Engineering a Future for Others

Anyone who has invested in the stock market remembers their first loss. For Tony Bichum, that's going back a long way—more than 70 years—to about 1936. "I got started in the market when I was 18," recalls Tony. "My first loss was Bristol Brass. It was selling at $8 a share and, at the time, that was cheap."

Fortunately for Tony, and for CCSU, he didn't let the loss get to him. Armed with just an elementary school education and an innate sense for investing, Tony has made a lot of money in stocks over the course of his life. But with no immediate family members to survive him, he has decided to use his resources to support scholarships in the CCSU School of Engineering and Technology. His gift, made up of a combination of cash and estate funds, is expected to be the largest gift ever awarded to CCSU by an individual donor.

"This is a history-making gift that will benefit CCSU students for many years," said CCSU President Jack Miller in announcing the donation. "We are touched by Mr. Bichum's generosity and awed by the legacy it creates."

Dr. Zdzislaw Krenens, dean of the School of Engineering and Technology, added, "The Anthony and Helen G. Bichum Scholarship Fund will enable many qualified students to pursue their dreams of a college education and go on to rewarding careers. We deeply appreciate this very generous gift."

continued on page 4
Embracing and Promoting Polish History and Culture with Verve

Dr. Mieczysław B. Biskupski remembers when he was a child his mother played Chopin pieces on the piano and sometimes burst into Polish patriotic songs. Then in the mid-1980s after long years of Communist domination in Poland, his grandmother, nearly in tears, asked him, "When will the Fatherland be free?"

A descendant of Polish soldiers, artists, and musicians forced to leave Russian Poland early in the 20th century for political reasons, Biskupski says, "I'm intensely attached to Poland. Every day I feel honored to teach the History of Poland and guide the Polish Studies program here at CCSU."

Biskupski couples his enthusiasm with formidable credentials. Earning his doctorate from Yale and having taught history there, he has held visiting professorships at the University of Rochester, served as Fulbright Research Professor at the University of Warsaw, and, in 1997, was a Fellow of the Central European University of Budapest.

He is an esteemed Polish American scholar, the author of eight books and scores of journal articles on Polish history and culture. His verve and international reputation make him well-suited to his role as holder of the Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies. Biskupski was appointed to the chair in 2002 when he joined CCSU. The chair is one of only two Polish Studies chairs in the country—the other being at Harvard.

With great fondness Biskupski recalls his friendship with the late Dr. Stanislaus Blejwas, a long-time CCSU history professor and the first CSU Professor, who founded the Polish Studies Program in 1974. "Stan and I were close friends for 25 years, and I inherited his wonderful work. I like to think he'd be satisfied with how the Polish Studies program continues to flourish and to foster, both regionally and nationally, a wider understanding of Polish history and culture."

UNIQUE PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Polish Studies offers courses in Polish history and language, politics, culture, and civilization. "Polish history and language courses are a rarity at American institutions of higher learning," observes Biskupski. "We offer two years of language courses and a series of history courses at the graduate and undergraduate level. Some of our graduate students have already published scholarly works on Polish topics."

Resources for Polish Studies include the Polish Heritage Collection of books and periodicals in the Elihu Burritt Library and the Connecticut Polish American Archives, a research depository for the public, scholars, and students of the Polish community in America.

PUBLIC EVENTS DRAW LARGE CROWDS

"Many of our public events have included conferences, symposia, lectures, art exhibits, concerts (and other musical performances), meetings with prominent members of the international Polish community, and literary evenings. They have brought large crowds to learn about Poland and its splendid heritage," says Biskupski.


Other activities include the annual Friederczyk Lecture in Polish American Studies, the annual Milewski Lecture in Polish Studies, and the Golewski Evening of Polish Culture. "Our Christmas concerts are always popular, and recently a musical and dramatic performance by a local theatrical group on Poland's "Road to Independence" filled Welte Hall with loud applause," recalls Biskupski.

HUB FOR POLONIA PUBLICATIONS

Currently, Polish Studies is co-sponsor of an effort to create an encyclopedia of the Poles in America—the first to document Polish people in the U.S. from early settlers to present day. Biskupski is one of the editors and writers for entries. He says, "We are a major sponsor of the Ohio University Press series of books on Poland and Polish American history."

Polish Studies also hosts the headquarters of the prestigious Polish American Historical Association, which promotes scholarly research and publications in studies of Polish American history. In 2004 Biskupski was recipient of the association's prestigious Haiman Award for his sustained scholarship on the Polish-American ethnic group in the U.S.

KOSCIUZKO SQUADRON EXHIBIT

Coming to fruition last year was the Kosciuszko Squadron commemorative project under the auspices of Polish Studies. The permanent exhibit dedicated to the Kosciuszko Squadron is mounted at the New England Air Museum in Windsor Locks. It honors the Kosciuszko Squadron that was formed after World War I and later distinguished itself during World War II. The air unit helped to defend the fledgling nation... continued on page 11
Focus on Scholarship: Nidal Al-Masoud
Instilling Independent Ways of Thinking in Inquisitive Minds

Dr. Nidal Al-Masoud of the School of Engineering and Technology observed students in his statics course (a branch of mechanics analyzing the effects of forces on objects at rest). They were having difficulty visualizing theoretical concepts in three-dimensional space. They struggled with algebraic manipulations.

A veteran mechanical engineer, Al-Masoud looked for a practical solution. He decided to introduce his students to MATLAB®, an easy-to-use technical computing language that integrates computation, visualization, and programming.

"Integrating MATLAB® Graphical User Interface (GUI) into the course couples both graphic and analytical approaches to solve problems and adds a variety of ways to teach students of different learning styles and analytical abilities," explains Al-Masoud. "Furthermore, students are better equipped to answer the 'what if' question. They can better predict the behavior of structures under different loading scenarios."

Junior Ayman Elhawi, a mechanical engineering major, says, "The Statics course left a strong impression on me, and it was the reason I continued my studies in mechanical engineering. The subject was really interesting, and the course was well taught. Dr. Al-Masoud made sure we were on the right track by giving us assignments that helped us understand the subject."

When Al-Masoud presented his educational approach to teaching Statics at the 2006 American Society for Engineering Education conference, he garnered the Mechanics Division Best Paper Award.

The assistant professor of mechanical engineering, who joined CCSU in 2003, holds a bachelor's degree from Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey. Experienced as a professional site and design engineer in industry abroad, he earned a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the State University of New York, Buffalo.

JOINING THE DREAM TEAM
A practicing engineer with a positive flair in the classroom (he was named to the Excellence in Teaching Honor Roll in 2005), Al-Masoud was the ideal candidate to join the "Dream Team" of Drs. Peter Baumann, associate professor, and Alfred Gates, professor and chair of the Engineering Department. The trio teamed to successfully create a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering, the first in engineering in the CSU system. The degree was approved by the Department of Higher Education in April 2006.

Al-Masoud, who along with Baumann had undertaken a feasibility study, says the degree program—with its specializations in manufacturing and aerospace—responds to the regional requirements of Connecticut’s workforce.

As the Mechanical Engineering program coordinator, supported by his faculty colleagues, Al-Masoud takes pride in a curriculum designed to meet the needs of engineering practices in the future and to exceed the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET) criteria. In addition, Al-Masoud is the chair of the Engineering Program Industrial Advisory Board, which continuously provides advice and counsel regarding the curriculum, facilities, and areas of growth relevant to the industry.

Upon joining CCSU, Al-Masoud helped spearhead the reorganization of the Electro-Mechanical Laboratory and the creation of a fluid-mechanics laboratory.

"The Mechanical Engineering program is up and running and enrollments have exceeded our expectations," declares Al-Masoud. "As of September 2007, 81 students were enrolled. We expect to have our first graduates in 2009." He adds, "One of the important features of the program is a requirement of 400 hours of real-world experience in the form of internships, which serve as a bridge between academia and industry—and can possibly lead to employment."

Senior Cristina Cook, who like most mechanical engineering majors has a practical bent, looks forward to her upcoming internship this summer. She's eager to take part in operations. She says, "I particularly enjoyed the Manufacturing Engineering Processes course, because we used various machinery to create a miniature cannon. It was very hands-on and beneficial. As future engineers, we should know how the processes—which we are asking machinists to perform—work."

CREATIVE ACTIVITY BEYOND THE CLASSROOM
Al-Masoud's research interests span a broad list of subjects—educational software development; control systems and thermal-fluid sciences; mathematical modeling; computer simulation; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) design; and feasibility of alternative energy resources.

He has presented and published papers in journals (including a 2005 article in the prestigious IEEE Transactions on Control Systems Technology), The Al-Masoud-Baumann-and-Gates comparison study of the Mechanical Engineering curriculum, as well as an analysis of the new and desired attributes of future engineering education, has been presented and published in the 2007 American Society of Engineering Education ASEE proceedings.

He has successfully applied for internal student/faculty research grants. One project, with colleagues Drs. Farid Farahmand and Ravinda Thamma, along with student Ramadani Ghani, is a feasibility study for photovoltaic solar cells as a supplemental energy source for Copernicus Hall. A second project with Thamma and student Bruce Deeghly is a pilot study for prototype robot positioning and orientation. The third project, with Dr. Vatchelev Naumov, a new member of the SE&T faculty, deals with the design and fabrication of a human-powered moonbuggy, leading to participation in the annual Great Moonbuggy Race at NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Alabama. This project won approval for funding by the Connecticut Space Grant College Consortium.

Just as Al-Masoud works collaboratively on projects with colleagues and students, he wants his students to develop the art of working cooperatively with diverse groups of people. He says, "They need skills and experience to identify and solve real-world problems. Yet, a more important (and definitely more difficult) task is to instill in them an inquisitive mind, an independent way of thinking, the courage to explore novel ideas and solutions, and the perseverance to overcome obstacles."

—Geri Radosi
Patricia Gardner Honored as Bridge-Builders

Associate Director of Graduate Admissions
Patricia Gardner (left) was recognized by the Town of Windsor's Human Relations Commission and Citizens for a United Windsor (CUW) for her longtime efforts to eliminate racism and discriminatory attitudes and practices in Windsor. According to the Windsor Journal:
Gardner's efforts in raising awareness of African-American achievement and heritage originated in her belief that bringing the truth to light about African-American contributions throughout history—something that has received inadequate attention—may change some of the negative attitudes and stereotypical views that unfortunately exist.

As Chair of Windsor's Archer Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church Community Relations Ministry, Gardner has worked with ministry members to present educational programs for Windsor students and townspeople. Presentations have included the "Black Inventions Exhibit," co-sponsored with Windsor Public Schools; "The Windsor Prayer Vigil for Hurricane Katrina Victims and Survivors," and "A Black American's Perspective of 9/11." Gardner also led "Windsor Community Pays Homage to the Tuskegeer Airmen," a tribute to the racially segregated World War II Army Air Force units, revered for their successes and sacrifices.

Throughout her adult life, Gardner has found ways—either in her job or as a volunteer—to build bridges for all kinds of people. She participated in Windsor's initial race relations study circles and has participated in the town's "Conversations on Race.

While employed by Windsor Town Government, she worked with "A World of Difference," which conducted a diversity training seminar for town staff. This led to staff diversity training that included town residents. She also staffed Windsor's Human Relations Commission and conducted workshops for town staff on sexual harassment laws and the rights of people with disabilities. Additionally, she initiated efforts to increase the number of the town's minority employees.

At Central Connecticut State University, she serves on the African-American Advisory Committee. Other roles have included facilitating forums to address racial tensions among culturally diverse students and co-facilitating a workshop entitled "Does Being Different Make a Difference at CCSU?"

Engineering a Future for Others (continued from page 1)

The eldest of six children born to Russian immigrants, Tony Bichum grew up in the modest New Britain neighborhood where he still lives today. He was raised in a down-to-earth manner consistent with the values and lifestyle of his parents, who worked in the mills.

Tony dropped out of school after seventh grade and took on a series of odd jobs. He worked the tobacco fields, and he swept and paved roads for the City of New Britain. At age 13, he became a shoe shine boy at Putnam and Company, a local brokerage firm, where he developed a keen interest in the stock market.

"I learned the stock market on my knees shining shoes at Putnam's," says Tony. "I watched those boys putting up those signs—it was all manual back then—and it fascinated me. The first time I had a buck, I started investing. I've kept money; I've made money. But I'm happy."

At age 16, Tony left home and joined the Civilian Conservation Corps, a relief program created by FDR for unemployed young men. When he returned to New Britain, he attended trade school and became a tool and die maker. He was hired by Skinner Chuck Company in 1939, where he stayed for 25 years. He joined the army during World War II and was sent to Holland and then Germany, where, 18 months into his tour of duty, he sustained a serious chest injury and was given an early discharge.

Tony and his wife, Helen, the daughter of a Pennsylvania coal miner, were married in 1950. She worked in the office of Stanley Works, and they enjoyed married life until her death in 1984.

According to Paul Gianaris '70, whose father and uncle were good friends with Tony, Helen was partially responsible for the couple's financial success.

"Mrs. Bichum managed the household well, That's how they accumulated their wealth. They didn't have to dip into their investments to cover household expenses; they kept compounding and reinvesting the dividends."

Despite his financial success, Tony regrets not having gone to college. "I'm a firm believer in education," he says, "because I never had it. I came from a family that promoted education, but I left school early and went to work. I wish now I had gone to college, because if you have an education and you know where you want to go, nothing can stop you."

Tony decided to donate the money to Central, in part on the advice of Paul and another good friend, Diane Abraham, who works in the CCSU Office of Graduate Admissions.

Paul explains, "He was going to have his bank manage a trust for scholarships and we said to him, 'If you're going to give it for scholarships, why not give it directly to the school?'"

Diane lives on the second floor of Tony's house and has helped care for him and other members of his family over the years. "He's a good guy. I've known him for some 37 years. I was 20 when I moved there with my mom. We used to have dinner together. If I had a problem, I'd discuss it with him. He's helped me quite a bit. Now that Helen and my mom are gone, Tony and I take care of each other."

Tony has used some of his savings to travel extensively, both with his wife and since her death. He has been to Russia four times and has traveled throughout Europe, the United States, and Canada. These days he stays busy in spite of—or perhaps because of—his age. He works out three mornings a week in the fitness center at the Hospital for Special Care. He attends church every Sunday. And most mornings you can find him at the McDonald's on West Main Street, enjoying a cup of coffee with friends.

"Tony is one of those people who says what's on his mind," says Paul. "Sometimes you can have disagreements with him over small things, but if you look beyond that you find that he's so much better than he comes across. I nicknamed him 'Happiness' because when he comes in the room every morning, he greets an old friend by picking up his hat, kissing him on the head, and putting the hat back on. He looks forward to that."

"Tony has a lot of wonderful qualities," reflects Paul. "He is kind. Loyal. Honest. He has a sense of humor. And he believes in education." All qualities that money can't buy.

—Martha Perry
Jeff Teitler: "Filmmaking Empowers, Bears Witness to Our Lives"

"Perfection does not come easy. It takes hours of footwork in order to get that one great scene and even longer to tell the story that is worth telling," reflects Mike Palmer, a senior communication major. "That's what I learned in Jeff Teitler's video production class."

Palmer, who produced an impressive three-minute piece, "Self-Portrait," after laboring some three months compiling hours and hours of footage, is one example of how CCSU communication students are effectively expressing themselves through creative filmmaking projects.

As Jeffrey Teitler, assistant professor of communication, sees it: "Today, filmmaking is dramatically changing, empowering, and elevating the lives of so many—particularly non-traditional learners. More than an artistic endeavor, it gives voice and bears witness to our greatest concerns. It provides a tangible channel with which to create and broadcast our ideas, and it leaves evidence that we were here and that our struggles and triumphs can live in the ever-present second, as well as remain and communicate for years to come."

**FUSION OF THEATER AND FILMMAKING**

New to the Communication department, Teitler introduces an artistic/theatrical vantage point to filmmaking (he holds the MFA from the Yale School of Drama and a BFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts). As he teaches his courses, which cover topics such as basic through advanced production, video editing, and communication technologies, Teitler uses a combination of theatrical practices, cinematic techniques, and storytelling structures. He says, "My instruction emphasizes student voice and strong perspectives."

Students gain visual and artistic literacy by mastering certain filmmaking techniques. For example, they learn the art of "continuous movement," moving a person from one point to another through multiple takes, angles, and focal lengths of the exact same action. Then they apply the painstaking art of editing. "When students realize what stories they can potentially tell through these techniques, there's a hushed silence in the class. It's thrilling for me to watch them transform their thoughts into effective films and documentaries," says Teitler.

Students create short films, public service announcements, and documentaries, and they volunteer with nonprofits and develop media for important causes. Production students have effectively captured the experiences of those affected by drunk driving and produced highly personal self-portraits. Streaming samples of these films can be found on the new Film and Television Production website at www.communication.ccsu.edu/production/production.html.

**CAREER POSSIBILITY**

Senior communication major Casey Geraghty expresses his sense of accomplishment:

"Professor Teitler made me realize how important each aspect of making a film is. When you execute the composition, lighting, sound, and content to perfection, you will have made something that you can be proud of."

He completed a promotional film for CCSU's Management Information Systems Department. He comments, "The entire experience opened my eyes to the fact that I can make what I love to do into a career. Professor Teitler and I met with MIS Department Chair Marianne D'Onofrio. This was my first client meeting. Now I know how to sell my services as an individual, how to deal with the client, and how to create a product for that client. I am much more confident in my skills as a digital filmmaker/editor, which is a direct result of what Professor Teitler taught me. I've learned business and communication skills to promote myself as a freelance digital filmmaker/editor."

**IMPRESSIVE LIST OF CREDITS**

Geraghty and his classmates are learning from an inspired filmmaker who has accumulated remarkable credits and awards. Teitler's film Perception was featured in the Silver Lake Film Festival in Los Angeles, CA, and received a Platinum Remi award from the Houston International Film Festival—Worldfest 2007. Teitler's film Like This was featured in 2006 at the prestigious Egyptian Theatre in Los Angeles, CA, as part of the Golden Star Short Film Festival. Teitler is also a Best Screenplay award winner from The Colorado Independent Film Festival (Telluride Indiefest) as well as a 2002-04 New Century Writer Award/Moxie Films top-three finalist.

Teitler currently serves as the lead curriculum developer for the Children's Defense Fund's Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative—a three-state venture in which rural, underserved communities in Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, are undergoing artistic and technological instruction in media production, documentary filmmaking, and oral history.

With his latest creative activity, Teitler continues to draw on his background as a playwright and screenwriter. "I want to tell stories about our human condition and to investigate aspects of our increasingly complex world," he declares. "Filmmaking utilizes all that attracted me to theatre and (through independent filmmaking) empowers that process even more."

Sweetland, his newest documentary, is a year-long project he plans to submit to various film festivals. It follows a line of stories on the front lines of America's obstacles, Teitler describes his latest project: "Following a multidisciplinary and diverse cast, it is (at times) dangerous and humbling work. The documentary travels through back alleys of crime-filled streets and includes state senators and even (in final negotiation) the Trauma Center at St. Francis Hospital. With participants which include Detective Karla Rodriguez of the Hartford Police Department and Brad Davis of WDRC, Sweetland is an artistic investigation of America's culture through intertwining stories of people fighting for her improvement."

As a practicing filmmaker, Teitler says, "It is a joy to work as part of the Communication department and with the diverse array of professors and students here. Ultimately, I believe filmmaking is an accessible art. It is built by skill, idea by idea, and moment to moment. The skills are fully obtainable by anyone with a desire to tell stories. It is an honor to help students tell the stories they want to tell."

—Geni Radacsi
substituted as a team leader. They were also joined by two teammates from California, an Orthodox Christian and a Lutheran. The group was also racially diverse, with Asian Americans, African Americans, and whites working side by side. “People from all walks of life and religions volunteered. We were all there for a cause,” said Bannon.

He was able to find fulfillment during his first spring break trip. “You normally don’t experience things like drilling through concrete, cutting iron rebar with carbon saws, building new homes, or even driving a four-ton forklift. Spending spring break helping others to glorify God is extremely rewarding.”

New Orleans is gradually healing with the help of people like Bannon. “They need help. They need something. Just from my experience last year, I’m going to do this again.”

At 18, a pivotal moment of self-realization struck Bannon and started his drive and ambition—accepting his mortality, living for other people, exhibiting selflessness, and leading an inspiring spiritual life. Bannon attends St. John the Baptist Carpatho-Russian Orthodox church in Bridgeport where he’s served at the altar for the past 14 years.

He also works at Camp Nazareth, created in 1977 when 289 acres of land were donated for the creation of the summer camp. He attended as a child and now works in maintenance, as kitchen staff, and as a counselor. In 2003, the day after graduating from high school, he flew to Ireland to watch his brother Mark win a gold medal in the Special Olympics.

CCSU is familiar territory for Jonathan and his family. His mother, Nancy, graduated from CCSU magna cum laude in 1972 with a major in mathematics and a minor in French. Only a year later, she earned a master of science degree. His father, Mark, a Vietnam veteran, worked at CCSU in the early 1970s. Bannon’s stepfather, Bruce, earned a bachelor’s degree with a major in mathematics and a minor in psychology. He earned an MS a year later, as well as a sixth-year certificate in administration/supervision.

This spring, Bannon is working through OCF to travel to central Greece near the city of Karditsa to help restore two 16th-century monasteries. Saint George Monastery is famous for housing one of the four icons of the Virgin Mary associated with Saint Luke the Evangelist. Moni Petras is known for another religiously significant icon of the Virgin Mary. The brotherhood and brotherhood of Moni Petras are internationally diversified, representing the United States, Russia, Germany, Georgia, England, South Africa, Israel, and other nations.

— Christopher Michalski
The following students have been selected for induction into the Sigma Theta Tau Iota Epsilon Chapter at Large (Honor Society of Nursing)—CSU, University of Hartford, and St. Joseph College—for Spring 2008: Shanon Beckford, Luann Cambino, Barbara Kimsa-Mendes, Jeanette Kurtz-Fasano, Kelly Martinez, Donna Nash, Elizabeth Putman, Kimberly Rinkavage, Jennifer Sanchez, Nathan Scott, Lee Steere, Katie Upton, and Karen Lihaatsh. The following students were selected for Nightingale Awards: Ruth San Angelo, Katherine McMahon-Brown, Karen Lihaatsh, and Janice Brehida. Each student will receive a $500 scholarship.

Eric Blake '02, an assistant cross country and track coach at CCSU, was the top state finisher in the 2008 Boston Marathon with a time of 2:24:30.

Students Anthony Cifalo and Brian Smoliga won first place in the Undergraduate Venture Enterprise Division at the Connecticut Collegiate Business Plan Contest on April 25. They received a $2,500 check and a trophy for the School of Business. They also received a special grant of $5,000 from Connecticut Innovations. Cifalo and Smoliga's plan was for Digi-Wait, a wireless, electronic menu system for restaurants in the fast-casual segment of the industry. They competed against students from eight universities.

Allison Godbout is one of eight CSUS students selected by the Connecticut General Assembly for outstanding academic achievement. She is expected to graduate this May as an elementary education major, with a concentration in mathematics. She currently has a 3.87 GPA and has been on the Dean's List each semester since fall 2004. She is a member of Kappa Delta Pi, Alpha Upsilon Alpha, and the Golden Key International Honor Society. Godbout has been active with the Nutmeg Big Brother/Big Sister program and is treasurer of both Kappa Delta Pi and Alpha Upsilon Alpha. She has both volunteered and worked at Bristol Parks and Recreation as a camp counselor, basketball coach, and Hershey Track Meet volunteer. She is currently student teaching at Pine Grove Elementary School in Avon.

Assistant Professor of Marketing Henry Greene received the 2008 Professor Award for Excellence in Direct Marketing at the New England Direct Marketing Association Conference at Bentley College in May.

The Rosa-Laurent Duo—Professor of Music Linda Laurent and Professor of Music, Emeritus, Gerard Rosa—played at Weil Hall, Carnegie Hall, on Saturday, April 26. The program included pieces by Beethoven, Bach, Poulenc, and Saint-Saëns.

Dr. Richard Allington (above), professor of education at the University of Tennessee, was the keynote speaker at the Second Annual Literacy Essentials Conference, which was held at Central. Allington is president of the International Reading Association and has written over 100 research articles and several books. The conference was open to all those interested in advancing research, curriculum, and pedagogy, in reading and language arts, for all academic levels.

Feminist Performs at Opening Reception

Penny Arcade (above), also known as Susana Ventura, gave a live performance at CCSU during the opening reception of "Female Forms and Facets: Artwork by Women from 1975 to the Present, Featuring Judy Chicago with Carolee Schneemann, Cindy Sherman, Penny Arcade, Janine Antoni, Lisa Yuskavage, Judy Fox, Candice Raquel Lee, and Sara Risk." Arcade's performances are influenced by her Italian immigrant background and her childhood in New Britain. She began creating shows in the mid-'80s.

Correction:
The creative writing minor offers three sequences: poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction.
**IN THE NEWS**

In The New Britain Herald article “Refugee Pessimistic about Cuba’s Future,” Julio Jimenez, a CCSU cafeteria worker in Memorial Hall, was quoted several times. Jimenez, who earned an engineering degree at the University of Havana, added his pessimistic views of progress in Cuba. Cynthia Pope, CCSU associate professor of geography, was also quoted. She noted that her friends in Cuba are wary of Castro’s resignation and are acting cautiously because the government still monitors all activities.

In a recent Herald article, CCSU President Emeritus Richard Judd and CSU Professor of History Norton Mevinsky were mentioned for their efforts to build a university in Baghdad, Iraq. Initial funding for this project was received from the Social Science Research Council in Canada. Judd and Mevinsky initiated meetings with ambassadors representing the governments of Turkey, Syria, and Jordan in hopes that these nations will fund the attendance of students. The emphasis of this university will be on graduate studies, and the faculty will include Iraqi professors and educators from Europe, Asia, and the U.S. Judd has volunteered to spend several months abroad to help administer the program, and Mevinsky has volunteered to teach.

In a Herald article, CCSU’s Richard Mullins, executive assistant to the president for community business programs, Institute of Technology and Business Development, was quoted for his involvement in the Connecticut Workforce Development Council’s exhibit at the state capitol. The showcase featured results of the 2007 Summer Youth Employment Program. Mullins, the showcase coordinator for New Britain, commented that the goal is to increase funding for youth employment opportunities. More than 5,000 teens have been employed around the state through Capitol Workforce Partners.

Dr. Heather Munro Prescott, CCSU professor of history, was featured in an Inside Higher Ed. online article, “Student Bodies.” The interview focused on the themes of her new book, Student Bodies: The Influence of Health Services in American Society and Medicine.

Dr. David Truly, CCSU associate professor of geography, was recognized in an article in The Hartford Courant, “Retiree’s Impact Abroad,” for the research and publications undertaken during his year sabbatical in Mexico. Truly has studied retirement migration to Lake Chapala Riveria in Jalisco, Mexico, off and on for ten years.

**Travelers at CCSU**

The School of Business, in cooperation with Career Services, hosted Travelers Day at CCSU for students interested in exploring business careers. The Hartford-based company is the second-largest writer of commercial U.S. property casualty insurance. Travelers top management, including CCSU alumni, value CCSU students as an important source of talent for their future growth. Dr. David Fenton, professor of management and organization, and Tara Pollard (above, right) of Travelers organized the event, which offered firsthand insights into why business leaders believe in students’ potential to succeed in internships, leadership development programs, and employment upon graduation.

Also held on campus was a program honoring the CCSU student team in the Travelers Business Case Competition. The team earned a third place finish, ahead of University of Connecticut and the University of Wisconsin. Above, from left, Dr. Olga Petkova, management information systems; Steven Edwards; David Lewis; Dean of the School of Business Siamack Shojaei; Justin DiMarco; Steven Conforti; and Dr. Marianne D’Onofrio, chair of management information systems. All four students are management information systems majors. Steven Edwards was awarded the Travelers Scholarship for 2007-2008 in the amount of $2,750.
Debate on “New Media” and the Presidential Campaign

“Blogger Wars: How the New Media are Changing the Presidential Contest” featured a panel discussion focused on the effect of bloggers and “new media” on the 2008 presidential campaign. From left: Ned Lamont, CCSU adjunct lecturer of political science and philosophy and host of the event; Mark Pazniokas, reporter for The Hartford Courant; Tim Tagaris, internet campaign manager for Senator Chris Dodd and Ned Lamont; Colin McEnroe, talk show host on WTIC and columnist for The Hartford Courant; and Dan Gerstein, political communication consultant and communication director for Senator Joe Lieberman.

Italian-American Caucus Benefits Students

A check presented by the Connecticut General Assembly’s Italian-American Legislative Caucus Educational Fund will help ensure the success of CCSU’s increased emphasis on international studies. CCSU President Jack Miller hailed the gift, saying, “As a Center for Excellence in International Education, we take very seriously our commitment to offer our students an array of study-abroad opportunities to prepare them to become ‘global citizens,’ in an increasingly international marketplace.” The president added, “Our goal is to dramatically increase student participation in international research and educational experiences. The support we receive from donors like the Italian-American Legislative Caucus Educational Fund will help us to be successful.” Presenting the check to the CCSU Foundation, from right, Richard Balducci ’65, a member of the Connecticut State University Board of Trustees; State Representative Joseph C. Serra; Senator Dan Dibicicca; and (partially obscured) Senator Donald DeFronzo.

The presentation took place at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford as part of annual St. Joseph’s Day activities which included awards presentations to Lieutenant Governor Fedele and Hartford businessman Gaetano Indomenico.
State Grants CCSU $5.4M for Campus Renovations

The State Bond Commission has allocated $5,430,850 to CCSU for renovations and improvements to various buildings on campus. Governor M. Jodi Rell noted, "From top to bottom and inside and out, I want Central's campus to be a source of pride for students, faculty, alumni, and the entire state. Ultimately, these improvements are going to benefit Central students. That is our number one goal."

There are numerous benefits to this package, including fire code improvements in Marcus White Hall, roof replacement and the demolition of an exterior stairwell at Henry Barnard Hall, window and door replacement in Lawrence J. Davidson Hall, telecommunication infrastructure improvements at the ITBD building in New Britain, HVAC improvements to the Elihu Burritt Library and Founders Hall, and ventilation and air-conditioning improvements to various other campus buildings.

One of the most significant pieces of the package is the allocation of more than $4 million for the design of a new classroom and office facility. "The funds for the design of the classroom and office building are pivotal to our continuing renovation of the University," CCSU President Jack Miller said. "The entire CCSU community thanks Governor Rell and the General Assembly for ensuring that our students continue to receive a quality education in a supportive environment."

While Emma Hart Willard Hall and Frank J. Dileo Hall are undergoing renovations, students will transition to the new facility. CCSU's Chief Administrative Officer Richard Bachoo commented, "The new academic building will provide significant support to the academic mission of the academy. The money we are receiving is enhancing CCSU's aggressive sustainability posture."

— Christopher Michalski

Middle East Lecture Series Features Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process Discussion

Dr. Wolfgang Vorwerk (above, right), the German Consul General in Boston, and Dr. Bruno Ficili (left), an Italian educator formerly nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize and a recipient of an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from CCSU, recently came to speak at the University. Their discussion, "The Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process: Assessments by Two Europeans," was part of the Middle East Lecture Series. CSU Professor of History Norton Mezvinsky organized the series, which is sponsored by the School of Arts and Sciences, the Committee on Middle Eastern Studies of the George R. Muirhead Center for International Education, the Peace Studies Program, and the History Department.

Norton Mezvinsky Receives Honorary Doctorate from Eastern Mediterranean University

CSU Professor of History Norton Mezvinsky (center) was awarded an honorary doctorate in international relations by Eastern Mediterranean University in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Recognized as a "distinguished scholar with a superlative and well-deserved world-wide reputation," Dr. Mezvinsky was hailed for his "inspiring" teaching and his "impartial yet active and concrete stance on...very sensitive political issues [in] the Middle Eastern peace process and the Cyprus conflict."
CCSU Marked Black History Month with Full Range of Activities

Black History month was celebrated with a wide array of events and activities on the CCSU campus. A panel discussion (far right) explored “Clinton-Obama: The Impact of Gender & Race in the 2008 Presidential Election.”

The “Black Power Movement in America—Past & Present” was another forum that drew faculty, student, and community interest. Dr. Peniel Joseph, (right) led the discussion, which also included CSU Professor Felton O. Best, director of African-American Studies, and Dr. Katherine Hermes, associate professor of history. Dr. Joseph has held professorial appointments at Brandeis University and the State University of New York-Stonybrook.

Central’s Ebony Choral Ensemble (below) appeared with the New Britain Symphony Orchestra in a performance at Welte Hall as part of Black History Month events.

World traveler and Pan-Africanist scholar Runolo Rashidi (below) gave the Fifth Annual Amistad Lecture, “Breaking the Chains,” an event sponsored by the Center for Africana Studies, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the School of Arts & Sciences, the School of Education & Professional Studies, the School of Engineering & Technology and the departments of Educational Leadership, History, English, and Criminology and Criminal Justice. Other Black History Month events included showings of the movies Glory and The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till, shown on the campus Residence Life Cinema channel, and a tribute to reggae singer Bob Marley.

Participants in the “Clinton-Obama” discussion were, from left, Darryl McMillion of the University of Hartford, UConn’s Evelyn Smien and Shawn Council, and Dr. Antonia Moran and Dr. Felton Best of CCSU.

Embracing and Promoting Polish History and Culture with Verve (cont’d from page 2)

of Poland from early Soviet enemies and, since U.S. veterans of World War I served with the unit, it was named in honor of American Revolutionary War hero from Poland Tadeusz Kosciusko.

The Kosciusko Squadron exhibit includes a display of uniforms, photographs, scale model replicas of aircraft that flew with the Kosciusko Squadron, and an assortment of Kosciusko Squadron memorabilia that can be acquired or obtained on long-term loan.

The Kosciusko Squadron Commemorative Committee has been established to undertake fundraising activities. In addition, the committee is creating a special research collection, to be housed at the Elihu Burritt Library, devoted to the history of Polish aviation. It will be the only collection of its kind in the U.S.

continued on page 15

CCSU and New Britain: “Can Do” Partnership

CCSU was recently mentioned in a Herald article, “New Britain Becoming the ‘Can-Do’ City,” for its affiliation with the Connecticut Small Business Development Center (SBDC). SBDC works with individuals who want to start or grow a business in Connecticut. The article explained that, with assistance from this organization, a New Britain resident opened Superior Refinishing and Painting this past February. CCSU became the central host university for the organization in January 2007. SBDC now has offices at all CSU campuses and provides services ranging from technological assistance to counseling.

Research Volunteers Needed

CCSU’s Adult Development and Gerontology Laboratory is looking for healthy, adult volunteers, age 65 and older, to participate in research on learning and memory. Sessions typically last an hour and a modest monetary compensation will be provided for volunteers’ time and effort. For further information, please contact Dr. Carrie Andreoletti at 860-832-1646 or email: andreoletti@ccsu.edu; or Dr. Marianne Fallon at 860-832-3181 or email: fallonmar@ccsu.edu.
CCSU and Goodwin College Complete Articulation Agreement

CCSU and East Hartford's Goodwin College are collaborating in an effort that will allow students at Goodwin who are interested in attending CCSU, after completing the two-year Registered Nurse degree program, to transfer seamlessly into Central's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. CCSU has been proactive in developing articulation agreements with community colleges to broaden the horizons of prospective students. The contract mutually supports cooperative relationships which emphasize the continued development of transitioning students. Standing from left, Ann Clark, Vice President of Goodwin College; Carol Williams, CCSU associate professor of nursing; and CCSU's Director of Academic Articulations and Partnerships Myrna Garcia-Bowen. President of Goodwin College Mark Scheinberg (seated, left) and CCSU President Jack Miller shake hands over the collaborative effort.

Immigration Law and Policy Experts Lecture at CCSU

The Center for Caribbean and Latin American Studies, with the Office of the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, recently sponsored two lectures on immigration laws and policies. Maria Echaveste (left) lectured on "Immigration in the 21st Century: Legal Challenges and Opportunities." Echaveste teaches immigration law and policy at the law school at the University of California at Berkeley and has represented the United Farmworkers and the Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

In another lecture, Jane Guskin and David Wilson (right), co-authors of The Politics of Immigration: Questions and Answers, contested anti-immigrant arguments.

Freshmen Honor Society Inducts New Members

CCSU's Alpha Lambda Delta honor society recently inducted 125 members. Majoring in a variety of fields, these students have achieved a minimum 3.50 grade point average in their first year of college. The society aims to promote continued high standards of learning by encouraging intelligent living and by assisting students in recognizing and developing meaningful societal goals. Seventy-seven current members attended the induction ceremony.
Cindy Cayer Honored

Director of Development and Alumni Affairs Cynthia B. Cayer (left) has been honored with an award presented by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) at a gala during the District I Annual Conference. Cayer received the Eleanor Collier Award, which recognizes a member of CASE District I for contributions to education through volunteer leadership and professional achievement. The district comprises institutions in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island, as well as New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Prince Edward Island, Canada.

Reminiscing at the Sol Lewitt Exhibit

Several CCSU alumni had the opportunity to work with Sol Lewitt on his “Lewitt Collection” while students at Central. Above, from left to right, Professor of Art Sean Gallagher talks with alums Spiro Koulouris, Glenn Lavertu, and Dan Collin at the reception for CCSU’s “Happy Days, Sol” art exhibit. The exhibit highlighted the relationship Lewitt had with former students and featured artwork and written reflections by the students, as well as art that Lewitt gave them.

CCSU Veterans’ Panel Prompts CSU System to Implement Drop-In Centers

CCSU’s Veterans’ Appreciation Organization (VAC) and the Political Science Department recently hosted “CCSU Combat Veterans Reflect on Military Service,” a panel discussion open to the campus community. The panel consisted of CCSU student veterans (below, from left to right) Joel Patrick Leger; Mike Hawley; Ryan Barkman, Jr.; Dario Diabattista, Jr.; Aaron Jones; Ross Alexander; Joe O’Keefe; and Jay White. A question and answer session followed the discussion.

The veterans shared stories of adjusting to life “back home.” They also mentioned they would like a drop-in center on campus, where veterans could get support from other veterans when needed. State Veterans’ Affairs Commissioner Linda Schwartz attended the panel discussion. Several days later she spoke with Dr. David Carter, chancellor of the CSU system, who promised that by the fall semester each of the four CSU campuses will have a drop-in center for veterans.
Pilot Podcast/Vidcasting Project a Success

During the 2008 spring semester, librarians Debbie Herman and Susan Slaga worked with two sections of Dr. Aimee Pozorski’s World Literature II course (ENG 204) on a very successful podcast/vidcasting pilot project. The project aimed to improve academic success and to equip students with the research skills necessary to complete college-level literature assignments. “We wanted to try a new approach to library instruction that would be more appealing to students and enable us to teach library research skills over the course of several weeks. This approach was a welcome change for students who would otherwise learn the material in a single class period, which can be overwhelming,” said Herman.

Students subscribed to the world literature podcast through iTunes and viewed one or two new episodes each week. The podcast featured a variety of media formats, including audio, video, and “enhanced” podcasts (audio with accompanying still images). The first podcast episode presented a tour of the library. Subsequent podcasts introduced students to resources available through the library’s website and explained how to search the CONSULS library catalog and literature databases and evaluate websites. To reinforce the concepts and skills presented, Dr. Pozorski gave her students short assignments on Vista during the eight-week period of the project; these assignments included identifying and locating relevant peer-reviewed articles and determining the difference between scholarly and non-scholarly websites. Most of the students listened to the podcasts on their own computers or video iPods. However, two iPods and several computers were available in the library for students to use.

The episodes were recorded and edited over winter break. Jordan Desail, a Communication major, filmed and edited the video segments. Matthew Wildman, a Computer Science major, recorded and edited the library tour and also starred in some of the videos. “I enjoyed working on the project; I never knew the library had so much to offer,” said Wildman.

To assess the learning outcomes of this new approach to library research instruction, students completed a pre- and post-test. “We were very pleased with the results,” said Slaga. “The students’ scores improved dramatically on the post-test, and they needed less assistance when they came to the library to search for literary articles and criticism.” Most of the students liked the podcasts because they were informative and short and could be viewed and replayed as needed. Herman and Slaga will provide podcast instruction again in the fall, this time for Pozorski’s ENG 110 course, which is affiliated with a Learning Community. “Based on the experience gained from the pilot, we plan to make some changes and enhancements to the videos, as well as add some interactive components to the screencasts,” Herman stated.

Pozorski has been thrilled with this added technological component to her classes. “I’m not really a techie, so the students and I got to learn more about what the use of podcast instruction entails. Despite a few technical difficulties in the beginning, the podcast worked out really well. I was especially pleased to see how students’ attitudes toward library instruction changed over the course of a single semester. I’m looking forward to doing it again in the fall,” she added.
Extra Credit (continued from page 7)

Former graduate student Brian McCarthy MA '07 presented a paper in Spanish at the Association for Hispanic Classical Theatre conference in El Paso, Texas. This is one of the most prestigious international meetings for scholars in Hispanic theatre. McCarthy worked with CCSU's Dr. Angela Morales, associate professor of modern languages.

Ryne Nutter is one of the eight CSUS students selected by the CT General Assembly for outstanding academic achievement. Nutter is majoring in accounting, with a minor in criminal justice, and carries a 3.97 GPA. Graduating this year, Nutter was on the Dean's List throughout his college career, is a member of Delta Mu Delta, received the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants Scholarship, and was a member of the CCSU Accounting Society. He also played football for the CCSU Blue Devils starting in 2003 and serving as co-captain in 2007. He received numerous awards and recognitions for his football career. His community activities include involvement with the Student Athletic Advisory Committee, St. Mark Lutheran Church, and Cory Stringer's Youth Football Camp, as well as serving as a volunteer tutor for students. He interned at Blum Shapiro and Flex-Strut, Inc., and he plans to become a Certified Public Accountant.

Ravi Shankar, CCSU associate professor of English, is one of three editors of the new book Language for a New Century: Contemporary Poetry from the Middle East, Asia, and Beyond. The book features over 400 poets from 55 countries, written from a total of 40 different language traditions.

In recognition of their artistic excellence, the University Singers and the Wind Ensemble were invited to give a concert at the State Convention of Connecticut Music Educators in Hartford at the Convention Center in April. Professor of Music Pam Perry directs the University Singers, and Assistant Professor J. Thomas Seddon IV directs the Wind Ensemble.

Erin (Mikalowski) Walpole, a student in the Marriage and Family Therapy program, was honored with the School of Graduate Studies "Outstanding Scholar Award" for 2008. Professor of History Matthew Warshauer was invited to NBC Studios in New York, where he was interviewed on camera for a new NBC website, Hotchalk (www.hotchalk.com/nbc.html). The site offers educators access to thousands of images, video clips, and recorded interviews with scholars and media experts. An authority on Andrew Jackson and author of a highly acclaimed account of the impact of Jackson's imposition of martial law and suspension of habeas corpus, Warshauer was interviewed about key moments in the Jacksonian era.

Bringing Jazz to New York: CCSU's Jazz Ensemble

CCSU's Jazz Ensemble performed at New York's Town Hall on April 23, under the direction of Associate Professor of Music Carl W. Knox. The ensemble performed with famed jazz headliners Jon Faddis, Ralph Lalama, and the New York Improv Collective as part of a new series, "Jazz at Town Hall," presented by Distinguished Concerts International New York. The CCSU Jazz Ensemble includes Andrew Lefebvire, Dave Schramm, Sarah Covello, Jennifer Bellizzi, Jeff Kenniston, Alvaro Maldonado, John Anderson IV, Sarah Como, Antonio Franco, Weena Walton, Richard Manning, Kevin Aust, Dan Miller, Anthony Sisson, James Gerard, Jesse Englert, Tyler Morrisette, Rick Piotrowski, Jay Wolfberg, and Tai Pacheco.

The Power of Media

Dr. Robert Jensen (left), associate professor of journalism, University of Texas at Austin, spoke at CCSU on the topics of media and power, pornography, sexuality, and violence. His speech, "The State of Media and the State of Our Democracy," was open to the public and sponsored by the Communication Department, the Center for Public Policy and Social Research, and the Governor William A. O'Neill Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Practical Politics.

Embracing and Promoting Polish History and Culture with Verve (cont'd from page 11)

PROMOTING POLISH STUDIES

Biskupski, who speaks half a dozen languages, has been promoting Polish studies by pursuing an active research and publication agenda, including several books and essays. He's addressed civic groups as well as international conferences within his field of academic expertise.

This year he will present "The Gentry Intelligentsia Playing Soldier: The Polish Legions as a Multiple Elite Formation" at the European Social Science History Conference to be held in Lisbon.


Polish Studies at CCSU is a distinctive resource to preserve the abundant traditions and culture of a civilization which continues to leave its imprint on the world. "It's a vital obligation, and we're enthusiastically embracing our charge to interpret and offer historical perspectives on Polish heritage and contributions," says Biskupski.

— Geri Radaci
Blue Devil Students: Women's Swimming and Diving Team

The Central Connecticut women's swimming and diving team posted a 6-6 record in dual meets this season. Less than two weeks before the Northeast Conference Championships, head coach Bill Ball said the record was not a true indication of his team's strength. Not surprisingly, he was right.

Ball, like many a good coach, knows his team well. At the Northeast Conference Championships, and then the ECAC Championships, he watched a core of eight seniors raise the bar for the program's future.

The Blue Devils captured their first NEC crown since 2001 in dominating fashion. Seniors Rachel Brookman (2), Kristen Jurynski (3), and Lindsey Snyder (3) won eight individual titles. Junior Erin Crowley added three of her own. Junior Kate Sohon won the three-meter diving title.

Sophomore Liz Wahlberg was victorious in the one-meter. In all, CCSU set a new conference record, winning 18 of 20 events. "It was a total team performance," said Ball, the Northeast Conference Coach of the Year.

Two weeks later, the team one-upped itself. Led again by the three seniors, Central finished ahead of 27 other participating schools at the ECAC Championships. Individuals, including Snyder, had won for CCSU at past ECACs. This was the program's first team title. "It was an amazing accomplishment for our team, our seniors, and our program," Ball said. "It was a great way to send out a special group of seniors."

Snyder, the meet's most outstanding swimmer, won the 100 back for the second time in her career and had third place finishes in the 200 IM and 200 back. Brookman placed second in the 100 fly and third in the 200 fly. Jurynski had third place efforts in the 400 IM and 1,650 free. At least two of the three appeared in all five relay events together, and the entire trio teamed with Crowley in the meet's finale. In all the three seniors played a role in collecting 70 percent of the team's 425 total points. The 26 points for a sixth place finish in the culminating 400 free relay brought a close to their careers.

Four years ago Ball told Snyder he wanted her class to build the program. "I wanted to be a part of that," she said. Snyder joined six Connecticut natives—Brookman, Jurynski, Jess Adams, Megan Blanchard, Maya Drew, and Monica Kawecki—and Sheila Hoffman from New Jersey. They helped guide Central to a 33-6 dual meet record, two second place finishes, and a third place effort at the Northeast Conference Championships over their first three seasons in New Britain. They established eight Blue Devil freshman records, 13 Suydam Natatorium records, eight ECAC records, and two conference records. They did all this before the 2007-08 season began.

"Their abilities and their work have hurt our schedule," Ball told The New Britain Herald's Matt Straub with a smile.

The record book in Suydam Natatorium had to be adjusted again this year. Jurynski broke her own record in the 1,650 free at the NECs. Snyder did the same in the 200 IM. She also broke both her 200 back and Jamie Crowley's 100 back records at Spring Nationals. Brookman took over the top spot in the 100 fly, setting new marks for the NEC and at Yale's Kiphuth Pool in the process. The program's 800 free relay record also fell at the NEC Championships.

Jurynski, meanwhile, set the new 1,650 free standard in the conference, while Snyder claimed the NEC records in the 100 back and 200 back.

Northeast Conference Diving Coach of the Year Dave Malaj, who guided both Sohon and Wahlberg to Outstanding Diver awards at the conference meet, said this class certainly set the standard. "Before they got here the team was small," he told Straub. "This team is what drew in a lot of recruits and what built the team to what it is today and what it is going to be in the future."

Crowley, Sohon, and fellow juniors Jillian Piedescalzo, Heather Veneła, and Sarah Mahan will lead an experienced group of underclassmen next season. Sophomore Alex Huffman, who did not compete as a freshman, was the rookie of the meet at NECs this year. Freshmen Alyssa Carucci and Megan McGorry, meanwhile, were all-conference performers. Add in Wahlberg, fellow sophomores Kandra Kane, and freshmen Brittany Honnarth, Alyssa Reinhard, and Theresa Degan (a diver) and Ball has a strong nucleus to build around.

"It's because of them that things have gotten to this level," Ball said of this year's seniors. "Their legacy here will be the foundation they built for the future."

—Jason Stertz