

The Activist

The Independent University of Cincinnati Blue Ash College Student Newspaper

<www.ucba-activist.com>



While the Campus Facilities crews did a valiant job of clearing the lots, after nearly a full week of cancelled classes due to the weather and heavy snow over the weekend of February 21-22, students returned to classes on Monday, February 23 to piles of snow in the UCBA lots that challenged their parking skills. (Photo by Mack Davis)

New Biology Club Seeks Trifecta

by John Hamilton

Activist staff

hamilj5@mail.uc.edu

UCBA students Khemaran Dinh and Tyler Middleton are hoping to put together a Biology Club for the students of UCBA. "We're trying to create a club that is completely student centered," said Dinh, "one that you could benefit from in more ways than just being able to put it on a resume."

Dinh mentioned how he felt dissatisfied with his education and even found it depressing that many students studying the same field seemed reclusive and quiet during class.

"These were so called biology majors," he said with a frown. "But it's routine at a commuter campus to get in and

get out."

What Dinh and Middleton are hoping for with this group is that students in the same field will be able to meet up, form friendships and have discussions about their similar field of study.

When asked what students should expect from this organization, Dinh said, "The club is set up with a backbone I call the trifecta. This entails the social aspect, the professional aspect, and the community aspect of the club—all of which are vital to any major-based club. The social is simply the fun of the club, the outings, events, and the connection."

Dinh also plans on the group taking trips to workplaces of biology, research centers, and labs. He also plans on doing research to find professional opportuni-

(See *Biology Club*, Page 2)

College Will Host Spring Open House March 12

UCBA will host a Spring Open House for prospective students on Thursday, March 12, in Muntz Hall on the college campus. The open house starts at 7 p.m., with application processing and information provided by college representatives beginning at 6 p.m.

The Spring Open House is for prospective students who are considering enrolling in the summer or fall 2015 semesters. Students and their families can learn more about the college by meeting with professors, advisors, and current students, as well as taking a campus tour. As a bonus, the \$50 application fee is waived for those who apply during the open house.

The event will also feature a live appearance by Q102, with morning personality Jennifer Fritsch. She will be giving away prizes and conducting live interviews.

"Our open house is a great opportunity to really get a feel for our college by exploring specific academic programs and hearing directly from our professors and students about the UC Blue Ash experience," said UCBA Dean Cady Short-Thompson.

UCBA has set records for attendance at its past two open house events and enrollment continues to rise. The number of students enrolled for fall 2014 was up 4.3 percent from the previous year to a total of just over 5,000 students.

Despite the growth, the Dean pointed out that classes at UCBA are small, with an average of 19 students and a student to teacher ratio of fourteen to one.

Software Training Workshops Continue

UCBA is offering several free software training workshops to students this semester.

Students can get the details about each workshop and register at ucblueash.edu/workshops. This site is available through the UCBA website under Resources>Technology Resources.

All workshops will be held in Muntz Hall, Room M112A.

Students can attend as many workshops as they like at no cost. They will receive a certificate of attendance.

Schedule

- Tues., March 10, 5-6 p.m., Microsoft Excel Basics
- Wed., March 11, 12:20-1:20 p.m., Microsoft Excel Basics
- Tues., March 24, 5-6 p.m., Microsoft PowerPoint Basics
- Wed., March 25, 12:20-1:20 p.m., Microsoft PowerPoint Basics

Space is limited. For details and to register visit: www.ucblueash.edu/resources/technology/workshops.html.

You can also register in one of the following ways:

- Online at <http://doodle.com/af9mn-5s8hq75mrvf>
- Use the registration sheet near room M112D
- Email Ranjoo Shanbhag at shanbha@ucmail.uc.edu



Dean Holds Twitter Session

UCBA Dean Cady Short Thompson held a Twitter session with faculty, staff, and students last Thursday from 2:30-3:30 p.m. During the lively session, she revealed that the old Pavilion buildings (A, B, and C) will be removed this coming summer. (Photo courtesy of UCBA Communications)

Biology Club (Continued)

ties and internships for the students so that they have to help prepare themselves for when they are finished with school.

Dinh summed up his thoughts about education in this way: "For those students who feel like there's something missing at UCBA and that there's nothing here,

college really is what you make it. Start something new. Chances are there are people like you and people who want to help you. It's a lot of leg work at first, but don't be afraid to ask for help."

For more information, you can contact Dinh at ucblueashbiologyclub@gmail.com.



Tyler Middleton (left) and Khemaran Dinh (Photo by Mike Roos)

Join
the Activist staff
for
Fall Semester!
Register for Student
News Workshop I:
English 1071

UC Blue Ash College
We make it possible. You make it happen.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS ON JUSTICE

SEGREGATION IN THE SUBURBS

WORLDVEST WEEK | WALTERS HALL | ROOM 100 | 9555 PLAINFIELD ROAD | BLUE ASH

Michael Washington
MARCH 10, 2015 | 7:00 p.m.

Michael Washington, Professor of History and African American Studies at Northern Kentucky University, presents a talk entitled "Segregation in the Suburbs: The Hazelwood Story."

Professor Washington is a distinguished UCBA alumnus. His talk will focus on efforts by the residents of Hazelwood, a majority black community in Blue Ash, to fight educational segregation in the 1930s and 1940s. This is an important but little known part of Cincinnati's civil rights history, that has relevance to contemporary concerns about educational access and metropolitan segregation.

The Mystery of "The Girl on the Train"

by Hannah Downs
Activist staff
downshk@mail.uc.edu



Paula Hawkins's mystery fiction "The Girl on The Train," just published on January 13 is currently the top seller on Apple's iBooks.

From the window of her train, troubled alcoholic Rachel Watson watches the world. Specifically she watches a couple who are frequently out on their

terrace at the very point her train stops every day.

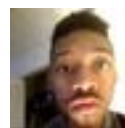
She gives them made up names and pretends their lives are the perfect happy-ever-after that she never had.

Then Megan (the girl from Rachel's fantasy couple) goes missing, and Rachel finds herself an integral character in the police investigation, because she was

Fashion

The Good, Bad, and Ugly of the Oscars

by Brett Cummings
Activist staff
cumminbw@mail.uc.edu



The Oscars were Sunday, and although it's a very well known show that gives prestigious awards, I find the show to be rather dull.

Typically, I watch a lot of music award shows, but not many for acting because they just don't seem as interesting to me. Nevertheless, I watched the Oscars, but just to check out the looks the celebs were giving for the night.

First, we'll get into the looks that I enjoyed. Scarlett Johansson looked absolutely stunning in her emerald green Versace gown paired with her heavy crystal necklace. The dress captured every curve of her body precisely as she walked the red carpet.

I thought Oprah looked pretty great as well in her nude Vera Wang custom gown. Jennifer Lopez turned heads in her Elie Saab gown, although I thought the look was a little too safe for J-lo. It looked like something I've seen her wear a few times in previous years, but she looked beautiful as usual.

Although I'm sure some people will argue with me about this, I did enjoy Tegan Quin's tuxedo by The Kooples. It looked like she had fun putting her look together. Even though it didn't give me the traditional Oscar look, it was very cool, edgy, and eye catching.

Meryl Streep is still slaying at 65. She was wearing a custom Lanvin gown. Her look was very chique and age appropri-

seen stalking the neighborhood the night of the disappearance.

She also has wounds on her body that can't be explained.

"The Girl on The Train" is very well written with credible and realistic characters. Let me just say that the twists and turns in this story will easily draw readers in, making it easy to quickly finish this book.

ate. By the way, someone should write down her beauty tips, because I'm sure we'd all like to look that youthful at 65.

Jennifer Aniston graced us all with a beautiful Atelier Versace dress. She has always given this hot Hollywood mom look, in my opinion. Reese Witherspoon never really disappoints. She rocked a custom Tom Ford gown that showed off her curves and gave her a very elegant but modern look.

Last but not least Lupita Nyong'o definitely caught my attention in her custom Calvin Klein Collection gown. Lupita has such a beautiful, crisp, crystal clear complexion that she would look good in just about any color.

Now there were a few celebs that I saw that should have consulted their stylist a little further before going through with their looks. Hannah Bagshawe's dress was terrible. I don't know who is to be at fault for this, her or designer Alexander McQueen. Those side flaps or whatever were unnecessary.

Jessica Chastain's "open chest area" on her dress was not appealing at all. This is one of those situations where you ask, "Who let you walk out of the house like that?" Felicity Jones's dress wasn't very appealing either. The top half and the bottom half didn't match in my opinion, and it looked like she skipped the dry cleaning and just threw it on.

But overall the show wasn't bad. Julianne Moore won best leading actress in "Still Alice." Eddie Redmayne won best actor in a leading role in "The Theory of Everything" (See Oscars Fashion, Page 5)

Boxing

Pacquiao vs. Mayweather: Do You Care?

by Mack Davis
Activist staff
davis4mv@mail.uc.edu



The day has finally come, after almost five years of waiting: Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao have finally signed a contract to fight. The only question is do we still care?

The fight will be the biggest fight in the history of boxing, but should it be? Both fighters are undeniably past their prime, and both have begun to show their age in the last few fights. As a fan of the sport, are you really going to shell out top dollar to see two old men duke it out on

pay-per-view?

The bigger issue looms with the sport of boxing itself. As a sport that is supposed to give the fans what they want, how do you allow your two top fighters to wait five years to fight each other?

They announced the fight last week, and we all are just supposed to be excited.

There was a time a few years back when I would've traded a vital organ to see this fight, but that boat has left the dock. After all the back and forth bickering between the two fighters' camps over the last few years, I simply don't care about the fight anymore.



Lupita Nyong'o at the Academy Awards. (AFP via Getty Images)

Oscars Fashion (Continued)

Everything."

J.K. Simmons won best actor in a supporting role in "Whiplash." Patricia Arquette won best supporting actress in "Boyhood." Milena Canonero won best costume design in "The Grand Budapest Hotel." John Stephens and Lonnie Lynn won best musical original song with "Glory" from Selma.

What I found most interesting, though, was the fact that the show only got 10 million views, which isn't bad for a TV show, but for the Oscars in particular, it's not very good, considering how many views the show usually gets. Hmm. Maybe I'm not the only one who thought that it was rather dull.

I'm glad they finally are going to fight, but I won't be handing out any money to see a fight on May 2 that I wanted five years ago.

UC Basketball

Bearcats Lose Shootout But Outgun Houston

by Al'eema Dawson
Activist staff
dawsonam@mail.uc.edu



Even though UC didn't defeat Xavier last week, they beat University of Houston on February 21 to end a three-game losing streak.

Shaq Thomas scored 18 points and Gary Clark had 14 rebounds.

Cincinnati converted 16 Houston turnovers into 20 points and made more free throws (17) than the Cougars attempted (12).

"Losing three straight, we definitely knew our backs were against the wall, and we can't lose again if we expect an NCAA appearance," Clark said.

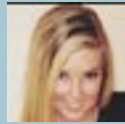
As of this writing, the Bearcats are 18-9 overall, 9-5 in the American Athletic Conference.



Shaq Thomas (shown above) scored 18 points to lead the Bearcats to an important victory over Houston last week.

My World How Big Is UC's Crime Problem?

by Hannah Downs
Activist staff
downshk@mail.uc.edu



Since 2008, crime on the University of Cincinnati's Clifton Campus has actually decreased. The University has increased the number of police officers and security officers and put security help buttons around campus. UC also enhanced the street/campus lighting and keeps a database to track crime around campus.

The problem is, most of these changes were made on campus, while 79 percent of UC students live off-campus, and off campus is where most of the crime takes place. The estimated chance of being a victim of a crime in Clifton is 1 in 27. There are over 40,000 students at the University of Cincinnati, so that makes your chances of being in a crime very high. What can the UC police do to stop this?

One of the things UC has that helps off campus crime is UC Night Ride. A UC driver can pick you up anywhere on campus, off campus, or around the UC area. Night Ride helps us students out, so we don't have to walk the streets. However, there are a few problems with UC Night Ride. It operates only at certain hours, and it's a very busy and popular business, so it can be hard to actually get a ride.

To lower the risk of crime, I think UCPD should have more security off campus, such as help buttons. If you're walking around and feel unsafe, you can touch the button, and it immediately calls 911, and police will come straight to the Help button. Since buttons have been effective on campus, I don't think putting a few off campus would hurt.

UC has increased the numbers of security officers on campus, and it helped lower the crime rate. However,
(See My World, This Page)

Opinion

Voting: Stand Up and Be Counted

by Mack Davis
Activist staff
davis4mv@mail.uc.edu



For a large percentage of UCBA students, the next election will be the first time they've had the opportunity to vote. You see the billboards and signs all over, and you may even see the commercials from the candidates. The importance of utilizing your right to vote can't be understated.

To see the sheer power of young

people when it comes to voting, look no further than President Obama being elected. His campaign really got the young people involved, and it led to two presidential terms for him. At this stage in life, we have a great deal of power in the voting process. Don't waste it.

Get out and vote, no matter what party you are affiliated with. Especially for the African Americans at UCBA, our ancestors fought and died for our rights to vote. We can't sit idly by and allow their efforts to be in vain.

Faculty Panelists Discuss Multi-Ethnicity

by John Hamilton
Activist staff
hamilj5@mail.uc.edu

As a part of UCBA's Diversity Series, several faculty members attended "What Are You? Demystifying the Multiracial Experience." This meeting was meant to help faculty members when it comes to approaching the topic of race and ethnicity in the class.

The presentation was hosted by Michelle McKinney of UCBA's Library; Helene Harte, an Assistant Professor of Behavioral Sciences; and Daphne Percy, UCBA Adjunct Assistant Professor in Behavioral Sciences. All of these faculty members are of mixed and multiracial backgrounds.

Each one discussed an issue they've dealt with when dealing with questions

My World (Continued)

if there were more officers patrolling off-campus living areas, I think it would help keep the criminals away from the students.

University of Cincinnati students, police, administration and parents are all being affected by the crime in Clifton. There are ways that would help decrease the crime rate off campus. UCPD needs to start being more efficient on the crime and security off campus.

about their ethnicity and upbringing. "What we're trying to do with this is encourage people here to refrain from using stereotypes and assumptions when talking to students," said McKinney. "We also want the teachers to find a way to open up discussions with their students about this topic."

One activity that was used at the meeting was an exercise called "The Line Game." During the game, a series of questions was asked that may relate to students and others of racial and foreign backgrounds. If the question had applied

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Activist staff

Brett Cummings
Mack Davis
Al'eema Dawson
Hannah Downs
John Hamilton
Dezmond Houston

Advisor

Professor Mike Roos
Phone: 513-745-5764
Email: ucba.activist@gmail.com
Web: <http://www.ucba-activist.com>

The Activist is on-line!
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Technology

Stay On Top of Winter Weather With Storm App

by Hannah Downs
Activist staff
downshk@mail.uc.edu



With this crazy weather, it's great to keep track of what will happen next. Weather Underground takes storm tracking and severe weather alerts to a new level with its newest app called "Storm," just released on February 18.

Founded in 1995 as the first online weather service, Weather Underground supplies weather data solutions to many of the leading media companies and millions of users across the globe through their mobile apps and website wunderground.com.

With over 100,000 personal weather stations worldwide, Weather Underground is able to provide meaningful and reliable weather data to people in real-time.

This app's features include high-definition radar. You can toggle between

animated past or future radar and near-real-time single site sweeping radar.

Storm tracking tools include direction, speed, populated cities affected and specifics on the severity of the storm.

Full-screen interactive map display animated surface and jetstream level winds, earthquakes, fronts, tropical data, severe weather alerts, and more.

It also has customizable in-app alerts

and push notifications for lightning, precipitation (within a 30-mile radius) and NWS alerts.

In addition, you get access to Weather Underground's network of over 100,000 personal weather stations.

This app is universal (formatted for both iPhone and iPad.)

You can get this four and a half out of five-star app at the iTunes app store today. Even better, the app is free.



Photo by John Hamilton

Multi-Ethnicity (Continued)

to anyone involved, they would step on the line.

The questions asked included things like "Has anyone ever asked you if you can cook a certain food pertaining to your background?" or "Has anyone started randomly speaking a foreign language to you that they assume you speak?"

The panelists also went on to discuss what a faculty member can do to prevent any future assumptions made without being very direct with intentions.

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Talk to Cover Situational Awareness

Situational Awareness is the ability to understand both what is currently happening around us, as well as what is most likely to happen in the near future.

UC Blue Ash College will host a free presentation on the topic titled "Having Situational Awareness Can Mean the Difference Between Life and Death." It will be held on March 11 from 1:30-3 p.m. in Muntz Hall, Room 170.

The presenter, Kevin Rush, is the Administrator of Imaging Services for TriHealth and a member of the Board of Directors for the American Society of Radiologic Technologists.

In his presentation, Rush will discuss Situational Awareness as it applies to health care and everyday life. As so many of us are being tasked with doing more with less resources, it can be a challenge to make proper decisions and complete our tasks in a safe and effective manner.

Those who attend the presentation should come away with a better understanding of the concept of Situational Awareness and how it is integrated into the decision-making process.

To learn more about the free presentation, go to www.ucblueash.edu or call (513) 936-1631.

Academy Awards Provide Satisfying Evening

by John Hamilton

Activist staff

hamilj5@mail.uc.edu



On Sunday, February 22, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences held its 87th annual ceremony to award the legendary Oscar to those they think are worthy. Like any cinephile, I watched it.

To me the Oscars are my Super Bowl. I'm not saying I've always agreed with the Academy and their selections. They have selected a few winners that I thought were more than underwhelming, shall we say.

But this past awards ceremony was very satisfying in both the presentation and the selections. Neil Patrick Harris proved once again why he is considered legen—wait for it—dary.

His opening musical number with Anna Kendrick and Jack Black was mostly a lovely tribute to why we love movies, but it threw a couple punches at the way things

are amongst the mainstream cinema. Even though I enjoyed Harris as the host, I thought the briefcase gag was lackluster. It didn't have that grand of a payoff.

One of the biggest surprises was not from any of the winners, but from the performance by Lady Gaga. When I heard she was going to do a tribute performance to a movie musical, I was thinking it would be something like "Cabaret" or "The Wizard of Oz," but it turned out to be "The Sound of Music."

But the really shocking thing about it was that she was simply amazing. I'm so used to seeing her in her stage persona that I forget that she is a trained singer who is capable of serious vocalizing. Bravo to you, Lady Gaga.

As for the winners, while I didn't make the right predictions for all the categories, I was satisfied with all the winners. The best example of this is with Best Leading Actor.

I was personally rooting for Michael

Keaton to win for his stellar performance in "Birdman," but I am not surprised, nor disappointed, by Eddie Redmayne winning. Redmayne was completely lost in his portrayal of the noted scientist Stephen Hawkings in "The Theory of Everything."

Also, if I ever in some way win an Oscar, I'd probably have the same reaction Eddie had. At the very least, who wouldn't hug Cate Blanchett when receiving an award from her?

One of the other big highlights goes to the rapper Common and singer John Legend, who won Best Original Song, "Glory," from "Selma." During this awards season Common fully displayed his fantastic wordplay, and he didn't disappoint with his Oscar speech. Legend's words were also very powerful—so powerful that it made actors David Oyelowo and Chris Pine shed tears.

2014 was an overall good year for films, and the Oscar ceremony helped display it by highlighting some terrific work.



Someone created snow sculptures on the UCBA Campus after last weekend's heavy snowfall. (Photo by Mike Roos)