

Cincinnati State to change to semesters in 2012

By Dan Rosenthal

Nov. 5, 2009

Beginning in September 2012 Cincinnati State will transition to a semester system from its current five term academic calendar.

This transition follows a recommendation in the strategic plan of The Ohio Board of Regents, the coordinating board for higher education in Ohio, and the University System of Ohio, comprised of all public higher education institutions in Ohio.

Cincinnati State faculty and staff have formed committees in order to facilitate a smooth transition.

In a meeting to report on Cincinnati State's Semester Transition Project on Sept. 9, project leaders highlighted several promises to students that will guide the calendar change process. They include:

- The transition to semesters will not adversely affect the time needed for current students to complete their degree or certificate programs.
- The cost to complete a degree or certificate at Cincinnati State under the semester system will be comparable to the cost under the five-term system.
- The learning outcomes of degree and certificate programs will not be negatively affected by the change to semesters.
- Meaningful cooperative education, clinical experience, and other experiential learning opportunities will continue to be provided under the semester system.

In addition, committee leaders see the transition to semesters as an opportunity to improve existing curriculum and courses. "It's a fresh start," said Paul DeNu, Dean of the Center for Innovative Technologies and a co-chair of the Semester Transition Project. "It's a big opportunity to be fresh and make it good."

Ten committees have formed, including Program Advising and Articulation, Transfer, Calendar and Communication. Committee members represent Cincinnati State academics as well as administrative offices and staff activities.

Additionally, student input will play an important part in the transition process. Members of the Student Senate and Director of Student Activities Brenda Maples will provide a vehicle for student input.

While such a dramatic change may seem unnecessary to some students and faculty, the Board of Regents and Chancellor Eric Fingerhut of the Ohio Board of Regents believe the transition to semesters will create a stronger higher education community in Ohio.

The University System of Ohio strategic plan states: "The success of students, the integration of institutions and opportunities to improve efficiencies and trim costs would be bolstered by a move toward a common academic calendar across all of the universities in the state."

In addition, the plan states that the transition to a statewide shared calendar would aid transfer between institutions as well as co-op and internship work.

~ More Information ~

Semester Transition Project Website on Cincinnati State's site - <http://www.cincinnatiastate.edu/semesters>

Send questions or concerns to semesters@cincinnatiastate.edu

Ohio Board of Regents 10-year plan for higher education (press release and link to document for download) - http://www.uso.edu/newsUpdates/media/releases/2008/03/MediaRel_31Mar08.php

Honors program adds benefits to classroom experiences

By Mariah C. Crawley

Nov. 5, 2009

Students enrolled in the Cincinnati State Honors Experience get the chance to learn in creative ways.

According to faculty member Marcha Hunley, the Honors Experience Chair, the program gives students enhanced approaches for learning.

Honors courses cover varied topics but always count toward degree requirements in humanities and social sciences. Students with academic talents find success in the classes without feeling overwhelmed.

"We're more about creativity and engagement than we are looking for 4.0 geniuses," said Hunley.

Students in the Honors Experience said the program is rewarding.

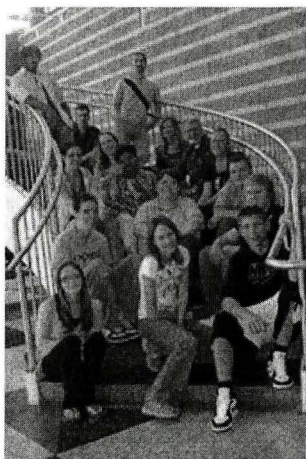
"There was a definite respect and trust between the students and the teachers," said Austin Clooney, an Associate of Arts major.

"It's a good experience all around. It's not as hard as it may seem and as long as you are willing to put in the work, it is definitely worth it," Clooney added.

Mikaela Foster, a Nursing major, said, "I enjoyed it because the structure was geared towards us actively participating in our education. As a class we were coming together and collaborating to make our education a better one,"



Honors Experience
Chair
Marcha Hunley



Cincinnati State Honor Students

Terry Endres, instructor for the Honors Experience course titled "The Science and Fiction of Science Fiction" said, "There's a misperception that the work will be so difficult that it cannot be accomplished. The Honors Experience provides avenues for students to make the most of their talents and to give them something a little more engaging and more challenging."

Charles Faulkner, a Cincinnati State instructor who has taught Honors courses at other schools, said that students and teachers appreciate the shared experiences of an Honors course.

"When you are with people that have the same goals as you, there is a different dynamic and the entire class drives the forward momentum to go beyond the regular experience," Faulkner said.

Hunley said the benefits of the Honors Experience extend beyond a few classes at Cincinnati State.

"Many Honors students go on to four-year schools where they continue in their Honors programs. One of our students has just recently completed her CPA exams and other students just use it to make their learning experience better," Hunley said.

Endres noted that the Honors Experience allows students to challenge themselves academically while paying Cincinnati State's low tuition rate. "A student who might otherwise be limited or intimidated by the high cost of an education has a chance to see what [an Honors curriculum] is like without risking going into severe debt," he said.

~ More Information ~

Honors Experience Director: martha.hunley@cincinnatiastate.edu

Honors Experience admission criteria:

Scores of at least 85 in both the Reading and Writing sections of the COMPASS placement test and scores at program level in math, plus at least one of the following criteria:

- High school GPA of 3.25 or higher
- High school graduation ranking in the top 20%
- ACT score of 26 or above
- SAT score of 1140 combined
- 18 credit hours as a current student at Cincinnati State with a minimum 3.25 GPA
- 18 credit hours as a transfer student with a minimum 3.25 GPA

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With enrollment on the rise parking difficulties increase

By Ann N. Osborne

Nov. 5, 2009

The current parking situation proves difficult for those who chose to park in either the Ludlow or Central Parkway garages. Long wait times for those entering and exiting and limited spaces are sources for frustration.

According to Michael Wylie, the Director of Environmental and Public Safety, parking spaces ran out on the first Monday of the Early Fall term. Wylie said "Mondays are usually our heaviest day anyway and we actually completely ran out of spaces for about an hour and a half."

"If the garages are full and Lot C is full we have Lot G, which is across the street... we have anywhere from 20 to 60 spots available over there," said Wylie.

According to Corey Lanter, an Associate of Arts major, "The parking situation is frustrating. I have to pay for a parking pass and parking isn't always available."

Some students that park in Lot G say parking there isn't bad.

Kristen Mayes, an Associate of Arts major, said, "It's not that bad later in the day. I may have to park towards the back, but I just walk up the steps to class."

Cincinnati State wishes to improve the parking situation as enrollment increases.

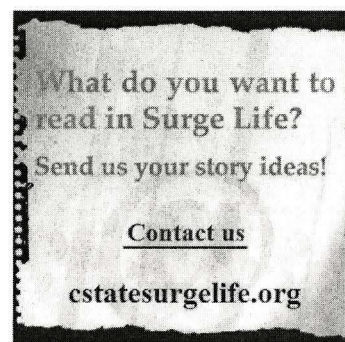
According to Wylie, the College plans to install a second exit in the garages. One exit would accommodate students and faculty with a parking pass and the second exit would accommodate those paying per use. Wylie did not specify when these additions would occur.

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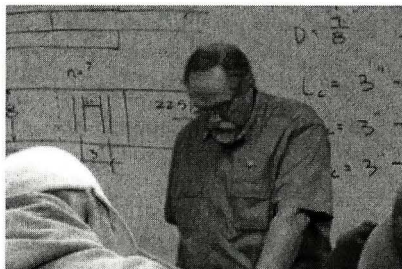
The brains behind the Surge speaks out

By Dan Rosenthal

Nov. 5, 2009

In 1993, Cincinnati State called for a new mascot; John Buttelwerth answered that call with "The Surge."

When Buttelwerth thinks of The Surge he thinks of the momentum and power of an electric surge. He relates these sensations to the effect that an education from Cincinnati State can have on your professional life.



John Buttelwerth

"I tell students every day that when you are my age you will thank yourself every day that you got this college degree. You can ride it like you ride a wave; this thing just keeps going," said Buttelwerth.

According to Buttelwerth, the average starting salary for Associate's degree graduates, at \$36,000, is \$3,000 dollars higher than the starting salary for Bachelor's degree graduates in the state of Ohio.

"It tells you that individuals who have their two year degree will do just fine," said Buttelwerth, referring to the higher wage for Associate's degree graduates.

A twenty-five year veteran of the Civil Engineering Technology department, Buttelwerth has witnessed many changes at Cincinnati State, including nearly half a dozen name changes.

"The single biggest change that affected the College would be when we switched to a community college and got the word state in our name," said Buttelwerth. He refers to the 1994 changing of the name from Cincinnati Technical College to Cincinnati State Technical and Community College.

"Changing to Cincinnati State helped bring a little bit of light to the College, back when we were changing to a community college. Because it used to be Cincinnati Tech [the identity] was just a vocational school. Having state helps because it gives us some credibility," said Buttelwerth.

"Cincinnati State was always considered the best kept secret in Cincinnati," said Buttelwerth. "The people who know us or went here or their kids went here love the place. They can't say enough about it. Everyone else hardly knew it exists."

Changing the Cincinnati Tech Tiger mascot to the Cincinnati State Surge mirrored the change from a technical college to a community college. The changes that occurred at Cincinnati State had "ripple effects" around the College, according to Buttelwerth.

Some of those effects are still being felt today, as Cincinnati State breaks the 10,000 student mark. "That's great," Buttelwerth said with regard to the growing student body. "It has been a number we have been looking at for a while."

"With a degree from this College the students are getting ready for their life surge," Buttelwerth said. "They have done the work to create the momentum, which is going to propel them throughout their life."

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CState sports teams provide opportunities

By Dale Helphinstine

Nov. 5, 2009

Cincinnati State offers students the opportunity to participate in several officially recognized intercollegiate sports: men's and women's basketball, men's and women's soccer, and co-ed golf.

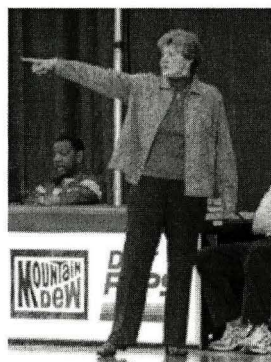
Cincinnati State Athletic Director Theresa Check said that all Cincinnati State teams play within the National Junior College Athletic Association, or NJCAA. Like its four-year college equivalent, the NCAA, the NJCAA governs the activities of participating two-year college athletics.

Cincinnati State teams compete in Region 12 in the NJCAA, which includes 28 colleges in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. Within this region Cincinnati State belongs to the Ohio Community College Athletics Conference, with seven other community colleges in the area.

Joining a Cincinnati State team offers many benefits. According to Check, Cincinnati State offers scholarships for athletics that can cover the entire cost of tuition. Last year the women's basketball team won the conference title. A victory of this sort might provide a student athlete with recognition from a four-year college that would allow them to continue their athletics beyond Cincinnati State.

Check also said through participation in Cincinnati State athletics, students will fulfill their interests and become part of a group of people who care about success.

The benefits don't end there, however. According to Check, Cincinnati State offers an excellent academic support system for athletes. Students participating in athletics have advisors to assist them with balancing academics and athletics.



Athletic Director & Girls Basketball Coach
Theresa Check



Cincinnati State's Mens Basketball Team vs. Edison CC

In addition, student-athletes benefit from having their classroom attendance monitored by the athletic department. This additional reinforcement ensures that students will stay on top of their academics during a busy athletic season. According to Check, the affiliation with a team provides unmatched mental and moral support.

The Cincinnati State basketball teams play their home games in the Main Building gym located near the Welcome Center. The soccer teams play home games on several high school

fields, and Xavier University's field. The golf team plays home matches in Middletown at Weatherwax Course.

Cincinnati State students can attend any sporting event at no cost with your Surge Card. Admission is \$5.00 for non-students.

~ More Information ~

Athletic Director and Women's Basketball Coach - theresa.check@cincinnatiastate.edu

Men's Basketball Coach - andre.tate@cincinnatiastate.edu

Men's Soccer Coach - mike.combs@cincinnatiastate.edu

Women's Soccer Coach - william.cagle@cincinnatiastate.edu

Golf Coach - Scott Webb - sw@wedowebstuff.com

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Wrestling club competes with a boom

By Theresa Johnson

Nov. 5, 2009

Robert Edward James III is a Cincinnati State student who hopes to become an athletic trainer. He's also the coach of the Cincinnati State Wrestling Club.

James, known to the group as "Coach Boom Boom," is in his second year as coach of the 6-man club.

"The club is preparing for their matches by doing basic fundamentals, and learning how to be a class act at all times, [to represent] the school and become a better person," James said.

James said the club does not receive any funding from the College. The club members pay the fees required to participate, and raise money to support their team by working at the concession stand at Cincinnati State basketball games.

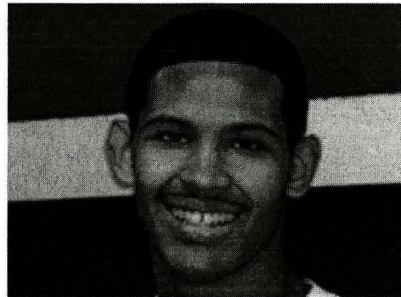
According to James, the team mascot is a praying mantis. "It's green to match the Cincinnati State colors, and the team prays before every match," he explained.

James said the team goal is to become national champions in the community college Division II club league. "We're taking nationals this year," he said.

The club's next match is Nov. 14 at the University of Dayton.

~ More Information ~

To join the wrestling club, contact Coach James at Boomboom4god@yahoo.com



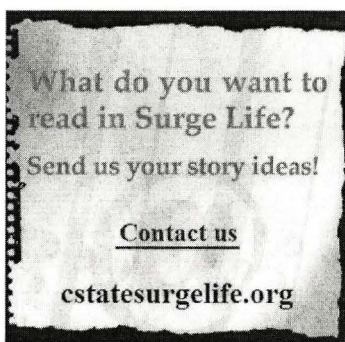
Coach Robert Edward James III

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Cincinnati State Men's Soccer on the right track

By Dale Helphinstine

Nov. 5, 2009

The Cincinnati State Men's Soccer team has been on a roll lately. They have secured the conference championship and have seen Coach Mike Combs grab his 100th win this season.

When asked what it meant to get his 100th win Combs said, "It shows that we're going in the right direction, and we're doing it mainly with the recruitment of local kids." Coach Combs actively scouts high school teams in Cincinnati and Dayton for the majority of his recruits.

Coach Combs' teams have won the conference championship five times. He makes his players strive to play their best.

"We have 25 guys and just about every one of them wants to move on to a four-year college, and four-year colleges scout this team often." Combs said. "So I make them earn their positions. There are no designated starters."

Next year Combs expects 22 of his current players to return. However, the soccer team will continue to play on a rented field. For home games, the soccer team uses high school fields and Xavier University's field.

Combs said he knows the College supports the team, but the lack of a field makes recruitment difficult in some instances.

Combs said, "It's somewhat disappointing not to have a place to call home."



Cincinnati State's Mens Soccer Team

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Women's BB Season Preview

By Dale Helphinstine

Nov. 5, 2009

In addition to her role as Cincinnati State's Athletic Director, Theresa Check is the coach of the Lady Surge basketball team. Coach Check discussed the team's prospects for the year with the Surge Life staff.

Q: Coming off a successful year how are you preparing the Lady Surge to repeat as conference champions?

A: We recruited students that were more academically successful and also played on winning teams. We also upgraded the schedule and established a more challenging pre-season conditioning program.

Q: How does this year's team differ from last year's team?

A: This year's team is a lot deeper at all positions. We will be able to continue to play our up-tempo type of game but have added size in the post positions and more quickness in the guard positions.

Q: You have only four returning players from last year. How will the abundance of freshman players affect strategy and preparation?

A: We are blessed to have some freshmen who came to us with high basketball intelligence. Our job as coaches is to blend everyone into a team that is unstoppable on both ends of the floor.

Q: How will your returning players assist the team this year?

A: Our four returners will contribute leadership on and off the court. All four of these young women are an integral part of the family atmosphere that permeates our program and they are committed to being good leaders.

Q: How do you set the bar for your team?

A: Our expectations are very high for these young ladies. However, it all begins in the classroom with academic achievements. We want each of our players to strive to be Surge Scholars (3.0 grade point average) every term. On the court, we expect their best efforts every time they put on the uniform. We want to repeat as OCCAC champions, win the Region XII District Championship and compete for the National Championship.

Q: Any message for this year's opponents?

A: Not really. I am more concerned with our team than with our opponents.



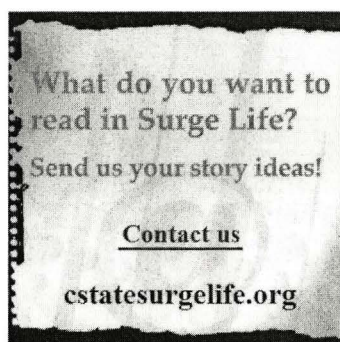
Cincinnati State's Girls Basketball Team vs. Owens CC

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Dining at The Summit: a culinary treat

By Dan Rosenthal

Nov. 5, 2009

Walking down the second floor hall of the ATLC building on Cincinnati State's campus no one would expect to find a fine dining restaurant, unless they knew to look for it. To those who don't expect it, the dining experience at The Summit provides a surprising treat. Those who know the Midwest Culinary Institute's reputation for excellence would expect nothing less from a restaurant run by and staffed by the Institute.



The Summit Restaurant

From the first moment I entered The Summit I was impressed with the professional, welcoming staff. I was immediately seated at a secluded table and within a moment a waitress, Danielle, and her trainee approached the table. Danielle informed me about the International Wine Flights menu, and suggested that I substitute it for a first course.

Each month The Summit offers what they call an International Wine Flight. October's Wine Flight featured five wines and an antipasto plate from Italy. In November, the International Wine Flight features French wines and foods. The International Wine Flights cost \$25 per person, and come with five half-pour glasses of wine and a plate of hors d'oeuvres from the featured country.

Danielle brought out the five glasses of wine first: two whites and three reds, arranged in order according to the menu. The first wine was Umani Ronchi Verdicchio; the second wine was Est! Est! Est! di Montefiascone; the third wine was Antonori Sabazio Rosso di Montepulciano; the fourth wine was a Vitiano Rosso; the fifth was a Mazzoni Toscana Rosso.

Along with the five wines, Danielle served an antipasto plate featuring various Italian foods to go along with the wines. The plate included various olives and capers, mozzarella di bufala in a Greek olive oil, parmigiano-reggiano, slices of different salamis and a broccoli and black truffle quail orzo.

In creating the International Wine Flights, Chef Matt Winterrowd wished to allow guests the freedom to choose which wines to pair with which foods on the antipasto plate. I enjoyed the combination of the salamis with the Vitiano Rosso, a blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Sangiovese grapes.



The Summit's Roast Turkey served with haricots verts, herb stuffing and sweet potato custard topped with a brûléed molasses marshmallow.

For the main course, I ordered the Roast Turkey, an exciting twist on the autumnal classic, the Thanksgiving dinner. The turkey was prepared sous vide, a procedure that involves vacuum sealing the meat and then slow cooking it in a hot water bath. This method allows the meat to retain its natural moisture and flavors. The turkey was covered in a turkey reduction and served with haricots verts, herb stuffing and sweet potato custard topped with a brûléed molasses marshmallow.

For desert I had the Assiette of Pastry, a sampling of the three deserts: Apple, Pumpkin Pie Soup, and Chocolate. The Apple was served with white raisins, chamomile and cardamom on a brown butter cookie. The Pumpkin Pie Soup contained cinnamon, rum, butternut squash and orange. Finally, the Chocolate desert was made with nutella, brioche, quince and orange.

Overall, the meal combined a forward-looking approach to fall flavors with Italian classics. I enjoyed an outstanding meal, superb service and great wine. However, with a fine dining experience comes a high price; plan on spending upwards of \$90 on a three-course meal for two.

The Summit restaurant is staffed with knowledgeable individuals who do an excellent job of making customers feel welcome. The Summit staff truly provides a fine dining experience on par with the best restaurants in Cincinnati.

~ More Information ~

The Summit opens its doors at 5:30 and closes at 9:00 each Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Obtain reservations by calling 513-569-4980 or going to <http://opentable.com>.

The menu changes seasonally, offering unique fare from around the world. View the menu at <http://midwestculinary.com>.

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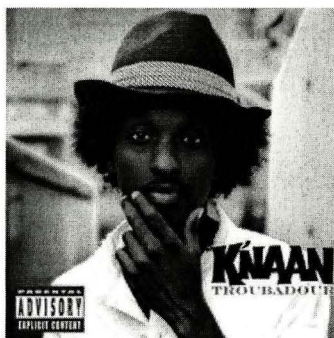
K'naan delivers a genre blending hit in "Troubadour"

By Dan Rosenthal

Nov. 5, 2009

Clearly Hip-hop artist K'naan has beef; beef with the clans and gunmen that have made his birthplace Somalia inhospitable, and beef with American rappers that call themselves gangsters.

In an interview on Current TV's "Embedded," K'naan speaks of the way American Hip-hop artist Nas inspired him in the song "New York State of Mind." The way that Nas portrayed the "Black American experience in the ghetto in America" showed K'naan that he could do the same thing for the "African experience in the slums of Africa." In many ways, K'naan sees himself as the voice of what he calls a forgotten nation.



K'naan's "Troubadour" Album Cover

K'naan, who has lived in North America since 1991, painted a vivid picture of the Somalian plight in his 2005 debut studio album "The Dusty Foot Philosopher."

The second track, called "Soobax" begins with an aggressive, snarling delivery, reminiscent of early Eminem: "basically, I got beef," and continues later "Mogadishu used to be a place where the world would come to see... My skin needs to feel the sand, the sun, I'm tired of the cold." The song concludes with a call for the end of violence in Somalia, "Somalia needs all gunmen right out the door."

Somalia, officially the Republic of Somalia, is a country located in the Horn of Africa, bordered by the Gulf of Aden, the Indian Ocean, Djibouti, Kenya, Yemen and Ethiopia. Throughout the first half of the 20th century Britain and Italy colonized Somalia. After becoming independent in 1960, the Somali government began a rapid descent into totalitarianism.

While K'naan left at the beginning of the Somali Civil War, missing a great deal of the bloodshed to follow, he certainly witnessed massive inflation, resistance movements against the government, and the oppressive totalitarian regime of Siad Barre (which toppled at the beginning of the civil war). In the years that followed K'naan's departure, civil war and anarchy tore apart the country; civil war still exists there today.

In an interview with NPR, K'naan described his last moments in Somalia. "Mogadishu was burning. The government is falling," he said. "And all the embassies are packing out, and my mother is able to get visas to the U.S."

In the same interview K'naan described why he thinks many American rappers lack credibility. "Where rocket-propelled grenades are fired around you on a daily ... a guy bragging on TV talking about how gangster he is?" K'naan said. "For us, it's more a source of entertainment. It's more like a comedy or something we watch. Say, 'Oh wow, that's kind of cute of American gangsters.' But it isn't hardcore, it isn't that bad. Let's get things in perspective, you know?"

In the third track from "The Dusty Foot Philosopher," called "What's Hardcore," K'naan lends some perspective:

"If I rhyme about home and got descriptive, I'd make Fifty Cent look like Limp Bizkit. It's true, and don't make me rhyme about you. I'm from where the kids is addicted to glue. Get ready; he got a good grip on the machete, make rappers say they do it for love like R-Kelly. It's hard, harder than Harlem and Compton intertwined..."

That's not to say that K'naan doesn't admire American Hip-hop; on the contrary, in an interview "Embedded" he calls the album "Mos Def & Talib Kweli are Black Star" a "milestone for Hip-hop."

Further, in the first two tracks of his little known independent release of 2004, "My Life is a Movie," K'naan pays tribute to Hip-hop giants A Tribe Called Quest and the late, great

Tupac Shakur through sampling and some fancy turntablism.

In his most recent studio album "Troubadour" (2009) K'naan hosted several familiar artists, including Black Star's Mos Def, Bob Marley's youngest son Damian, Maroon 5's Adam Levine, Metallica guitarist Kirk Hammett and old school emcee Chubb Rock. With the new faces came a change in voice, from angry and ferocious to hopeful and more upbeat, with a tinge of sadness.

Though the voice has changed, the message is still the same, the mean streets of Compton and Harlem don't compare to those of Mogadishu. In his song "ABCs" K'naan sings, "These streets ain't paved with no gold, matter fact someone stole the light bulb. Nobody fat enough for lypo, they don't teach us to read and write, so..."

While a lot of the subject matter has plenty of toughness and grit, K'naan packages it in a pop façade. That being said, K'naan and his new record have what it takes to succeed in the competitive world of American popular music: a unique sound, a compelling life story, some big-name guest acts and a lot of talent.

Some have criticized the album for its wide breadth, saying that it lacks focus and tries to accomplish too much. The album seems to span genres, perhaps because K'naan wishes to spread his artistic wings, or perhaps because K'naan simply doesn't know if he's a rapper, a bohemian poet, or a rock star.

"I Come Prepared" sounds a lot like a Lucky Dube track, with a reggae tone certainly influenced by guest Damian Marley. Recorded, like most of the album, at the Marley family Tuff Gong Studio in Jamaica; the reggae tone spans much of the album.

The album's genre transitions to alt rock in the tracks "Bang Bang" (featuring Adam Levine) and then to a harder edged rock song on the track "If Rap Gets Jealous" (featuring Kirk Hammett). Towards the middle of the album, in tracks like "Wavin' Flag," K'naan returned to past themes of the dangerous streets of Mogadishu, but the lyrics and voice show a hope for the future of his home.

In "Somalia" and "Fatima" K'naan replaced the anger in his earlier voice with mournfulness for the country and the people he lost to violence and warfare. "Fatima," a beautiful and haunting love song, tells the story of a young woman killed in Somalia. The song mixes world beats with an organ, keys, horns, strings and melodic singing for a unique sound that sticks with listeners well after the album ends.

"Is it true when they say all you need is just love, is it true? What about those who have loved, only to find that it's taken away? And why do they say that the children have rights to be free, to be free? What about those who I've known, whose memory still lives inside of me?" K'naan sings. "Fatima, what did the gun man say before he took you away on that fateful day? Fatima, did he know your name, or the plans we made to go to New York City?"

The highlight of the album, "Take a Minute," has the catchiest hook on the album, "And any man who knows a thing knows he knows not a damn, damn thing at all. And every time I felt the hurt and I felt the givin' gettin' me up off the wall. I'm just gonna take a minute and let it ride, I'm just gonna take a minute and let it breeze..." This uplifting message, along with the deep synths and keys are just what "Troubadour" needed to help finish on a high note.

"Troubadour" concludes with K'naan's attempt at a club track, "Does it Really Matter." The song has a fast tempo, rapid synths, plenty of snares and continues to poke fun at American emcees. "If you wanna make it hot then you better do a drop... If you wanna get a hit you better auto-tune this sh*t ... I do it my own my own my I do it my own way I do. If you do what you do your own way you could be famous too."

Overall, the album deserves high marks. With complex music, genre blending execution, smooth rhymes, entertaining guests and lyrics that seem at times like revolutionary poetry, "Troubadour" certainly has hit potential. Though, the album does have its share of near misses, tracks like "15 Minutes Away" and "People Like Me," K'naan's sophomore record certainly deserves a listen, or two.

Working at The Summit provides rewards

By Mariah Crawley

Nov. 5, 2009

Students benefit from working on campus at The Summit Restaurant, even if they are not pursuing a career in Culinary Arts.

Kurt Ruehl, a Biomedical Engineering Technology major, Kyle Nared, a Culinary Arts major, and Donna Schmitt, Dining Room Manager, make different contributions to the success of The Summit, but they agree that working at The Summit is a rewarding opportunity.



(from the left) Kurt Ruehl, Donna Schmitt, Kyle Nared

Ruehl has worked at The Summit since its public opening in May 2008. The Indiana resident appreciates the convenience of working on campus.

"Before I began working here, I had a two and a half hour commute [to work]. Now the drive is only half an hour," Ruehl said.

Ruehl had nine years of restaurant experience before joining The Summit staff. He said working in a fine dining restaurant gives servers the chance to refine their skills.

"At a fine dining establishment, you make more money than you would at a family-style restaurant. The customer's experience is different. Servers pay closer attention to details [and] are rewarded for meeting the customer's expectations," said Ruehl.

According to Nared, the restaurant's Maitre D', students working at The Summit learn the fundamentals of operating a fine dining venue.

"The difference is in the details," said Nared. "You have to make sure there are different courses and different silverware settings that go properly with each course. There's crumbing (defined as the practice of clearing debris from the table between courses), and different styles of food preparation, plating and then the explanation of it [to the customer]."

Schmitt said, "Servers have to know which ingredients are featured in each dish and how it will be prepared and served. They have to know the menu backwards and forwards."



As a result of the staff's diligence, The Summit received the 2009 Diners' Choice Award from OpenTable.com.

Schmitt, who has worked for local dining establishments including Mesh, The Maisonette and Chester's Roadhouse, said she looks for experience in restaurant work when hiring students for The Summit staff. However, those with less experience will be considered.

"You start out as a busser or a food runner and move your way up," she said. "After working here [students] could go to any other fine dining establishment equipped with what they need to hit the ground running," said Schmitt.

Nared and Ruehl agree that being part of The Summit staff requires professionalism, attention to detail, and a willingness to learn.

Nared said, "Donna uses her experiences to mentor and shape every individual working at The Summit so that we can be successful in the future."

"I was not a wine connoisseur but I learned it as a part of my server training," said Ruehl. "Expect nothing but the best when you come to The Summit--even when it comes to learning."

Multimedia Capstone course challenges students' skills

By Mark Lieberman

Nov. 5, 2009

The concept of a comprehensive undergraduate class is not new, and the term "capstone" has been used in engineering circles for many years. However, the Capstone course in Cincinnati State's Multimedia Information Design (MID) Department offers a unique approach to this academic activity.

"We're not aware of any university that has such a multifaceted program," said Pam Ecker, Director of the Technical and Professional Communication Certificate program, and a member of the faculty team that directs the MID Capstone course.



(from the left) Jim Schroeder, James Bailey, George Zeis

In the MID Capstone, students work on teams with four to seven other students, sometimes with as many as four different majors represented. This cross-disciplinary approach simulates a real work environment and allows students with different skill sets to perform "real-world work for a real client," said Ecker.

Paul DeNu, Dean of the Center for Innovative Technologies, said that while "all the Information Technology programs have a capstone course, the multimedia program is the most involved."

Student teams in the MID Capstone meet course requirements by preparing materials for businesses or non-profit organizations.

Cincinnati State has a long history of working closely with companies outside the school through its co-op program. Capstone differs from the co-op program in that "it is a class in structure, with instructors directing the teams," said Ecker. Prospective clients understand that this "is an educational experience."

"In capstone the students are the production entity, the CEO, and the creative managers," DeNu said.

"There's a lot to think about," said Jake Pfister, an Audio/Video Production major. "And it's a lot of work. We basically live here (in the project room) this term. When you take Capstone, you can kiss your weekends goodbye."

Four instructors guide and critique the student teams. The instructors take multiple roles managing creative processes, coaching students' presentation skills, and teaching students how to balance creative insights with client demands.

"You get to see a lot of views of your work," said George Zeis, also an Audio/Video Production major. "And sometimes the instructors contradict each other. My work's gone through at least seven revisions. Getting criticism from four program chairs [is] pretty rough. It can get pretty heated."

Pfister said that the tough criticism forces students to hone their skills. "The end product turns out great. Something to be proud of."

Projects generally focus on brand identity and promotion, but clients have diverse needs. Zeis' team produced materials for Missy DeGroot, promoting her high-end line of fashion handbags. Pfister's created a marketing campaign for Vision Trail, a new non-profit organization supporting the arts, culture, and heritage of Appalachia. A third team created materials for the Cincinnati Food and Wine Festival.

"It's very gratifying to see a client's goals met," said Ecker, "and to see materials [that were produced by students] in use."

MID Capstone classes present their projects to clients during Spring and Early Fall terms in the ATLC auditorium. Attendance is open to the Cincinnati State college community.

DeNu said that "by attending presentations outside of your discipline, you can learn presentation methods, client interface techniques, and communication skills."

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Phi Theta Kappa isn't just for resume enhancement

By Mariah Crawley

Nov. 5, 2009

Membership in the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society at Cincinnati State gives students access to scholarship funds and an opportunity to serve their community.

"This is an organization of like-minded leaders that can make an impact," said Phi Theta Kappa President Mikaela Foster, a Nursing student.



PTK president Mikaela Foster

To be eligible for Phi Theta Kappa membership, a student must complete at least 12 hours of coursework that may be applied to an associate degree, and must have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. Both full-time and part-time students are eligible.

Eligible students receive a membership invitation from the chapter. After accepting the invitation, members attend an induction ceremony that provides recognition and an opportunity to meet other members.

According to Phi Theta Kappa advisor Dr. Tom Kober, a faculty member in the Biology Department, the Cincinnati State Chapter has nearly 500 inducted members, but fewer than 30 participate in chapter meetings or events.

Foster recognizes that some students join Phi Theta Kappa only so they can list the honor society on their resume. She hopes that more students will join the organization's activities to "be part of something greater."

Foster wants students to consider becoming actively involved in Phi Theta Kappa mixer events and activities after the induction ceremony. Current plans include a fundraising event and a food drive.

"This is an experience that you will gain a lot from," said Foster.

Nina Herbert, a double-major in International Trade Management and Pre-Business Administration, joined Phi Theta Kappa because of the scholarships and other assistance provided for members.

"It opens up opportunities that you may not be aware of," said Herbert.

Phi Theta Kappa provides over \$36 million in transfer scholarships nationwide. Cincinnati State Chapter members have access to transfer scholarships for The College of Mount Saint Joseph, Xavier University and the University of Cincinnati.

Herbert said that in addition to scholastic benefits, membership provides a source of respect and admiration from others.

"Remember that when your kids grow up they are going to be looking at you. Being involved in an organization like Phi Theta Kappa not only gives you an edge, but it inspires others around you," said Herbert.

~ More Information ~

Contact Phi Theta Kappa Advisor Dr. Tom Kober by email at Thomas.Kober@cincinnatiastate.edu

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Editorial

By Dan Rosenthal

Nov. 5, 2009

Our Mission Statement:

We, the staff of Surge Life, the interactive, student driven publication of Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, will cover relevant news, sports, and culture in a reliable, impartial manner. We will improve the lives of our audience and strengthen our community through the delivery of pertinent information.

It pleases us to offer the first issue of Surge Life to the Cincinnati State community.

Throughout the year, Surge Life staff members will strive to provide a consistent source of communication and information for our community. We will try to keep our readers informed of newsworthy events on campus and in the surrounding area. We will endeavor to cover Cincinnati State athletics and to provide a window to the life, style, arts and entertainment interests of the Cincinnati State community. Finally, we will provide a medium for the expression of the many voices of Cincinnati State through letters to the editor.

In the near future, we expect to take greater advantage of the unique possibilities offered by an online publication. We will provide additional multimedia content and offer more opportunities for reader interaction.

We have an initial staff small in number but great in enthusiasm and talent. We invite and encourage other students to join us in helping Surge Life reach its full potential.

For those with an interest in journalism, public relations, broadcasting, or other communication fields, there are clear benefits of working at Surge Life. Membership on the Surge Life staff will provide opportunities to build a portfolio and gain valuable experience, while providing a service to the College community. Students in some majors can also earn co-op credit while working on Surge Life.

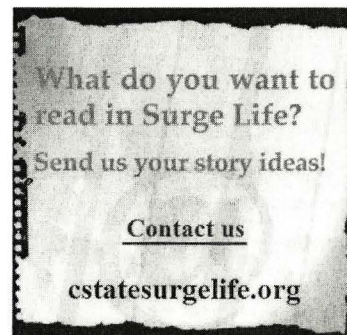
Even if you have no intention of pursuing a career in journalism, we encourage you to consider assisting with Surge Life. Our staff members must demonstrate teamwork, responsibility, ability to meet deadlines, interviewing techniques, and written and spoken communication skills.

These proficiencies will prove valuable assets in any career. And for those who intend to transfer to a four-year institution, participation in a campus news publication looks great on a resume.

If you want to assist us, or if you have comments, ideas, or suggestions for Surge Life, we want to hear from you. Please use our feedback form to let us know your thoughts.

Whether you join us as a staff member or support us as a loyal and engaged reader, we look forward to your contributions to a successful future for Surge Life.

Sincerely yours,
Daniel Rosenthal
News Editor



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November

2009

6 & 7 - (Friday & Saturday)

Men's and Women's Basketball Tipoff Classic (Away)

7 - (Saturday)

Men's Soccer, District Finals

9 - (Monday)

Classes End - Early Fall Term

11 - (Wednesday)

College Closed for Veteran's Day

Men's Basketball Game vs. Indiana East JV (Home) @ 7:00pm

13 - (Friday)

2009 Early Fall Term grades available in the afternoon on CState Website

Women's Cincinnati State Classic Basketball Game vs. Rend Lake CC (Home) @ 7:00pm

14 - (Saturday)

Women's Cincinnati State Classic Basketball Game vs. Schoolcraft CC (Home) @ 3:00pm

16 - (Monday)

WEB Registration for Late Fall Term Ends

Men's Basketball Game vs. Miami Hamilton (Home) @ 7:00pm

17 - (Tuesday)

Classes Begin for the Late Fall Term

Women's Basketball Game vs. Wabash CC (Home) @ 7:00pm

19 - (Thursday)

Last Day to Petition to Graduate in the 2010 Winter Term

Men's Soccer Nationals Elite 8 (Away)

20 - (Friday)

Men's Soccer Nationals Final 4 (Away)

21 - (Saturday)

Cincinnati Storyteller Guild (Tellebration) @ 8:00pm in the ATLC Auditorium

Men's Basketball Game vs. WPAFB (Home) @ 3:00pm

Women's Louisburg CC Classic Basketball Game vs. Louisburg (Away) @ 1:00pm

22 - (Sunday)

Women's Louisburg CC Classic Basketball Game vs. Guilford Tech CC (Away) @ 12:00pm

Men's Soccer Nationals Championship (Away)

23 - (Monday)

Last Day to Drop Late Fall Term Classes

24 - (Tuesday)

Thanksgiving Lunch @ 11:30am in the Overlook Cafeteria

Thanksgiving Dinner for Night Students @ 5:00pm

26 & 27 - (Thursday & Friday)

College Closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday

27 & 28 - (Friday & Saturday)

Men's Basketball, Kankakee Tourney (Away)

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December

2009

7 - (Monday)

Men's Basketball Game vs. Olive Harvey (Away) @ 7:00pm

Women's Basketball Game vs. Olive Harvey CC (Away) @ 5:00pm

5 - (Saturday)

Cookies with Santa @ 10:00am in the ATLC

14 - (Monday)

Men's Basketball Game vs. Miami Hamilton (Home) @ 7:00pm

15 - (Tuesday)

Men's Basketball Game vs. Miami Hamilton (Away) @ 7:00pm

17 - (Thursday)

Women's Basketball Game vs. Wabash Valley CC (Away) @ 5:30pm

18 & 19 - (Friday & Saturday)

Men's Basketball, Kennedy King Tourney (Away)

24-31 - (Thursday-Thursday)

College Closed for Winter Break

28-30 - (Monday-Wednesday)

Women's Illinois Central CC Basketball Tournament (Away)

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