



4.0

CLEVELAND
STATE
UNIVERSITY

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JACK, JOSEPH
AND MORTON
MANDEL
HONORS
COLLEGE
NEWSLETTER

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Dr. Rachel Carnell Is Appointed

By Mariam Soliman

In May 2022, after the departure of Dr. Elizabeth Lehfeldt from her position as dean of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Honors College, it was announced that accomplished long-time Cleveland State researcher, leader, and academic Dr. Rachel Carnell, PhD, would serve as the interim dean. In an interview for *4.0*, Dr. Carnell talks about her new position as the Dean of the Mandel Honors College.

Could you give some sense of your background before becoming the new Dean of the Mandel Honors College?

I began my career at Cleveland State in 1994 as a professor of eighteenth-century British literature, and I always enjoyed mentoring Honors English majors. It has been great to connect as Dean with Honors students not just in English but in every department across campus.

The interdisciplinary nature of the Mandel Honors College—with students in every major—mirrors my own academic trajectory, which began with academic books focused on the political history of the British novel and has expanded in recent years to broader questions about humanity and its capacity to address real world problems.

My most recent book is a multi-disciplinary collection of essays, *Stewardship and the Future of the Planet: Promise and Paradox*. My desire to connect traditional humanities research to contemporary real-world problems mirrors the Mandel Foundation's belief that a humanistic foundation is essential for leaders attempting to make the world a better place.

What has the transitions been like for you, from English professor to dean?

The transition has been smooth in part because I had been teaching at Cleveland State for almost three decades and was well connected across campus. I was an officer on the Faculty Senate just before becoming Honors Dean, so I had come to know faculty senators from every college. Previous to that role, I had served as Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees, where I learned to consider the big picture of the whole university. As Honors Dean, I really enjoy shifting back and forth between two perspectives: the big-picture goals of the Honors College and the individualized needs and experiences of every Honors student.



How were you selected as the interim Dean of the Honors College?

When Dean Lehfeldt stepped down last spring, there was not time in the academic calendar to start a full national search for a new dean, so the CSU provost launched an "internal" search (open only to applicants from Cleveland State) for the role of "interim" dean, with a twelve-month appointment. A search committee of faculty and staff was formed that reviewed applications and interviewed all of us who applied. The top three candidates were also interviewed by the new provost, Dr. Sridhar, who made the final selection.

What are some of the new initiatives you are overseeing as the new dean?

Recognizing the Mandel Foundation's emphasis on the humanities, I have launched a series of themed outings for Honors students called "Humanities in

Mandel Honors College Interim Dean

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the City." This past semester, I led students twice to exhibitions at the Galleries at CSU. We also took the RTA bus together to the Anisfield-Wolf Book awards in University Circle in September and in November to a special curator talk at the Cleveland Museum of Art about the exhibit "Tales of the City."

I am also preparing to initiate some "City as Text" themed activities. City as Text is a foundational component of many Honors programs; it teaches students to read the city (or any location) around them, ask probing questions, and draw conclusions about what they notice and about themselves as observers. These activities help spur intellectual curiosity and develop self-awareness. Next year, we will be introducing this approach to education at New Student Orientation, with a "Campus as Text" activity.

Beyond this programming for students, I am also overseeing the transition from old-fashioned paper applications to an electronic admissions process—whereby all students will see the option of applying to Honors as they complete their online application to CSU. We hope this process will generate a larger and more diverse applicant pool as we expand and diversify the Mandel Honors College, according to the vision outlined in CSU 2.0.

I am also interested in getting to know more of our Honors alumni. I do keep in touch with some Honors alumni from the English department, and I'm hoping to start organizing soon an alumni gathering so we can start conversations and find out what was the most meaningful part of their experience here in the Mandel Honors College. We also are looking towards the 10th anniversary of the Honors College, which was endowed by the Mandel Foundation in 2014. So, I plan to use that as a touchstone to take stock of what has been accomplished in the past decade and plan for what we can accomplish in the next decade.

What is the dean's most important role?

The Dean's most important role is to be a leader, and to inspire students. I hope to inspire Honors students to think of themselves as future leaders and problem solvers for the city, the region, and beyond.

What is the difference between a manager and a dean?

A manager is involved with the day-to-day detail. A dean asks the big questions: How are we nurturing students' curiosity? How are we encouraging them to ask new questions about the world around them? Within that visionary framework, the dean is very involved in the admissions process, since every student we accept helps shape the college's identity. Curriculum is also central: I work with faculty in all departments across campus to make sure we're offering the right kind of courses for Honors students. Additionally, I have the pleasure of teaching several sections of Honors 101, our introduction to student life, and of Honors 200, our co-curricular courses. I'll be teaching a section of HON 200 in Spring 2023 on "Narratives of Leadership and Resilience." For Spring 2024, I'm developing a section called "The Edge of Knowledge."

What special challenges are associated with being the Dean of the Honors College compared to being a dean of one specific department?

Something that some might consider a challenge is actually something that I see as an advantage: that we enroll students from every single other college and every academic major across the university. Likewise, it is a pleasure that I have faculty representatives on Honors Council from every college on campus.

What, or who, influenced your decision to apply to this position?

Both of my parents were academic administrators (one at a community college and one at a private school), so educational administration was the topic of dinner-table conversation as I was growing up. They were both enthusiastic about my becoming a department chair or a dean, for many years, however, I resisted that nudge. I love teaching; I love writing research articles and academic books. In previous decades, whenever anyone asked me about applying for a leadership role at the university, I always declined. Now, however, the time felt right. Unfortunately, both of my parents have passed away, so it is bittersweet for me to think that I cannot share with them, particularly with my mom, how much I am enjoying this job.





Cultural Concerns at Cleveland State

By Brian K. Brooks

LGBTQIA+ Issues

Culture within CSU is an important topic, and a major part of that culture is CSU's approach for LGBTQIA+ individuals. CSU's vision aspires to be "a beacon institution whose vitality attracts diverse and talented students, faculty, and staff from within and outside the region, thereby enhancing our distinctive and inclusive living, learning, and working environments." CSU's values underline that it is committed to ensuring that "all voices are heard, and all are treated with dignity and respect." The worry that a campus might be unaccepting and even potentially dangerous is something that many newer students face when considering universities.

In informal interviews, numerous students mentioned that they had some apprehension regarding CSU due to incidents that had occurred previously on campus. One of these incidents involved flyers encouraging LGBTQIA+ individuals to self-harm during 2017. The CSU president's (Ronald Berkman) initial response, which stressed the importance of free speech, prompted notable backlash, which in turn prompted an apology and a promise to do better. Since 2017, CSU has definitely come a long way in regard to its promise to make the campus a safe place for LGBTQIA+ students. When walking through campus you can see

quite a few flyers advertising events hosted by and for LGBTQIA+ students such as movie nights, gayme nights, trans student support hours every Thursday, and monthly trans-femme coffee hours. When I spoke with faculty regarding this topic, they acknowledged the past, but they almost mentioned this growth towards a more inclusive future. They mentioned safe space training available to students as well as faculty. As a Mandel Continuing Scholar, I can say that my cohort had an experience with this training.

These efforts towards inclusivity could use more intersectionality though, as quite a few LGBTQIA+ students of color mention that these events feel very "white." Essentially, while these spaces can be safe for individuals who are a part of the LGBTQIA+ community, those who are a part of that community but also a part of racial/ethnic minorities feel unseen. A great solution for this on a student level is to approach faculty about these things to organize events that are intersectional in nature. On the faculty side, I would recommend all faculty attend safe space training at some point but that they also be open to assisting these students where possible. This can be assisting with organization of events, chairing clubs, or organizations, as well as directing students to necessary resources.

CSU's Best Places to Study

By Sebastián Canales

One of the most important ways that students can boost their grades is to spend enough time studying for their classes. Sometimes, studying at a café or a restaurant can be quite distracting; so in the spirit of encouraging our readers to get higher grades, keep on reading to learn about the most popular studying spots on campus! In this article, fifty students were asked to list their favorite study areas on campus. Our hope is that you will be able to visit these study places and get lots of work done

The third most popular studying area was the Michael Schwartz Library. "There are so many different study areas, for groups studying for midterms, students looking to catch up on readings, the library has something for everyone," says Political Science major, Javonte Bray, as





Accessibility Issues

CSU's values stress the importance of "high-quality, accessible, and affordable educational experiences to a wide spectrum of students." This value is reflected through the involvement of ODS (Office of Disability Services), but student awareness of ODS could be improved. While we see accessibility being discussed at the larger level, the individual level that most students operate at is inadvertently neglected.

A student I spoke to recently recounted her experience with accessibility on the CSU campus. As part of her program she had a course that ended in the Union Building around 10 minutes before her next course started in Berkman Hall. Given her disabilities, traveling across campus in 10 minutes every other day wasn't feasible. She also wasn't able to take another course and instead had to reach out to her instructor and program director to resolve the issue. The course was moved to the Union Building, but the issue stands that most programs fail to account for these situations despite how obvious they may seem. CSU did take action in her case, accommodating when a potential issue emerged.

ODS provides support for these students seeking accommodations as well as for instructors who wish to

make their courses more accessible. While it's the main point of contact for most issues regarding accessibility, there's some issues that ODS can't solve. One of these issues, again at individual level, is masking. Masking might not initially seem like a big accessibility issue, but quite a few individuals who are disabled I've spoken to fall into high-risk groups making COVID-related hospitalizations highly likely. These students stress the importance of masking, as it lowers the risk they face entering the classroom. Protests for masking took place during the month of January, led by "Students for Safe Learning". There wasn't much of a response to this protest; in fact, masking and social distancing seems to have fallen to the wayside. CSU's approach towards COVID seems to be focused more on vaccine accessibility, offering free vaccinations and boosters for students as well as faculty.

The issue here seems to be that the obvious larger level issues are addressed, but more consideration for the less obvious situations like accessibility in regard to class scheduling and COVID risk, in spite of in spite of vaccinations, need to be considered.

he sits in a cozy corner of the Library, with his textbook and highlighter in hand.

The second most popular place that students mentioned is the Commuter Lounge on the Student Center's third floor. If you want a convenient area with ample study space and easy access to a variety of food and drinks, the Commuter Lounge is just for you. One drawback students mentioned is the fact that there are very limited outlets, which is not ideal for long study sessions, but there is enough space to find a comfortable spot to study. Laura Torio, international student from Spain says, "The commuter lounge is the perfect space to study either individually or with a group of friends – there is enough room to do both. But keep in mind that your laptop or tablet will need to be fully charged because there aren't many outlets."

Number one on our study list is the Law Library. The majority of students surveyed mentioned that this study spot is quiet, there is always enough space to find a working space, and they are open late – for any last-minute studying that students may need to squeeze in before a midterm or finals. Students mentioned that they are able to concentrate and get their work done in the Law Library. Communications student Nina Faisal states, "The Law Library is my go-to place when I need to get work done. The environment always feels like, 'let's get the job done' and I always feel motivated to get my work done." Students mentioned that they can find outlets to charge their laptops and cellphones, which is important if you plan on studying for a few hours.



The Student Athlete Experience

By Travis Kroggel

Ready. Set. Game.

Students attend universities for many different reasons, and they select the university or college they attend based on certain factors. Whether it be financial or academic recognition for specific degree types, or even status, individuals will more than likely ensure that they are satisfied with the institution where they send their money. However, there is a certain group of students in most higher education institutions that spend much more of their time giving their skills to the university while pursuing their degree.

Student athletes train for hours every single week in order to uphold their standards as a team, as well as the reputation of the school they are a part of. Cleveland State University is home to 17 NCAA Division 1 sports teams that work very hard to stay in shape and go up against some of the major schools who are part of the Horizon League.

"I have been a student athlete for Cleveland State University for five years", says Shelbie Sieburg of the Cleveland State Fencing team. "During COVID, all athletes were given an additional year of NCAA eligibility due to us losing a year of training and competing due to the virus. I am studying my post-grad here at Cleveland State, and so I am able to compete for another year. People don't realize just how much time and effort we as athletes give to Cleveland State. It's not just about training, but also traveling time to compete, fund-raising and volunteering to get support, as well as trying to get all of our schoolwork done as well."

Student athletes also attend monthly meetings for the organization called the Student Athlete Advisory Committee where they attend to learn about new NCAA developments, as well as developments between teams at Cleveland State.

"We're up at five in the morning at the field for practice by 6 a.m.," says freshman lacrosse player Justin Dalum. "We train till 9 a.m. and then we go to the lifting room straight after, twice a week to lift as well." It is mandatory for all Cleveland State NCAA teams to participate in a stringent lifting program with a dedicated trainer for each team to ensure the athletes are fit, healthy and strong enough to train and compete to the best of their ability. The lifting regime is curated by specialized fitness instructors to ensure the right muscles and muscle groups are being developed in tune with their sport. "It's really tough trying to keep up with everything," Justin continues. "I'm only a freshman, and already I don't get all my homework done or have much time to study."



“People tend not to see what we do out of the light of competing and training,” states Women’s Softball player Kennedy Steinbacher,. Due to some teams at Cleveland State receiving less funding than others, teams with less funding have to work even harder off the field by reaching out to people and asking for donations during Cleveland State’s Giving Day, as well as by working the Cleveland Browns’ home games for additional funding.

Upon speaking with many students at Cleveland State who don’t participate in any of the NCAA teams, there seems to be a general idea that many of the athletes do not work that hard academically and that they are purely at college to continue their rush of competing in a sport. Sitting and having a conversation with a few athletes may show someone just how much effort goes into being an athlete at a collegiate level, especially in a Division 1 school. Being a student athlete definitely breaks away from the traditional college experience that many students pursue, but it is an experience filled with dedication, scheduling, multi-tasking and stringent physicality that exercises both the mind and the body to ensure the individual reaches their athletic as well as academic goals. Each team is assigned an Athletic Academic Advisor that aids them in ensuring that they are keeping up to date with their academics, as well as guiding them through the maze that is class selection and degree audits. Many student athletes at Cleveland State University participate in multiple majors, as well as being a part of the Honor Roll and making Dean’s or even President’s List. Every year a special ceremony is hosted for athletes to commemorate incredible academic results such as high GPA’s and even academic scholarship awards.

There is a level of appreciation that one may feel for individuals who are full time students, part time “pro-athletes,” and some who may even have part-time or full-time jobs as well. Their ability to juggle all these facets of their lives--think personal life as well--is a mental game that takes perseverance and dedication to push through the challenges, and rather work to the victories that lie ahead.



Busing Made Easy with EZfare

By Michael Shiner

One of the most important parts of campus life is figuring out how to get there. While some students are able to drive themselves, others may find that their best option is to utilize public transportation. However, it can be difficult getting into public transportation as those new to it may find difficulty in finding busing times and stops that best fit their needs. The most important consideration for those who plan on riding buses is to get the EZfare app.

Through this app, you can quickly and easily purchase tickets for more than a dozen transportation companies that drive through Cleveland daily. In addition, the app provides easy access to an array of discount purchasing options, from bulk-buying discounts, to student discounts, and even senior-citizen discounts. But be sure not to buy too many at once as tickets expire about five months after their purchase. Two busing companies worth highlighting are RTA (Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority) and Laketran, due to their plentiful stopping locations within the city and their park-and-ride stations outside of the city. Students can purchase 2 Laketran tickets for 3 dollars through the EZfare app, providing a convenient way to get to school and back again. Laketran drops off and picks up at the intersection of East 21st and Chester, placing riders right next to the parking garage. RTA tickets can be purchased through the EZfare app, for \$2.75, with savings options for being weekly or monthly bundles, sold for 25 and 95 dollars respectively. However, Cleveland State University students already pay for an RTA pass as part of their tuition and can get this pass stamped on to their Viking Card by going to the transportation services desk. For trips to and from CSU campus, RTA picks up and drops off at East 19th right by the Music and Communication building.

EZfare also provides access to many other transportation services and destinations, so it may be worth looking around the app to see what offers best meet your needs. If you are looking to go somewhere for the first time, the app provides some tools to help you including a real-time route map, a trip planner that estimates duration of travel, and links to the customer service and websites of busing companies. If you find yourself in a situation where driving yourself may be implausible, busing with EZfare can be the perfect alternative for getting to your destination.



Cashing in on Student Discounts

By Travis Kroggel

Being a college student is already tough as it is. Navigating campus as well as executing your best efforts at effective time management and scheduling, things can begin to bog you down and make you feel like you're just living day-by-day with not many immediate rewards to keep you motivated. However, not many people know the benefits and perks that come with being a college student registered for classes during an academic year. It breaks the surface of simply being on campus, or stuck behind a computer and keeping your nose inside the books!

Many companies and organizations offer student discounts that can make shopping for your next fall favorites that much sweeter! Here is a list of some of the best student discount deals.

Music: Streaming music with ads can be annoying for most, but paying for premium access can be even worse! Sign up with Spotify or Apple music for half the price as a student! Apple Music at just \$5.99 and Spotify at \$4.99. Both services may come with seasonal promotional benefits at the time of signing on. Eg: Apple Music may offer a year free of Apple TV at time of registration, and Spotify may offer a free Showtime subscription at time of registration.

Amazon Student: We all use Amazon as a part of our daily lives. So why not benefit from your buck? Students receive 6 months of free Amazon Prime when they sign up for a student Prime account. They will also receive

an Amazon Music subscription as well as a Prime Video subscription, along with other perks such as cloud storage and of course, free deliveries. Amazon Prime will be free for 6 months and students will then be billed \$7.99 for the company's services. That's 50% off the original price.

Hulu: This streaming service with an excellent array of titles offers an incredible discount to students! Stream (with ads) for just \$1.99 a month. Hulu often posts other promotional deals once you have paid for their student discount—and you may find yourself being able to get Disney+ and ESPN for a fraction of their price too!

ASOS: Need those exceptional branded fits at a fraction of the cost? ASOS offers an incredible 20% for students when they sign in with their student account. With the online store offering many promotions throughout the year, students can find themselves getting 80% of products at the right time!

The Real Life: Visiting family out of state? Speed your way to the nearest Amtrak station! Students in the Midwest receive 15% off their ticket price. (Also includes California.)

Movies: Sometimes seeing a movie in the cinema is a different experience. And it's even better if you're getting it at a discount. Take your college ID with you to any AMC or Cinemark and receive a discounted price on your tickets! (Check their websites for additional information before attending.)

Car insurance: Allstate offers a 25% discount to students who drive well and are getting grades B or better! Progressive also offers up to a 10% discount to students averaging a B and drive well, too. Speak to an agent when signing up and ensure they explain all the terms and conditions.

School requires software: As a student, you can get 60% off the Adobe Suite when signing up as a student with proof of student enrollment. For the computer geeks! Not only do many companies such as HP and ASUS offer student discounts on products such as laptops and desktops, tablets and other items such as computer mice and cables you can also sign up for the Student Developer Pack on Github and receive software and other development tools that would cost hundreds of additional dollars! Software is important for students, especially those pursuing degrees that require the heavy usage.

Know what to look for: An excellent resource as a student is signing up for student discount sites such as UniDays and StudentRate. Both sites give access to hundreds, if not thousands of discounts geared toward students daily. You can set them up with notifications to never miss a sweet deal! If you're thinking about buying something online, or even standing in line at a store, pull out either the UniDays or StudentRate app and check your product for any discount codes to get a sweeter deal before you purchase!

CSU Student Resources

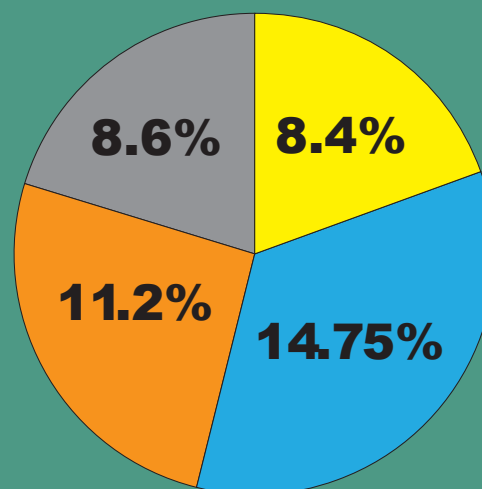
By Chloe Zelek

Many students have an idea in their final years of high school of which university or college they would like to attend, but how many know the resources or support that is available to help them succeed without roadblocks?

During a recent informal survey to gauge student awareness of campus resources such as information on meal plans, financial aid, and tutoring services, a total of 111 students ranging from freshmen to seniors participated. Of those taking part in the survey, 59 students were able to identify a department for useful resources and places where to find help.

You can visit, or call any departments listed below for any inquiries on any services needed. All departments have a website on the Cleveland State University Website, or the 411 Campus Chat Room (Open 9-5 Mon-Fri).

Students Who Know Where to Find Resources



■ Freshman ■ Sophomore ■ Junior ■ Senior

Meal Plans

Many freshmen and other students at CSU may find it difficult or daunting to have to cook and buy groceries. For these individuals, CSU offers a variety of meal plans--prepaid accounts used to buy meals on campus, which are available for students on and off campus

For commuting students, resources are available in Student Center, Room 350.

For more information contact The Viking Food Co.:

Email: dining@csuohio.edu

Phone: 216.687.5001

Financial Aid

Financial aid is available for all students. About 84% of CSU students use Financial Aid, and still have questions about loan help, scholarship opportunities, and payback/grant options. Listed below are some options available for students with any concerns or questions.

Email: allin1@csuohio.edu

Phone: 216-687-4111

Campus Address: Berkman Hall 116

Other support: studentaid.gov

Transportation

All CSU students with one or more credit hours on campus are able to take advantage of their U-Pass, giving all a chance to have the train or bus as transportation with minimal to no cost. (Only if provided to you by scholarship/grants; the minimum fee for U-Pass is \$55.)

Options include:

- Public Transit (Laketran, HealthLine, RTA, RTA Vanpooling, etc)
- Car Sharing (ZipCar, Uber, Lyft, Carpooling)
- Bicycle Parking (Lime, Uber Scooters, UH Bicycles, Also have Bike Repairs for those who need etc)

***Maps of Bath Paths and Available areas located on the Transportation page on the CSU website)*

Campus Address: Parking and Transportation Services--Berkman Hall Room 115

Disability Services

For students who may have disabilities, CSU's Office of Disability Services can provide a number of services to enable accommodations made in classrooms and testing to facilitate a more equitable learning environment.

Email: ods@csuohio.edu

Phone: 216-687-2015

Campus Address: Rhodes Tower West 210

Online Applications given on the Cleveland State Website

9 Skladany on Student Success

By Mariam Soliman

In an interview for 4.0, Dr. Michael Skladany, a sociology lecturer at CSU, offered some suggestions about what core competencies benefit students most and how he seeks to foster them with the hopes that not only students, but professors as well, might benefit from his many years of experience.

What is the secret to success in college? If you ask any student this, they will start listing things like “don’t procrastinate,” “go to office hours,” “read the textbook,” etc. Although these things are important, students wouldn’t read or gain anything from an article talking about them, as everyone knows them, whether students do them or not. And so, the question is: What are some skills that are most beneficial from the perspective of professors?

Dr. Michael Skladany holds degrees in biology/philosophy, resource economics and a PhD in Sociology from Michigan State University (2000). From the years 1977 to 1994, Dr. Michael Skladany served as a Peace Corps volunteer along the Thai-Cambodian border, worked for the Canadian Development Agency in small-scale Thai fisheries development, and did research in Rwanda just prior to the 1994 genocide. Upon receiving his PhD, Dr. Skladany worked in the environmental movement and collaborated with a number of Indigenous Peoples in Peru, Mexico and throughout North America. Dr. Skladany has taught at the university level for over 30 years and has been at CSU for 11 years as an Associate College Lecturer. He recently was awarded a CSU Golden Apple award for his contributions that have positively impacted the lives of CSU students beyond their time on campus.

For his interview, Dr. Michael Skladany discussed critical thinking and self-reflection,

specifically focusing “on why critical thinking and self-reflection are important qualities that all students should strive to develop over their time in higher education and later, and throughout the life cycle,” saying “I think, further, these divisive times are eroding our ability to think critically and that spells trouble down the road for democratic forms of government and attaining greater human potentials.”

During the interview, Dr. Skladany defined “critical thinking” as “a way of looking at the world that entails self-reflection, questioning assumptions, [and] looking behind what appears on the surface. It is designed to produce more self awareness and especially autonomy. Contrast that approach with opinions, or anecdotal evidence.” He concludes his definition by saying that “critical thinking is essential to higher education and producing better informed democratic citizens.”



When asked why he thinks of critical thinking and self-reflection are such important qualities for students to have, Dr. Skladany explained that the U.S is currently going through very divisive periods, and that “there’s been a general assault on truth....Opinions [and] conspiracy theories have seemed to proliferate, and critical thinking, or return/promotion to critical thinking, is a way to rectify the demise of this country.”

Lastly, Dr. Skladany was asked what advice he would give students on how to develop critical thinking. He replied by bringing up that students are “the immediate membrane, the recipients of all these sources [and] impulses from [the] media, to the news, to their everyday interactions,” and that they “have to be guided by instructors and faculty who are aware of this problem/dilemma that [we as citizens of the U.S] are currently experiencing in our society.” He then used Cleveland State as an example, mentioning how its “dominant view tends to embody a corporate model.” He continues, “We’re very concerned about branding... retention rates...the number of Starfish flags [we address]...getting students a degree and launching them on successful careers.”

Dr. Skladany, however, strongly believes that this model is incomplete. “It [the model] reduces higher education and its broader social role in producing well-informed democratic citizens—it fails to do that,” he explains. Instead, “it produces economic results, economic benefits, weighed against economic cost, and to see whether or not there is a profit there. Universities are not intended to be run like corporations, but it seems to me that that ideology is dominant.” Although Dr. Skladany accepts this ideology, he finds it to be limiting to students, explaining that “the reason you go to a university as opposed to a trade school is to broaden your perspective, and so critical thinking is one measure and crucial device that [helps students to do that], therefore, at least in theory, making better citizens, which produce a better...more enlightened...more egalitarian society, and so on.”

Dr. Skladany also used a personal example as how he as a professor tries to design assignments that encourage “self-reflection and analysis as opposed to opinions....In my 35 years of teaching, I’ve ended up at discussion posts and have rejected the classic term paper because that device no longer is applicable.” He further explains that not only are “discussion posts [generally] shorter and quicker,” but the discussion posts [he assigns] also “tend to foster analysis and critical thinking.” He also mentions “quizzes, multiple choice, true and false,” and explains that “if you look at Bloom’s Taxonomy, those are the lowest of the low in terms of learning and developing cognitive ability.” He explains that although he still uses them, he has “reduced the amount of points per exam...[and] per quiz, [along with] the numbers of each; all they do is regurgitate.”

Dr. Skladany continues to explain just how important critical thinking is, stating that “critical thinking is...the engine that drives everything else. In our case, I think we do need at CSU perhaps a recommitment promoting critical thinking as opposed to opinions towards a democratic citizenship. And along those lines, too, there is also a moral dimension that’s very important, because you could be a critical thinker, and you can promote a moral vision, and you might be very evil....The awareness of this,” he continues, “needs to be considered/ reflected upon by everyone here at CSU, from the president’s office all the way down to [introductory classes]... you have to have a balance.” He explains that he sees “somewhat of an erosion of general education and its purposes in favor of more technical, career-oriented pathways” and that he worries that if

this erosion continues, “the corporate model will ultimately go bankrupt.”

Dr. Skladany concludes the interview by stating, “I think that our students here at Cleveland State come from very different [and] diverse backgrounds....[They] bring a lot of experiential knowledge to our classrooms; shaping that in terms of critical thinking... [and] analysis, as opposed to a reliance on less rigorous forms of knowledge construction, and eventually truth claims, is our [professors/ instructors] primary task. Students themselves have a lot to offer; all an instructor does is facilitate this process, and I think that a commitment in our mission should be able to exemplify that.”

MEET THE 4.0 STAFF



Brian K. Brooks
Senior
Major: Psychological Science
“Dream big and fly high!”



Michael Shiner
Senior
Major: Philosophy
“Take the time to relax, so you can keep going stronger.”



Mariam Soliman
Junior
Majors: Sociology, English, & French
Minor: Arabic
“I cannot give you the formula for success, but I can give you the formula for failure—It is: Try to please everybody.” -- Herbert Bayard Swope



Sebastián Canales
Senior
Majors: Spanish and Political Science.
“Trust the doors that open, as well as the ones that don’t.”



David Skochko
Senior
Major: Biology
Quote: “Whatever you do, always give 100%. Unless you’re donating blood.” - Bill Murray



Chloe Zelek
Senior
Major: Criminology
“Let go and let life happen”



Travis Kroggel
Junior
Majors: International Business and Economics, and Marketing
Minor: Human Resource Management.
“After a while you learn to ignore the names people call you and just trust who you are.” – Shrek



