Happy Birthday, Columbus State!

This month we begin a major celebration marking the 40th anniversary of the founding of our college. It all began on September 30, 1963, when the forerunner to Columbus State, the Columbus Area Technician School (CATS), held its first class in the basement of the old Central High School. So much has changed since those first 67 students enrolled at CATS.

This Autumn Quarter, we may well exceed our all-time record enrollment of 22,222 that we set last fall. In the past four decades, we have grown from a few dozen students into an educational and economic powerhouse dedicated to serving the job training, workforce development, and higher education needs of central Ohio.

Each of us who has played a part in this success deserves to celebrate our many accomplishments of the past 40 years during this coming academic year. Since our founding, nearly 350,000 people have walked through our doors to take classes. About 25,000 have received their college degrees. Each represents a life forever changed; a person better off.

As we look forward to the next 40 years, we should always remember our mission and the impact of that mission upon the community we serve. While the mission remains essentially the same, we have grown and changed in response to our community’s changing needs and demands. It is our ability to constantly reshape ourselves that has allowed us to grow and prosper for the past 40 years. It is that nimbleness that will allow us to continue to grow and prosper during the coming 40 years.

Happy birthday, Columbus State! I hope you will all join me as we celebrate four decades of excellence.
Forty years ago, Columbus, Ohio, was a city in need of skilled workers...not that far removed from the Columbus of today. The Columbus Board of Education, headed by Harold Eibling, superintendent, decided that a trades school designed to provide an additional two years of technical training after high school would be the ideal post-secondary education for Columbus students...and Columbus Area Technician School was born. The first classes were offered beginning September 30, 1963.

The executive director of the new school was Clinton E. Tatsch, and he hired 13 employees on his budget of $85,000 to run the school in the basement of Central High School. Sixty-seven students enrolled in three technical programs, including Business Data Processing, Mechanical Engineering, and Electronic Engineering.

The brand-new Columbus Area Technician School got off to a rocky start as its executive director, Clinton E. Tatsch, and a couple of helpers struggled to raise their sign over the entrance at Central High School.

Chemical Engineering was one of the first five programs offered at CATS, along with mechanical and electronic engineering, wholesale mid-management, and business data processing.

In a later photo, Tatsch stands by CATS' symbolic mailbox on Broad Street in front of Central High School.
The tiny school called "CATS" would quickly become a success and outgrow its small quarters at the high school, moving up the road to its current Spring Street location in 1965, and formally re-chartering as Columbus Technical Institute to serve the students of Madison, Franklin, Delaware and Union counties.

The Dispatch

A Constructive Experiment

APPLICATIONS for the new Columbus Area Technician School opening this fall are now being screened. The 90 who will be chosen for the trial run two-year, post-high course will be fortunate.

Surveys show that the semi-professional jobs they will be trained to fill are awaiting them in industry, jobs in business data processing, electronics and mechanical technologies.

THE course, first of its kind sponsored by the Columbus Board of Education, will be offered on the quarter system, similar to that used by Ohio State University. The full-time day course from noon to 6 p.m. five days a week will be conducted in the north wing of Central High School.

We are pleased to see the addition of this kind of training, particularly because there has been a need for it. It has been well-conceived, and has the sanction of leading industrial executives who form its advisory committee.

Now the student who might otherwise find himself unable to finance a four-year college education to prepare for a career can get needed training in two years with reasonable assurance that a job will be waiting when he is ready to fill it.

Surveys show that technicians are in demand — from three to five needed for every engineer, as an example. Ten other cities in Ohio have such courses under supervision of the vocational division of the State Department of Education.

IT SEEMS that such schools will help remedy the paradoxical situation where unemployment is growing yet many positions remain unfilled for lack of persons trained to perform them.
Your Public Servant

TEACHER WAS ALMOST DOCTOR

By WILLIAM FULWIDER

But for a case of what was probably the flu back in 1938, Clinton E. Tatsch, 50, would likely be a doctor instead of directing the flourishing Columbus Area Technician School.

Tatsch finished pre-med studies at Marion, Ind., College and started in the Ohio State Medical School. Then he was struck down and even when he re-entered the next year, “I was unable both physically and mentally to cut it.”

So back to Marion to finish his bachelor of arts work.

MARRIED by then and father of a son, first of two, Tatsch went to work with the former Kilbourne Manufacturing Co. in Columbus and will never forget “that of 200 men in the yard hoping for work, I was the only one who raised his hand when a foreman said there are no jobs for anyone unless he has a college degree.”

He said he didn’t mind sweeping floors the next day. But that didn’t last long and he speedily rose to a top administrative post.

He saw disaster ahead for Kilbourne and quit before the plant folded. He worked at various industries for 18 years and finally entered education. His only public school teaching was a year at Olentangy High School in Delaware County.

In January, 1963, he came to the city schools, and three months later took over the tech school, with almost 200 students.

Tatsch’s wife, Iona, teaches at Columbus School for Girls. They live on RFD 2, Westerville. The sons are Clinton Jr., and Paul.

Tatsch took a circuitous route to become executive director, then president, of CATS and CTI.

In this very old photo of the Aquinas College High School grounds, the brand-new high school stands behind the priest’s dormitories on Mt. Vernon Ave. The original Aquinas campus was constructed in 1905.

1964

With a nearly tripled enrollment of 185 students, the Columbus Area Technician School had been open just a year. The tiny technician’s school was still located in the basement of Central High School, with 50-year-old executive director Clinton E. Tatsch supervising 13 employees. Two additional programs had been added to the course offerings – chemical engineering and wholesale management. CATS had designs on a new location on Spring Street, in the old Aquinas High School, but the property was in no shape for a technical school, and a little matter about its purchase needed to be resolved. Surrounding Aquinas were shaded neighborhoods, small businesses, and even some abandoned properties. Not many then could have imagined a thriving metropolitan college campus on these acres that once surrounded the aging high school grounds.
TECHNICIAN SCHOOL AWARDS DIPLOMAS

Commencements are old hat but the Columbus Area Technical School scored a first Friday night when its first graduating seniors received their associate of technology diplomas. Forty were graduated in three technologies—business data processing, electronic engineering, and mechanical engineering—in ceremonies at Battelle Memorial Institute. Three graduates chat with Director Clinton E. Tatsch, left. They are from second left: Antamaria Davis of 1471 31st Ave.; Stephen H. Bradly of Springfield, and Larry D. Yeners of Euros, Ohio, Brandley and Yeners graduated with honors. — Dispatch Photo

Three of the first CATS graduates chat with Director Tatsch.

CENTRAL OHIO NEWS

Tech School Move Ordered

The Columbus Area Technical School has orders to be out of its Central High School home by the end of the year. This means the expanding, two year post high school will have to be in its new home in the former Aquinas High School by that date, Director Clinton Tatsch said.

"IT'S GOING TO BE tight," Tatsch admitted, but he fully expects to comply with the order from Gov. Harold M. Kilgore. The September quarter is scheduled to begin on the 26th. Substantial repairs and renovations must be done in the three-story Aquinas building which will provide the tech school with 18 rooms. School Architect David Jones said he hopes to get bids for the work, which may include a new roof, within a week. The successful bidder would then be given a contract at the Aug. 17 meeting of the board.

EQUIPMENT AND supplies are packed and ready for transfer to Aquinas, Tatsch said. The September quarter, which marks the school's third year, will have an enrollment close to 250. Tatsch said. This includes 170 to 175.

It would be several years before CTI took down the dorms and other buildings on the Aquinas High School site.

The Dispatch
OHIO'S GREATEST HOME NEWSPAPER

Faculty made do with the cramped quarters in Aquinas until serious renovations could be made.

1965

Three hundred-five students were enrolled at CATS, and the very first graduating class of 39 would earn their degrees that year in five programs. The school was operating on a budget of $150,000. The rapid success of CATS prompted the Columbus Board of Education to purchase the Aquinas Parochial High School and move CATS to a location it could call its own. As the small group of faculty and administrators moved their worldly possessions into the building, piling them on the gymnasium floor, the Ohio Board of Regents was considering approval to create Columbus Technical Institute. Work began immediately to shore up the creaky old building in order to make it habitable for the soon-to-be CTI.

The move to Aquinas was a hassle for CATS, but the small staff moved in during the fall of 1965.

1966
Only one year at its new location in Aquinas, renovations were underway at CTI to fix up classrooms, offices, and labs. Airplane engines roared outside, as the new Aviation Maintenance Technology stored their equipment just outside the windows in a makeshift courtyard. Banking and Finance Technology also began accepting students in 1966. Another new technology, Food Processing, was in the planning stages, and the consultant who had designed the program was brought on fulltime as the coordinator - in 2001, Carol Kizer celebrated her 35th anniversary. Of the 429 students enrolled Fall Quarter 1966, 62 would graduate into the workforce by Spring. In May of the year, the Board of Education presented a proposal to the Ohio Board of Regents for the creation of a Columbus Technical Institute District, which had the same boundaries as the Columbus City School District. It would be 13 years until CTI's district was expanded to include four full counties.

1967
On July 1, 1967, Columbus Technical Institute was granted a charter by the Ohio Board of Regents, following a campus investigation and positive evaluation by an authority on technical education, Mr. James McGraw, from the University of Dayton. A seven-member Board of Trustees was appointed to govern the college. The first Board members were Kenneth J. Kabelka, Dr. John H. Rosemond, Paul R. Langdon, Robert A. Ramsey, Edward N. Sloan, Dr. Watson H. Walker, and Frank S. Williams. CTI's new business director, Ted Hopple, served as the Board's treasurer. Hopple, now chairman of the Accounting Technology, recently celebrated his 38th anniversary with the college. Plans were finalized for "Phase I" of the new campus, a $4 million project that would include Rhodes Hall,
The aviation program used some buildings off campus for laboratories prior to the “aviation building” construction - now Rhodes Hall.

Madison Hall and Eibling Hall, surrounding a small “quad.” It would be the hub of activity for Columbus Technical Institute for a number of years.

1968

On January 10, CTI held an official groundbreaking ceremony for Phase 1, announcing that “this pre-planned campus is scheduled to grow during the next seven years so it may accommodate an enrollment in excess of 2,000 students.” Eibling Hall was described as “a four-story laboratory”; Madison was “an administration, library and student center”; and Rhodes was simply “an aviation facility.” Construction began immediately and the three buildings were completed in a time frame that would make heads spin today. The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools granted the new CTI Correspondent Status, which meant the college was “in training” to become accredited. Documentation and self study would take several years - full membership was not attained until 1973. Enrollment was up to 528 students, and 106 students graduated Spring Quarter 1968. New technical programs started that year were Civil Engineering Technology, Printing Management (now Graphic Communications), and Secretarial Science (now Office Administration).
1969

It was a bustling year for CTI, with three brand-new college buildings up and running. 930 students studying in 18 different technical programs, and two new programs being introduced - Fire Science and Law Enforcement. With the Institute's library housed in the top floor of Madison Hall, administrators were eyeing land across Mt. Vernon Avenue to begin Phase II of the building plan, which would be an Educational Resource Center. State and federal funds totaling $1.39 million had already been obtained for the project. CTI's mission statement at the time read: "The Columbus Technical Institute is dedicated to serving the needs of the youth and adults in the Central Ohio area who desire to enrich their lives through the pursuit of higher education. The Institute offers the Associate Degree in all technologies."

Parents praised the technical school concept.

Construction began rapidly, and at a pace unheard of today, three new buildings that formed Phase I of the CTI campus were completed within a year.
TECHNICAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PACE IS RAPID

Mild autumn weather has permitted rapid construction on the new facilities of the Columbus Technical Institute, viewed from the intersection of Spring St. and Washington Ave. Under a $3.2-million first-phase expansion, the original Aquinas High School site at right has been remodeled and now enrolls 538 students. Partially obscured between the intersection and the original building is a long, low two-story aviation workshop building, occupied just this fall by students. At center, a five-story classroom, laboratory and office building scheduled for December completion rises behind a sleek two-story library and administration building which should be ready by May.

Within the next decade, plans are to increase the campus to 33 acres, enrolling approximately 3,000 students. School Director Clinton Tatsch and Columbus Development Director James Crozier predict the new inner-city campus will draw many new student service industries and projects, such as private dormitories, restaurants and other shops, into the blighted area which now surrounds the Mt. Vernon Ave. complex. At rear left can be seen the Shot Tower building at Ft. Hayes. The military reservation also is scheduled as a vocational and technical training site in Columbus, if the federal government gives it up. (Dispatch Photo by Ken Chamberlain)

Clinton E. Tatsch and Harold M. Nestor, Executive Director and Assistant Director, chat in Tatsch's office.
The Seventies were a fabulous period of growth for technical education, and a low point for fashion!

The 70s

1970
The very first "Master Plan" for CTI campus development was approved by the Board of Trustees, and outlined how the campus could grow beyond its current four acres and four buildings. The master plan noted that the 34 additional acres purchased would "transform one of the most blighted areas of Columbus into a handsome landmark for the city." The price of 34 downtown acres in 1970? A mere $200,000! By 1970, CTI's operating budget had leapt to $1.5 million. 1970 was a big year for technologies, as the Institute plunged into the field of health with a nursing program, dental

Outside of their new Aviation laboratory, students pose with a glamorous piece of equipment.
An aerial view of the CTI campus in 1970 reveals the small boundaries of the campus, and the residential areas surrounding it.

Laboratory, and animal science technologies. Enrollment stood at 1,550, and 110 students graduated Spring Quarter. Large graduations were held off campus in Battelle Auditorium at Battelle Memorial Institute, but during off quarters when only a few students earned degrees, a ceremony might just as likely be held in the president's office over coffee.

Nursing was a brand new technology in 1970, and destined to be one of the college's fastest growing.
Tatsch and Frank Gettels, of Nationwide Insurance, present scholarships to two lucky students.

1971

By 1971, CTI's enrollment leapt to nearly 2,000 students studying in 30 different technologies. The campus had a seating capacity of 896, with 26 classrooms and 29 laboratories. A groundbreaking ceremony for the new state-of-the-art library was held that summer, and construction began immediately. Mt. Vernon Avenue still ran through campus, with many students parking along the road to attend classes. Many residences still stood along Mt. Vernon Ave. and Grove Street, on the campus' north side. Both the Social Services Technology and Business Management got their start in 1971.

1972

The third and fourth-ever honorary degrees were conferred by President Clinton Tatsch in the spring of 1972 - to Dr. Frank C. Croxton, assistant director of Technology at Battelle, and to Dr. Harold H. Eibling, retired 15-year superintendent of Columbus Public Schools, after whom Eibling Hall was named in a dedication ceremony held June 25. Eibling had been instrumental in establishing the Columbus Area Technician School in 1963.

Autumn Quarter enrollment at CTI stood at 2,098, and Tatsch proudly noted that the college had more than 1,000 alumni. He also predicted that the campus would grow to 35 acres and 22 buildings during the 80s. CTI was in the final phase of the current master plan, with the ERC under construction; and with the acquisition of 12 acres purchased for $68,000, the campus grew to 22 acres in size. Imagine paying $5,600 per acre for downtown property today! Four brand-new hires that year were Donna Chambers, Jack Kockentiet, Chuck Narcross, and Watson Walker Jr.

The original CTI logo on a sign at the corner of Spring and Washington.

The "girls" have a little lunch out in front of Aquinas Hall.

Counseling. — Watson Walker Jr., student counselor for engineering students at CTI, discusses study progress with Sandy Parebeck. Women invading the engineering field, traditionally a male career, need a lot of encouragement, Walker says. (Dispatch Photo by Glen Cumberledge)

Engineering Jobs Spurned By Girls

Four employees hired in 1972 haven't changed a bit in 30 years. Jack Keckenthet, Accounting; Chuck Narcross, Dental Lab; Donna Chambers, Disability Services; and Watson Walker, Jr., Transitional Workforce, are shown plying their trades in the early days.

The student lounge in Aquinas Hall was hazy with smoke in the 70s.
1973
The college's initial Self-Study had been completed and an evaluation team from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools made their first-ever visit to the campus, granting a three-year membership status to the college in March, 1973. Enrollment seemed to raise steadily by about 200 students per year, to 2,246 during the fall quarter of 1973. More new Health technologies began accepting students - Mental Health/Mental Retardation began that year, as did Respiratory Therapy. On July 19th in what would be one of his last official functions at CTI, President Clinton Tatsch presided over the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Health and Academic Building. In August of 1973, Tatsch resigned and Harold Nestor, the executive vice president, took over as interim president.

1974
A big change for Columbus Technical Institute occurred in 1974 with the naming of a new president in July 1974. Dr. Clarence H. Schauer took over the technical institute with a budget of $4 million, 2,765 students and close to 500 graduates that year. A single new technical program began in 1974 - Safety Technology - which would later be incorporated into the Fire Science program as a major.

Tatsch chats with students on the steps of the Administration Building - now Madison Hall.

Tatsch resigned the CTI presidency in 1973, and Harold Nestor took over as interim President for one year.

Clarence H. Schauer, Ph.D., took over the presidency of CTI in July 1974.

The new Library still offered streetside parking on Mt. Vernon Avenue, which wouldn't be blocked off until the late 70s.
1975

Wednesday, July 16, 1975, was a big day for CTI. On that morning, Mayor Tom Moody, Chancellor James Norton, and State Budget Director Howard Collier joined President Clarence Schauer in dedicating the ERC and the Health and Academic Building, and breaking ground on the $4 million Phase IV Building, later to be named Delaware Hall. All three buildings had been designed by the firm McDonald, Cassell and Bassett, authors of the college’s Master Plan that set forth a plan for growth on CTI’s 34 acres that might accommodate “up to 5,000 students.” The ERC had cost $1.5 million to construct, the Health Building - $4.5 million. “These physical facilities have thus far kept pace with the student interest in the offerings and services of the college,” said Dr. Schauer, “and with the completion of the additional buildings, the buildings should house the programming and services needed for the expected 5,000-plus individual students at that time.” As if to respond to this challenge, a new technical program began operations in the Health Building - Optometric Assisting would work in conjunction with the Ohio State Vision Clinic, training technicians in optometry. Tuition at CTI for a quarter of fulltime attendance was $190, or about $15 per credit hour.

An oft-published photo shows a happy quartet of 70s students crossing the quad.

Optometric Assisting was a joint program between OSU and CTI.
1976

Automotive Maintenance was the only new technology approved during 1976, but construction on the new “Business and Automotive Facility,” now known as Delaware Hall, was underway, and would house modern labs for the new program. The 100,000-square-foot facility would have a gymnasium and college bookstore, helping CTI feel more like a college campus. The CTI “tower” became the campus symbol used in advertising and numerous publications. Enrollment was nearing the 5,000 students boldly predicted just a few years earlier with the development of the original Master Plan. Most long-time employees remember well the “push” to become a comprehensive community college that occurred in 1986; few may recall that a full ten years earlier, in 1976, CTI was lobbying the Board of Regents to become a “general college.” Ohio State and most other colleges greatly opposed the change, and CTI would remain a technical institute until 1987. On an encouraging note for CTI, the North Central Association for Colleges and Schools re-accredited the college for a five-year period in July 1976.

A detailed aerial view of campus in 1976 shows the brand-new facilities on as-yet unlandscaped grounds. Most parking was on gravel lots. Residential and industrial areas still bordered Spring Street to the south.
In the summer of '77, dignitaries and students joined in to break ground on the new administration building (Franklin Hall). Sporting similar looks in the center are Governor James A. Rhodes and CTI President Clarence Schauer. Students do the dirty work here. Administrators had become smarter over the years of groundbreakings.

1977

Enrollment was up 16 percent this year to 6,000 students - opposite of trends for higher education nationally, noted President Clarence Schauer. CTI’s operating budget was $2.5 million, the new facilities in the Business and Automotive Facility were occupied and in full operation, and a ground-breaking for the new “Education and Administrative Facility,” - Franklin Hall was held that summer. The Off-Campus programs had begun offering classes in Grove City, in Delaware, and at Rickenbacker Air Force Base, totaling 762 registrations. Along with the new Automotive Maintenance Technology, Emergency Medical Services also began accepting students in 1977.

Well under construction by late fall of '77, Franklin Hall would be a solar-heated wonder and house the first official board room and president's office suite.

Lenore Schneiderman teaches a class in Mental Health/Mental Retardation Technology.
A Data Center employee punches cards in a computer programming method not seen since the late 70s.

1978
The look of campus had changed drastically over the past few years, and by 1978, Grove Street and Washington Avenue were no longer lined with residential properties bisecting the campus. Aerial views show parking lots and open areas where once stood homes and small businesses. Mt. Vernon Avenue still ran past the ERC and Union Hall, and students parked their cars along the street or on the unpaved lots lining Washington Ave. The college had purchased all the land between Aquinas Hall and the freeway, and gravel parking lots replaced three blocks of formerly residential area. And where Ford Asset cars now sit parked, once was a three-way paved basketball court.

1979
In October of the year, CTI’s district was expanded from the boundaries of the Columbus City School District to encompass all of Franklin, Union, Delaware, and Madison Counties. At the same time, the college’s Board of Trustees was expanded from seven members to nine. Franklin Hall was dedicated as the Education and Administration Building, and began its solar-powered operation amid much local accolade - the late 70s were a

Chuck Finley teaches in the Graphic Communication Technology, which had been around for a decade in 1978, but formerly called Printing Management Technology.

A 70s Tony Campolo teaches a business class in Delaware Hall room 121. One can only wonder what the guitar seen on the table was going to be used for.
A smiling new president Harold Nestor joins Vice President for Student Services Mike Leymaster and Vice President for Academic Affairs Harold Brown in examining the model of Franklin Hall, which would soon be completed and house their offices.

Students conduct lab work in a Union Hall Medical Laboratory Technology class.

Larry Lance teaches mathematics more than 20 years ago although the photo looks as if it was taken yesterday.

time of increased awareness of alternative energy sources. Change was afoot throughout campus as President Schauer resigned in June, and Executive Vice President Harold M. Nestor was named President. Nestor had served in both Assistant Executive Director and Assistant Vice President positions since CATS was housed in the basement of Central High School, and was closing in on his 15th anniversary with the young Institute. The college community rallied around the charismatic new leader that they considered their old friend, and headed into a period of double-digit enrollment growth, new facilities, new programs and change.
Nothing rivaled the excitement felt during the 80s as the college rechartered to Columbus State Community College, welcomed our signature statue to campus, and watched as enrollments skyrocketed.

President Nestor and members of the Board of Trustees break ground for the new aviation maintenance facility at Bolton Field Airport.

Soon, the facility was complete, and from the air it is evident that not much else surrounded the new CTI Aviation Maintenance Facility at Bolton Field!

The 80s

1980

The Aviation Maintenance Technology happily moved into their brand-new facility at Bolton Field, built on property leased by the City to CTI. At a ceremony held September 7 to dedicate the new 10,000-square-foot, $1.7 million hangar and academic building, Aviation Chairman Wil Raub reported that the FAA would now allow the college to enroll an additional 150 students. The labs formerly housing planes, engines and equipment in Rhodes Hall were converted to accommodate new engineering
technologies such as Welding, Construction Management, HVAC, and Industrial Technology. The Graphic Communications technology would also move some labs into Rhodes Hall, making the building a noisy, sparks-flying, equipment-dominated learning environment. Aquinas Hall received a $1.2 million renovation in 1980, adding new classrooms and offices to the third and fourth floors. And a project called "Site Development - Southwest Section 1" was underway to build what we would later call the "Mt. Vernon Cut-Off" and the new drop-off area. Campus administrators predicted that the new section of roadway through campus would "help raise the community's awareness of the college's location." The comments were made in the very first issue of the college's new campus newsletter, The Associate, published Fall Quarter 1980. The quarterly newsletter was published through 1996, when, after a short hiatus, it was revived as The Columbus State Update.

In a photo taken just before the Mt. Vernon cutoff construction began, the intersection of Washington Ave. and Mt. Vernon formed a less-than-picturesque entrance to the CTV campus.

The new "drop-off area" in front of Union Hall provided an attractive, covered entrance way to campus.
1981
Enrollment was heading up rapidly, doubling since 1976 to more than 8,400 students. The CTI team had completed the most recent accreditation study, headed up by instructor Jonnie Budke, and North Central Association granted the college its first-ever 10-year membership status. After a two-day visit, the NCA team praised the ERC. Developmental Education, Health Services, computer facilities, Handicapped Services, Job Placement, and the Financial Aid office for their efforts. The team expressed concern about unequal teaching loads, outdated equipment in the engineering division labs, and lack of internal communications. The team recommended a formal review in three years. In 1981, students were paying $25 per credit hour, and the college

Modern computer equipment such as PCs became more widespread in the 80s.

This aerial view of campus in the early 80s shows how the Borden property, lower right, provided a good amount of new parking for Columbus Tech.
pioneered its new “Shop and Learn” program at the then-thriving and trendy Eastland, Northland and Westland Malls. Off-Campus programs were in vogue; the Westerville, Dublin and Gahanna Centers were featured in advertising and promoted heavily as the college discovered the value of offering convenience to its burgeoning student population.

1982
Twenty-one years ago, students were paying $28 per credit hour, and that price apparently agreed with them because enrollment had reached an all-time high of 9,280 students. But the Institute was getting ready to experience economy-related declines over the next five years, and wouldn’t hit 9,000 students again until 1988. The state of Ohio was experiencing a budget crunch, and CTI administrators worried as funding was cut eight percent. Growth slowed as the college tightened its belt in the recession. Still, CTI expanded bit by bit, acquiring a piece of nearby Borden Company property for additional parking, and remodeling Rhodes Hall for new engineering labs. Although difficulties lay ahead, so did an incredible period of growth for CTI.

1983
CTI was busy celebrating its 20th anniversary, but enrollment was flat at about 9,000 students, and headed toward slight declines in the next few years. Still, close to 500 students graduated, earning their Associate of Applied Science degrees, at the Spring Quarter Commencement at Veterans Memorial. The first Staff and Faculty Advisory Councils had been instituted, and began making recommendations to the administration. Several technical degree programs were discontinued due to low enrollment in 1983, including Industrial Laboratory and Wholesale Mid-Management.
1984
At 8,485 students, enrollment at Columbus State had been falling off at a rate of several hundred per year. The college looked toward advertising as a means of boosting enrollment in the technical programs, and ads on television and radio began to feature a musical “jingle” for the very first time. How many can remember the tune “CTI: for a High Tech Higher Education…” Students and employees of the Institute were encouraged to refer to CTI as “Columbus Tech” as the official “nickname” of the college. Some of the college’s nine off-campus sites included Hopkins House in Sunbury, Sears in the Westland Mall, and the YMCA North, as well as two joint vocational high schools in Delaware and Groveport. The Board of Regents approved the Multi-Competency Health Technology, in response to local hospital administrators consolidating their departments and requiring employees with multiple skills. And in 1984, the college held its very first Employee Service Awards Program, designed by President Nestor to boost morale among employees struggling to deal with state budget cuts, decreased enrollment, and stalled growth.

Mid-80s advertising featured “High Tech Higher Education” which was modified later to read “Hire Education,” as the college’s focus sharpened on preparing students to get jobs.

Long before he began starring in the commercials for his fast food restaurant chain, Wendy’s, Dave Thomas delivered the commencement address to graduates of the Spring 1984 class.

Students enrolled in BDP classes could use “a remote printer reserved exclusively for student jobs!”
1985
Enrollments dipped significantly for the third year in a row, and although plans were in the making for the change to a community college that would boost numbers immediately, the CTI campus was glum. An expansion project for the ERC brought some excitement to the campus as excavations began. It would be the only construction project initiated in the 80s. The project added 16,000 square feet at a cost of approximately $1 million. Students were still paying only $28 per credit hour to attend CTI, and in the college Bulletin, the Business Data Processing Technology bragged that “students will use an IBM 4341 computer system with a remote printer that is reserved exclusively for student jobs.”

Track loaders dig in as the expansion project for the Educational Resource Center begins. With no new construction projects since 1979, the expansion gave campus a little excitement and a feeling of prosperity in times of dipping enrollment.

At her first college commencement address after being elected State Representative, Jo Ann Davidson addresses a CTI graduating class in the college’s gymnasium. Davidson would later be honored as a lifelong supporter of Columbus State, with the naming of Davidson Hall in 2001. Tina Perry is shown interpreting the ceremony.
1986

CTI was in the midst of change as the college got ready to re-charter, change its mission, and become Columbus State Community College. Great attention was given to the type of logo the college would use as the new Columbus State - the new “CS” logo was crafted in the PR department. Enrollment had hit a six-year low at 7,751 students, but no one worried much because history showed that technical schools rebounded dramatically once they began offering degrees in the arts and sciences. During the year, the library extension was completed, and a renovation was made to the student’s favorite hangout - the cafeteria. In 1986, the CTI Board approved the offering of an early retirement “buyout” and 23 long-time employees said goodbye, including Russ Jordan, Henry Miller, Carol Weber, Harold Brown, Carol Watkins, Joe Maneri and Wil Raub...all familiar names to those working at CTI in the 80s.
1987
On July 1, 1987, twenty years to the date that CTI had been chartered for the first time, the college was re-chartered as Columbus State Community College in order “to provide additional educational opportunities to area residents.” The Arts & Sciences Division geared up to provide the Associate of Arts and the Associate of Science degrees—the transfer programs—and many new faculty were hired to teach humanities, social and behavioral sciences, biological and physical sciences, and modern languages. Enrollment surged by a thousand students the first year of the re-charter—to 8,485. Double-digit percentage increases would follow for the next six years as the college accommodated the hundreds of new transfer students. Articulation agreements with four-year universities were developed to ease the students’ transfer into baccalaureate programs, and the Transfer Module—a core of required arts and science courses—ensured that all courses taken at Columbus State would transfer to all four-year, state-supported institutions in Ohio. College advertising included the now-famous tagline: “Columbus State, we have your future in mind.”

 Appropriately during this period, a statue of Christopher Columbus was donated to the city of Columbus by the town of Barrington, Illinois. The original statue had been sculpted in Italy and shipped to Illinois in 1962 as a gesture of appreciation by a local immigrant-turned-successful businessman, Anthony DeTomasi. When the Illinois town could no longer maintain the huge monument, which was originally mounted on an enormous base representing the bow of the Santa Maria, they chose to sell it for one dollar, whereupon the brand-new Columbus State Community College offered to give it a home...minus the ship. As the college celebrated its transformation into a comprehensive community college, and braced for the inev...
table enrollment surge, the 30-foot Carrara-marble statue was repaired and lowered onto a platform built at the center of campus. Officials praised it, commenting, “He will be pointing toward downtown, giving the students a sense of direction.”

1988

By the following year, enrollment was up at Columbus State by more than 20 percent over CTI numbers in 1986. The operating budget at the college hopped to $21 million, and crews were busy renovating buildings across Cleveland Avenue for needed classroom space. George Bush was elected 41st president, and The Cosby Show was the number one television program in the nation. Two new degree programs were approved in Early Childhood Development and Marketing Technology, and 371 graduates entered the workforce, some with brand-new associate of arts and sciences degrees!

The statue was assembled on campus, then dedicated with a flurry of balloons in the summer of 1987.

Dusk on the campus of the new Columbus State Community College.
1989
The college was experiencing the rapid growth in enrollment that would stay with us for the first few years after becoming Columbus State Community College. With 11,094 students, 15 percent enrollment growth was to become the norm each fall, a welcome change after enrollment stagnation of the early 80s. Electro-mechanical Engineering Technology and Quality Assurance were newly approved technologies. With an operating budget of $26 million and employees numbering 447, Columbus State was in the midst of a thrilling period of growth as we headed for the 90s!

As the transfer programs in the Arts & Sciences grew popular, the average age of Columbus State’s students slowly dropped.

One of the new technical programs in 1989 was Early Childhood Development.

Enrollment was booming for several years following the recharter. A line to register stretches out of Madison Hall.

Eighties students pose in this advertising shot taken outside Eibling Hall.
Harold Nestor poses for an informal portrait on campus. The President was a familiar face out on campus, whether walking to the cafeteria for lunch, or strolling around chatting with students. (In his paper bag, he carried not his lunch, but some parts for his beloved motorcycle.)
1990

Columbus State was basking in the glow of leaping enrollments and what Dr. Nestor called “the greatest fall quarter in the history of the College” was underway. More than 13,000 students had enrolled, closing in on a 100 percent increase over pre-community college days of 1986. The second annual Taste of the Future raised $16,000 for scholarships, and the new Ford ASSET program teamed Columbus State with Ford Motor Company to train a select group of students for high-tech automotive careers. The North Central Association of College and Schools granted the
Dubbed one of “Columbus’ Top Ten Eyesores,” The Borden Dairy Processing Plant comes down to make room for new Columbus State parking lots. Union Hall can be seen in the background of this photo to add reference.

College renewed membership status for a period of ten years. The new Dublin Center opened Fall Quarter with 809 students, triple the number enrolled in the former center. The Board of Trustees approved new technologies in Microcomputing and Surgical Technology. One million dollars went towards the replacement of the college’s mainframe computer system, and $325,000 to renovate Hospitality Management’s kitchens, originally built in 1967.

Dubbed one of “Columbus’ Top Ten Eyesores” by the local media, the Borden Dairy Processing Plant was leveled and turned into a parking lot for 1,000 student cars.

1991

A groundbreaking, with President Nestor at the controls of a backhoe rather than wielding the traditional shovel - took place in August for the 128,000-square-foot Academic Center A. Another record enrollment of 15,209 students watched the entire southeast corner of campus become a construction site, and good weather allowed workers to proceed ahead of schedule. The Student Ambassador program was implemented, with six hand-picked students trained to assist with counseling, orientation and special events on campus. Columbus State opened a daycare center called “The Children’s Firehouse,” which catered to parents enrolled

As soon as the groundbreaking was completed, construction crews went to work, and in no time, a gaping hole appeared on campus for the foundation of Academic Center A.

The building takes shape - a photo taken from the roof of Ebling Hall.

The Children’s Firehouse on Mt. Vernon Avenue opened in 1991 to house a daycare center for parents enrolled in the JOBS programs.

Children play on the antique fire truck at the Grand Opening.
in the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS) training institute. The center was operated out of the remodeled former firehouse on Mt. Vernon Avenue. A new Landscape Major was added under the architecture technology, but would soon become its own associate degree program, along with the new Radiology Technology and Medical Records Technology.

1992

Until this year, cigarette smoking in all college buildings and offices had been permitted, but a new policy would soon force smokers outdoors. Reactions were mixed, but the transition went smoothly and soon Columbus State was smoke-free. A pioneering community research study, conducted by Saperstein & Associates, showed that Columbus State had high name recognition and a reputation for personal attention and small classes. Only 12 percent of the population still believed CTI existed. As “his” academic center took shape, an upbeat Dr. Nestor commented “summer is upon us, the weather is phenomenal, the college is growing, the campus is beautiful, the students are glowing and we’re approaching another year of great things at Columbus State. What more could we ask?”

President Nestor commented that “the students were glowing” Fall Quarter of 1992, when record enrollment brought numbers to 16,500.

Hilary Clinton visited campus in May, campaigning for her husband Bill. She visited with Sharon Woodard, who coordinated a computer skills lab for the Private Industry Council.
1993
Columbus State geared up to dedicate Nestor Hall on July 1 of the year, while simultaneously scurrying to start the "Academic Center B" project, wedged into an impossible slice of parking lot just north of Madison Hall. The 20/20 Vision Master Plan was released showcasing all the exciting changes planned "for the 21st century." The plan included a conference center across the street from the garage, connected by plaza-level bridges to the rest of campus, but the rest of the plan has followed as laid out in this document written exactly a decade ago.

In a traditional "topping off" ceremony, in which the final steel beam for a building is raised into place, Harold Nestor adds his name alongside those of staff, faculty, architects, designers and construction workers.

Throughout the nineties, diversity on campus increased along with enrollment.

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Dr. Nestor, wife Suzie Nestor, and Chairman of the Board Napoleon Bell do the honors.

Campus had become stunningly beautiful with our new building, lighted sculpture and carefully manicured landscaping that earned us a "City Beautiful" award.
1994

New technical programs kicked off the year in Environmental Technology and Technical Communications, but the good economy combined with declining numbers of high school students took its toll on Columbus State’s enrollment, handing the college its first decline since 1985. After a peak of 17,000 students in ’93, enrollment fell to 16,795 students in the fall quarter, and headed down for the next few years. It was a temporary disappointment to college officials, however, as all colleges were experiencing similar small declines. The predicted “baby boomlet” was on its way, according to census predictions, and enrollments would soon rebound. Tuition was increased at the college by four percent, from $51 per credit hour to $53. The college advertising changed from the theme “No Excuses” to “Yes You Can,” to put a positive spin on the quest for enrollments. President Nestor celebrated his 30th anniversary with the college, and the 64-year-old leader was given an extended contract by the Board of Trustees to lead Columbus State through 1999.

1995

Columbus State’s year kicked off with excitement as U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Robert Reich brought his promotional tour of the country to our campus. Secretary Reich was outlining President Clinton’s proposed Middle Class Bill of Rights, which included tuition tax credits, work-based learning programs and one-stop career centers, programs that Secretary Reich claimed “community colleges are uniquely positioned to provide.” Workforce education was the

The President and honorary chairmen of the annual Taste of the Future posed on campus to promote the upcoming fundraiser for The Dispatch. Shown with Dr. Nestor are Walter Chambers, Ronald Tilley, Pete White, Jr., and James McAtee from The Ohio Company, Columbia Gas, and AEP.

At the groundbreaking ceremony for Academic Center B June 28, 1995, Dr. Nestor jokes with a crowd of staff and faculty, then encourages more of them to come forward and join in the “group groundbreaking.”

Dr. Harold M. Nestor passed away October 20, 1995.
catch phrase of Clinton’s education policies, and community colleges across the country basked in praise for their accessibility, affordability, and adaptability. Academic Center B was under construction, and its curved facade and brick patterning mimicked the appearance of Nestor Hall. It would house the Math Department, the Construction Sciences, and Academic Affairs, as well as a teaching and learning resource center with all the latest innovations for the campus’ newest fascination - the Internet. Campus was steaming along full speed ahead when we were dealt with an unprecedented shock - President Harold M. Nestor died of a heart attack on October 20, 1995. He was 66.

1996

Although Harold Nestor had had a massive coronary at age 34, and had undergone triple bypass surgery at age 51, college administrators and board members couldn’t quite grasp the concept that he was gone. Vice President for Business and Administrative Services Marvin Gutter was named interim president until a national search could be conducted for a new president. Work proceeded with Academic Center B, and it was nearly

After a national search, the college, in July, selected M. Valeriana Moeller, Ph.D., provost at Lansing Community College in Michigan, to be our new president.

At the Presidential Inauguration Ceremony, held in Veterans Memorial, Dr. Moeller chats with Trustees Barbara Webb and Stuart Williams.

A College Council, designed to provide input and information for the president, was formed representing all divisions of the college.
complete by year’s end. A pedestrian bridge made of an open steel framework, decorated with symbols and lighted with fiber optics, was proposed to connect the new center with the future parking garage. Enrollment was still stalled in the 16s...16,330 enrolled for fall quarter, and there it would stay for two more years. Into this uncertainty, arriving from a college with almost identical demographics and challenges, came our next president, Dr. Valeriana Moeller, from Lansing Community College in Michigan. In July 1996, she took over as only the fourth president of a college that had transformed itself twice in 33 years.

1997
Dealing with challenges was the name of the game in 1997, and Columbus State opened its new Academic Center, leaped into distance learning, heavily reorganized departments, and started construction on a huge garage to deal with the parking shortage. Short-term course offerings, off-campus site expansions, improved student services, and new programs were examined as ways of kick-starting a struggling enrollment. A whole new division was constructed by combining our numerous community education and workforce development offices, including Entrepreneur Workforce, Continuing Professional Education, Co-operative Education, Business and Industry Training, Transitional Workforce, and K-12 Initiatives.

An aerial view of campus soon after the completion of Academic Center B (which would not be rededicated as Davidson Hall until '99) shows the need for the new parking garage, which would begin construction later that year.
1998

New technical programs sprouted in several areas during the year, including Multimedia Production, Fire Science, Dental Hygiene, and Facilities Management; and articulation agreements with Ohio State, Miami University, and Shawnee State gave Columbus State students the opportunity for "seamless transitions" into the bachelor degree programs of their choice. The students had more choices in their cafeteria as well, as it was totally renovated to the tune of half a million dollars, to make better use of the space and allow new food options. The parking garage opened in January, with over a thousand new spots and lots of safety features for the students.

Enrollments were stable, but enrollments in the transfer programs, where students graduated with an intent to further their education, increased steadily. The college signed a number of articulation agreements with local four-year universities, easing the transfer of credit between the institutions.

The cafeteria renovation in Delaware Hall added new food choices and a streamlined design to the circa-1973 facility.

In October, Columbus State welcomed new Ohio State President William "Brit" Kirwan to campus with the theme: "Columbus State & OSU- What a Team!"
The 1000 parking spaces provided by the new parking garage that opened in 1998 were soon in full use.

Newly-elected governor Bob Taft visited campus in January to detail his plan for higher education in the state, and posed with the Student Ambassadors.

1999

Campus was in full “spruce-up” mode, with a total renovation of Rhodes Hall complete, and work proceeding on the new “welcome center,” to reconfigure and vastly improve access to Admissions, Records and Registration, and the Compass Testing Lab. Our central mallway was renovated as well, making it smooth and handicap accessible as well as beautiful. Several million dollars were spent updating computer equipment, buying equipment for labs, and gearing up the Global Campus offerings. A diverse committee representing every facet of campus conducted a self-study and prepared for the visit.

Mid-year in 1999, the college received the donation of a Human Patient Simulator, a quarter-million-dollar marvel that greatly enhanced learning for students in nursing, EMS and Respiratory Care.
Starting in 1998 and continuing throughout the year in 1999, the total renovation of the enrollment management areas in Madison and Rhodes Halls was in progress. As the new Millennium rolled in, the "Welcome Center" complex was opened and dedicated.

As 1999 drew to a close, Columbus State and the entire business world worried about the arrival of "Y2K." But midnight came and went with no complications, and students arrived for their first day of classes January 3, 2000.

from North Central Association of Colleges and Schools that would gain us re-accreditation for a period of another ten years in 2000. And Y2K rumors abounded as the nation prepared for a transition to the new millennium — although the Data Center assured us that January 1 would not mean a computerized nightmare of missing data, incorrect dates, lost paychecks and power failures...the seconds passed nervously as the clock rolled over to 12:01:01, January 1, 2000.
Columbus State Community College in the 21st Century

As the college enters its fifth decade, it does so from a position of strength and excellence. Our beautiful campus continues to expand, our student body grows and diversifies, our academic programs remain at the top of their game, adapting to the changes and challenges of the marketplace quickly and surely. As the budget challenges, so we respond with increased efficiency, growth in revenues, and confidence in our direction and mission. Our reputation as a quality institution continues to grow in the business community, and our graduates are more sought after than ever. As Fall Quarter 2003 approaches, we fully expect to see 25,000 students enrolled, from all backgrounds, nationalities, and age groups. The college fires along with a renewed sense of purpose, governed internally, growing exponentially, flush with success. As ever, we struggle with certain problems; where to park everyone; how to hear everyone; how to serve everyone.
A second full-service campus is under consideration, an exciting development that would open up the most vigorous growth area in Ohio to our services. The Technology and Learning Center, our third new academic center in ten years, opened in time for 22,222 fall quarter '02 students to enjoy its resources, and the plans for Academic Center D are underway. The new center will house facilities for the workforce development functions of our college as well as an expanded day care center. When Columbus State Community College reaches its 50th anniversary in the year 2013, only this is certain: the community's college will be bigger, better, and quite possibly the most thriving educational institution in Ohio. Happy Birthday, Columbus State!
HA-PPY BIRTH-DAY!

WHAH! call the fire marshall!

Ahh - ...just a kid!

Geeez - How old?!

Is there a cake under all those candles?

Shoot - this is just the beginning!

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