgrounds. On the Kentucky side of the river, Newport is one nearby venue with a lot to offer.

Newport was established in 1795. Since then, the city has been known for its role as a military supplier, as well as for its notorious nightlife and gambling halls.

Newport was also a favored destination for some famous individuals, including Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin.

Today, the main attraction in Newport is the riverfront mall, Newport on the Levee. The mall features an array of indoor and outdoor stores and restaurants, attracting local residents as well as travelers.

"We visited the aquarium; the kids really liked that," said Laura Blair, of Owensville, who was in Newport for vacation.

"My favorite thing has been the [Coldstone] ice cream," said Cincinnati resident Kelly Walker.

Michael Murphy, who lives in Delhi, said he comes to Newport frequently to see movies at the AMC Theatre.

Across from the AMC box office, on the Riverwalk Level, is the gallery Art on the Levee. The art available includes paintings, photographs, matted prints, and even oil painted cornhole boards.

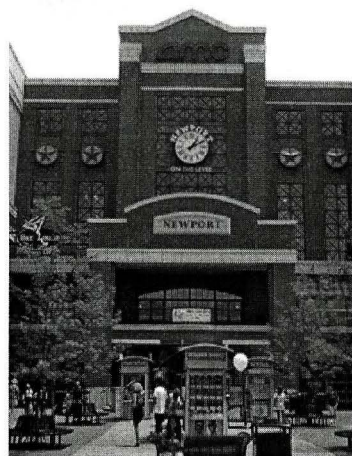
Art at the gallery can cost as much as \$3,000, but for the art lover on a budget there are plenty of affordable choices in the \$15 to \$100 range.

"We try to create a casual, comfortable atmosphere here," said sales associate Rebecca Lipps.

Also on the Riverwalk Level inside the mall is Tala's Distant Treasures, which features unique clothing and jewelry. Incense and tobacco products, including hookahs, are also sold at Tala's.

"It's a cool, fun place," said sales associate Theresa Muntel. "And it's a good place to buy gifts."

Next to Tala's is The Dragon's Hoard, which specializes in Renaissance era clothing and weapons, as well as fantasy items from movies, video games, and anime.



Newport on the Levee provides varied entertainment choices.

Photographer: Roxie Blevins

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Urban agriculture in Cincinnati could get a boost from CS certificate

By Sarah M. Kranjc
Jul. 3, 2010

Cincinnati State's Landscape Horticulture program and the Midwest Culinary Institute are planning a partnership that will lead to a future certificate program in Urban Agriculture.

According to Heather Wiggins, a faculty member for the Landscape Horticulture degree, the new certificate could be developed during the next academic year.

"This is being done successfully at colleges across the United States and would be an incredible opportunity for the College's horticulture and culinary programs," Wiggins said.

Students participating in the Urban Agriculture program would grow some of the food used by students in the Midwest Culinary Institute at Cincinnati State.

Wiggins said because there is not sufficient space in the Cincinnati State greenhouse, the produce will have to be grown off-campus.

"We are currently ironing out details of possibly utilizing free greenhouse and land space at Diamond Oaks for growing food year-round for the Culinary Institute," Wiggins said.

Urban agriculture is already taking place throughout greater Cincinnati. According to the City of Cincinnati website, the Cincinnati City Council launched the Urban Gardening Pilot Program in 2009, and renewed the program in May of this year.

The program allows city-owned vacant plots to be transformed into gardens for growing food. Potential farmers submit applications and, if chosen, sign contracts with the city.

Fifteen farms are now located in 11 different neighborhoods throughout Cincinnati.

One of the contract stipulations is that food not used by the urban farmer must be given away or sold at local farmer's markets.

Many neighborhoods now host these markets at least one a week. Items available in these markets include produce, meat, dairy, soap, and even homemade clothing.

Findlay Market, located on Race Street in Cincinnati, has been hosting local growers, butchers, and other sellers since 1852. The market is open seven days a week.

Hamilton resident Jason Rogers drives to Findlay Market every weekend. "I try to buy as much locally grown as possible. The food tastes better, it's cheaper, it supports the local community, and it helps the planet," Rogers said.

Neighborhood markets include:



Findlay Market is well known to supporters of urban agriculture.

Photographer: Sarah Kranjc

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