The eight CBIA/CCSU fellowship recipients are shown in Biomolecular Sciences’ microbiology laboratory: (clockwise from front left) Ashlee Gonzales, Robin Jurczyk, Jerry Jean-Louis, David Slomski, Kathryn Neely, Clint DePaolo, David Magnan, and Eric Stimac. (Photo by Dr. Mike Davis)

Students Probe Biomolecular Sciences through Research

“The Biomolecular Sciences department has been the luckiest thing that ever happened to me,” remarks David Magnan, all smiles, knowing he’s been accepted to his “dream school,” Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, for graduate work in genetics. “Professors in this department have taken care of me, and Dr. Tom King, my advisor, keeps handing me opportunities.”

The talented, hard-working senior has fully availed himself of opportunities to amass a string of achievements. King, who has served as chair of the BMS department, comments: “David began in my laboratory as a sophomore and has been the lead student researcher there ever since. The results of his first project, aimed at fine-structure genetic mapping of the mouse frizzy mutation on chromosome 7, have just been published in Experimental Dermatology, with David as a co-author. David has also made great strides with a second project, where he has recently determined that the mouse male sterility and histoincompatibility mutation in mice results from a sizable deletion of the distal half of the Mtap7 gene.”

Magnan has made several formal presentations of his work, and he will be the first author on a manuscript he and King are now preparing (targeted for Genes and Development). To support this work, he has won CCSU student/faculty research grants as well as two fellowships from the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA).

For the past year, Magnan has also trained and supervised new undergraduate and graduate researchers in King’s lab. Last summer, three high school students performed six-week research projects under his mentorship, as part of the UCONN Health Center’s High School Student Research Apprentice Program.

GETTING HANDS WET IN THE LAB

Magnan, who also completed the Honors Program, is one example of many successful graduates of the fairly young BMS department (formed in 2004). “At a lot of schools undergraduates can’t start working in the lab at all,” remarks Magnan. But the BMS department encourages students to participate in faculty-directed, student-centered research projects. “All undergraduates are now required to conduct at least two semesters of independent research and all are encouraged to start lab work as early as their first semester,” states King. “We recognized years ago that student success is continued on page 20
Distinguished alumna Carol A. Ammon, who earned a bachelor’s degree in biology from Central in 1973, today is chairman of the Christiana Care Health System and a member of the Executive Committee of Christiana Care of Delaware.

She shoulders top-level responsibilities at the helm of Christiana Care Health System, with facilities located in Wilmington and Newark, DE. It is one of the largest healthcare providers in the Mid-Atlantic region. The not-for-profit, privately owned Christiana Care family of services includes two hospitals in Wilmington, DE.

An outstanding and widely-recognized business leader, Ammon was a founder and CEO of Endo Pharmaceuticals Inc., a specialty pharmaceutical company with market leadership in pain management. Prior to founding Endo, she spent 23 years in the pharmaceutical division of E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, beginning in 1973 as an associate scientist in the research and development group.

In 1993, Ammon was appointed president of the generic pharmaceutical business unit of the DuPont Merck Pharmaceutical Company, the pharmaceutical joint venture of DuPont and Merck & Co., Inc. In 1996, she was named president of the U.S. Pharmaceuticals Division of DuPont Merck. As president, she was responsible for a significant share of DuPont Merck’s corporate revenue and earnings.

She is a member of the Board of Trustees of Adelphi University, where she received an MBA before going on to complete the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University. An adjunct professor in the Executive MBA program at the University of Delaware, Ammon is a member of Harvard’s Health Advisory Board.

During a homecoming visit to her alma mater this year, Ammon provided interesting insights for CCSU students into her life and remarkable accomplishments.

Q. What advice about the business world did you share with CCSU students?
A. I had a very enjoyable visit with a finance class studying private equity. It gave me a chance to share my experience in doing a leveraged buyout where private equity provided the funding to me to start a new pharmaceutical company.

[In 1997, Ammon led a management buyout team and purchased 37 pharmaceutical products from the DuPont Merck Pharmaceutical Company to form Endo Pharmaceuticals Inc.]

I tell young people that if that brass ring presents itself just go for it. I had the opportunity to buy a number of products that I felt would form the foundation of a pain management business, a much underserved area. The products had cash flow which reduced the inherent risk.

I was very lucky to build a successful company that now employs over 1300 people and helps people suffering from pain.

Q. What are some memories of your time at CCSU? How did your education shape your goals and objectives?
A. CCSU was a wonderful school to attend. The student enrollment was a great size, perfect to get to know people, but not too big. I really felt that I could get to know the professors and that I was not just a number but a person. I had two professors who were very important to me, Dr. Timothy Shine [currently Interim Associate Dean of the School of Engineering & Technology] and Dr. Richard Groth [professor of chemistry, emeritus]. They helped me learn and believe in myself. I became excited about science under their tutelage. They really cared. You don’t get that at every university.

Q. How did you make a transition from science into the business world?
A. Making the transition from science to business was a process. I started my career in pharmaceuticals, specifically research and development. I had an opportunity a year after I started to move into regulatory affairs working with the Food and Drug Administration to file new drug applications and to assure compliance with all of the regulations.

This was a big decision for me because I felt it would move me further away from the basic science. I was working toward a master’s degree in biochemistry at the time. I decided to take the promotion to learn a different aspect of the business, and I would still be using my science background.

I was pleasantly surprised. I began to interact with many of the business people and became fascinated by that. I ultimately decided to get my masters in business administration and moved on from there.

Q. How has your CCSU education served you well in your career? Specifically what skills have you transplanted into your current role as chairman of the Christiana Care Health System?
A. The CCSU science curriculum gave me the fundamental background that let me progress through every job in the pharmaceutical industry. The liberal arts aspect of my degree gave me insight, motivation, and a desire to keep learning outside of the science sphere. CCSU’s size was perfect; I had a chance to give talks, develop my own sense of purpose, and to develop as a member of a team. All of these skills are necessary as you move into the next phases of your life. You need to be curious and willing to learn all of the time. CCSU instilled this in me.

Q. What makes you most proud about your accomplishments, including being founder of Endo Pharmaceuticals Inc?
A. I think foremost are the memories of patients talking about how our products gave them back the quality in their life. Seeing older people lose that is a very sad thing. Seeing them regain it is a joyous thing. Secondly, seeing employees begin to fulfill their dreams about their careers and their own ability to give back to the community has been heartwarming.

Q. What were your major challenges as a top business leader?
A. When I became president of the U.S. Pharmaceuticals Division of DuPont Merck, I was reporting to the individual that previously held my position. That is never easy. I found it difficult to lead in the manner in which I wanted to and to have total control over my decisions. That is when I knew it was time for me to move on. I was ready for a different leadership experience and starting a new company. Endo provided that chance for me.

Q. What are your feelings about being the recipient of numerous, prestigious awards presented by the business world?
A. Ammon was named the CEO of the Year in 2004 by the Eastern Technology Council. The award recognizes a recipient’s leadership qualities, impact in the company’s industry and/or market, achievement of financial and other significant milestones, success in executing an operating strategy and community and industry involvement. She has garnered many awards recognizing her outstanding entrepreneurship. In March 2006, Ammon was selected by Central Penn Business Journal as one of Pennsylvania’s Best 50 Women in Business.

A. I have always been flattered and overwhelmed by these awards. Any award I get is, to my mind, a group award. No accomplishment is made by an individual, it takes a team. I am thrilled, because an award for me is an award for the entire team.

The awards are gratifying. However, one’s life should be about making a difference for other people. It is not about how much money we make or what title we hold but about whether or not we are making a difference for people.

— Geri Raducci

Get LinkedIn

The CCSU alumni office has established the CCSU Alumni Group on the highly regarded professional online network LinkedIn, which connects some 20 million experienced professionals from around the world. CCSU alumni can create a profile summarizing their professional accomplishments and then link to thousands of qualified professionals who can help find potential clients, indentify business or job opportunities, recommend job candidates, and share industry and profession information. Joining the CCSU Alumni Group (76 members already) is simple: just key this into your web browser: www.ccsu.edu/CCSULinkedIn and follow the instructions to create your profile.

Looming Crises in Medicine Discussed

CCSU graduate Richard D’Aquila ’77 (right) presented “Health Care’s Perfect Storm and the Career Opportunities It Will Create” at a recent forum on campus. A recognized expert in the field, D’Aquila is the executive vice-president and chief operating officer at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Prior to joining Yale-New Haven’s staff he served as senior vice president and chief operating officer of New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. He discussed issues affecting the health care industry, the impact of the aging “baby boomer” population and career growth areas in institutional management during his presentation. D’Aquila earned a bachelor’s degree in economics at CCSU and a graduate degree in hospital administration from the Yale University School of Medicine.
Awards Ceremony Honors Distinguished Alumni

Four former Blue Devil student-athletes and a coach swelled the ranks of the CCSU Alumni Athletics Hall of Fame in recent ceremonies at the Farmington Club in Farmington. Their induction brought the number of Hall of Fame members to 117.

Stan House ’99 was a leader in just about every way. The leading running back of his era at CCSU, he set records for most rushing attempts, most yards gained in a single season and career, most yardage and touchdowns in a single game—and most of them are still the measuring stick by which his successors are being judged. But it wasn’t just his dazzling numbers. Coaches and teammates remain in awe of his leadership skills and work ethic. He was an exceptional student as well and has continued his success in business as the president of a successful sports card and memorabilia company.

John Iovino ’76, an outstanding pitcher and football quarterback, has held the record for lowest earned run average in CCSU history for 35 years. His 0.82 ERA helped Hank Majlinger’s 1973 team win 18 games, the most in school history when it first went into the record book. The honoree, a Gladstone Award winner as Central’s top scholar-athlete during his senior season, was also an outstanding quarterback. He went on to a dual career as a successful educator and coach. Iovino’s Norwich Free Academy baseball team won the Class LL state championship in 2003. He was named Connecticut High School Coach of the Year then and again this year. He retired as coach of the NFA Wildcats following the 2007 season, but continues to serve southeastern Connecticut’s largest high school as director of Student Affairs. He is also a member of the Norwich Free Academy Hall of Fame.

Damian Johnson ’98 is also a record-holder. His 1,734 points scored in basketball has stood since 1993. He averaged 16.5 points per game over the course of his remarkable career and earned the Gladstone Award, the highest honor a male student-athlete can achieve. Also outstanding academically, he has gone on to a successful career in technology and was named a School of Technology Outstanding Alumnus in 2006.

Tula Kofitsas ’94 wasted no time establishing her Hall of Fame credentials. Named the ECC Rookie of the Year for her consistently savvy and superior play, she was also the Most Valuable Player in the Liberty Tournament. As her career continued at CCSU, so did an impressive parade of awards and recognitions. She was named to the ECC All-Star team following the 1991-92 season, won Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Player of the Year honors during the 1993-94 campaign and was among the leading scorers in the state that year as well.

The honoree was only the eighth player to join CCSU’s 1,000-point club. After reaching that plateau in her junior year, she went on to tally a total of 1,258 points. She later played professionally in Greece and the United States. Also successful off the basketball court she was a Gail Rutz Award winner. Kofitsas is the president of Tails of Rye Canine Physical Rehab, a state-of-the-art rehabilitation center for dogs in Rye, NH.

Vic Stone was one of Central’s most successful coaches. While he was establishing CCSU’s women’s tennis program at an elite level, he continued to play and win himself, both nationally and internationally. He and his doubles partner earned a gold medal at the 1989 Maccabiah Games. His Central women’s teams won at least one league championship in every conference. He took over the men’s team and turned the squad into a consistent winner as well. He was honored posthumously.

Other Alumni Awards were presented at the ceremonies.

Christian G. Gutierrez ’96, M.S, ’03, the winner of the Young Alumni Service Award, has worked in the CCSU Office of Admissions since 1996. Beginning as a university assistant, he advanced to a counselor position, and currently serves as an assistant director. He has only recently returned to CCSU after serving with the U.S. armed forces in Iraq. He is the campus advisor to several student clubs and volunteers his time to serve on several alumni committees. He is a former member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Dr. Gale G. Brown, Jr. ’74, who prefers to be called “Gigi,” transferred to CCSU from the University of Connecticut during her sophomore year to play volleyball under the tutelage of Dr. Brenda Reilly. That decision led ultimately to her being honored with the 2008 Kaiser Alumni Service Award. After graduating magna cum laude in 1974, the Rutzi award winner went back to UConn, earned her medical degree and subsequently completed residencies in internal medicine and physical medicine & rehabilitation. She worked in private practice until 2003, and now provides independent physician consulting services. Gigi and her partner, Nancy Grigor, currently reside in Portsmouth, NH.

They are committed to supporting important athletic and social causes, including the CCSU Brenda A. Reilly Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Women’s Sports Foundation, the Connecticut Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame, and Share Our Strength. An annual fundraising event they host has garnered more than $53,000 for those causes.

Frederick W. Odell ’66 is an expert on roses, golf, gardening, hockey, soccer and constitutional law. He has worked with and for innumerable local, state and regional civic and community agencies and has been a committed and forceful advocate for worthy causes ranging from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society to the Special Olympics.

He was honored with the CCSU Distinguished Alumni Award. They continued on page 5.
Alumni Awards continued from page 4

Service Award because no matter what else he has taken on, whether it be important posts like serving as a member of the Wethersfield Park and Recreation Commission, the New Britain Charter Revision Commission or working as a Special Public Defender in Connecticut’s Superior Court system, he has always put service to Central high on his list of priorities. He has served as president of the CCSU Alumni Association, attending games and events in support of the athletics program and more.

One of Central’s first truly outstanding intercollegiate golfers, the 1966 graduate continues to “tee it up” for his very grateful alma mater..

— Bart Fisher

New Scholarship Awarded at Geography Banquet

The Timothy J. Rickard Scholarship Inauguration took place during this year’s annual Geography Department Banquet. The scholarship, named for Professor of Geography Emeritus Rickard (above right), is for a junior in geography who shows the greatest promise as a professional geographer. CCSU student David Libonn (left) was the awardee. Unlike other awards at the banquet, this scholarship is awarded for potential, rather than achievement.

“I’m so glad this scholarship is happening, and I’m happy we’re seeing the first scholarship awarded. I’m really thrilled about it,” declared Peggy Parry, Class of 1990 geography major and a supporter of the scholarship.

MEMORIAM

Dr. Hakim A. Salahu-Din, associate vice president and chief of planning and institutional effectiveness emeritus, passed away April 14. Hired by CCSU in 1990, Dr. Salahu-Din had taught at both university and public school levels. Prior to that he was in law enforcement and he served in the U.S. Army and Marines Corps during the Vietnam War. He retired from CCSU in 2007.

Claim to Fame: CCSU Alumni Provide Career Opportunities

CCSU’s School of Business and The Travelers Companies, Inc. are collaborating on a project to streamline the process for students seeking internships as well as part-time and full-time employment.

More than 35 students, alumni, and faculty attended a three-hour program at Travelers Claim University in Windsor. The event was hosted by Toni Torsiello, Travelers’ Director of Financial Planning Analysis and Executive for College Relations. A panel of claims professionals spoke during the event, including CCSU alums Whitney Gilmore ’03; Shawn Curreri ’06; Kelly Hedley ’97, special products coordinator in Finance and Enterprise Systems; and Assistant Director of Alumni Affairs Catherine Jost ’74.

David Fearon, professor of Management & Organization, is coordinating the collaboration. He noted, “We are already seeing students moving into the Travelers talent stream and are working to increase the flow in coming months. My ‘claim’ is there is nothing in the universe quite like Travelers Claim University.”
Products created by the Connecticut company Gerber Scientific are spreading across the globe daily. Graduating senior Joseph Tindal communicates with business associates in the United Kingdom, Canada, Mexico, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia, among other nations, as a special service project coordinator in the Service Division of Operations at Gerber Scientific Incorporated in South Windsor, CT. The Operations department oversees computerized manufacturing systems, including garment cutting, sign making, and ophthalmic lens processing. Tindal’s story is one of true inspiration for those striving to succeed in the business world.

Born in Pennsylvania, Tindal moved to a small town in New Hampshire, where there were just 17 students in his high school’s graduating class. He worked for a local small business owner, who he describes as “ethical, successful, and valued morally by the town,” and who continues to inspire him. His father and grandfather also inspired him at a young age. His father attended Penn State University, earning a degree in management and a master’s in engineering. Later, he managed a prestigious golf course in Florida. His grandfather also ran a very successful business on the campus of Penn State.

At New Hampshire Technical College, Tindal spent two years earning his associate’s degree in applied science/automotive. “It gave me the skills I needed to work on anything,” he reflects. In 2002, Tindal started in technical support at Gerber Scientific while working on a winter term independent study with Dr. David Fearon in MGT 426 Business Organizational Behavior. “From the time I signed up in the business school, I was motivated,” he says. Over the past winter semester, he took daily notes about his plunge into the profession and the rise of global business. As Tindal documented his progress through the corporate business world, Dr. Fearon found his student’s journal directly correlated with a session in one of his courses.

Tindal was invited to Dr. Fearon’s course to show students how his journal reinforced the point that the business world is rapidly going global. Fearon noted that Tindal’s presentation on what he was doing in the operations sector at Gerber Scientific touched nearly a dozen international linkages. “I showed these students how our organization is structured, behaves, and acts in a global world.”

Fearon notes, “Joe is a naturally integrative thinker with a strong bent for action.” This is reflected by how Tindal has spent the last two years: working full time, raising three small children with his wife, attending night courses at CCSU, and building a large addition to his house. “Night courses are a wonderful opportunity, especially for those of us who are out there in the business world, working hard and trying to make the connections between textbooks and the work world.”

His favorite reading is Benjamin Franklin’s Poor Richard’s Almanac. “I can relate to Franklin. He was a great person who came up with many inventions and he gave many of them to society patent free, to encourage the improvement of humanity.” Daily, Tindal reads The Wall Street Journal and indulges in technical reading to advance his knowledge of how to create things and do things on his own. Other favorites include The Ten Faces of Innovation and Freakonomics. “My ultimate goal is to play a leadership role in a successful business. There are many opportunities. If you’re willing to do the work, all you have to do is step up and do it.”

—Christopher Michalski
Tim Craine
Enlivening Geometry and Math Education

“Mathematics teachers today have a much better idea of how students learn,” reflects Professor and Chair of the Mathematical Sciences Department Timothy Craine. A specialist in mathematics education, he casts back to his early high school teaching days during the 1980s in Detroit. Then, most of his students at Renaissance High School, an all-academic, city-wide magnet school, went on to four-year colleges. He had been puzzled. Why were his bright capable students struggling with geometry? Craine—who earned his Ph.D. in curriculum development in mathematics education from Wayne State University in Detroit—set out to revise the geometry curriculum.

He did so by using the research of Pierre van Hiele and Dina van Hiele-Geldof, mathematics teachers from the Netherlands, who suggested that students’ geometrical understanding progresses through various levels, sequential and hierarchical. Thus at Renaissance High, Craine started with informal approaches and delayed introduction of formal proofs until the second semester with his 10th graders. “Then as now teachers need to recognize that their instruction must take into account where the student is in terms of geometric development,” he concludes.


NEW APPROACHES TO TEACHING GEOMETRY

Today, Craine, who joined CCSU in 1993, is still fascinated by geometry, because, he says, “It is visual and logical, and what’s neat about that combination is that you can prove something in different ways.” He notes, “There are 400 known ways to prove the Pythagorean theorem.”

He continues to delight in spreading his expertise, only nowadays technology developments have entered the classroom. For example, his colleague Professor of Mathematical Sciences Thomas Roman teaches the use of Mathema as a research tool, and Craine employs Geometer’s Sketchpad software to instruct future secondary math teachers. Recently, Craine worked for three years as a consultant with student George Francis and retired high school teacher David Vania on a project to introduce Geometer’s Sketchpad at Hartford Public High School.

Craine embraces opportunities to communicate the latest academic thinking on his favorite subject. While on sabbatical in 2004 he did research on the teaching of geometry and presented his findings at the Tenth International Congress on Mathematics Education in Copenhagen, Denmark. Currently, he is editor of the *National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Yearbook* and preparing the 2009 edition, *Understanding Geometry for a Changing World*. “It will be the first yearbook on geometry since 1987,” he notes.

Craine’s creative activity is not limited to the exploration of geometry. He has published a textbook, *Elementary and Intermediate Algebra: A Practical Approach*, co-authored with CCSU Professor of Mathematical Sciences Jeff McGowan and Tom Ruben (Houghton Mifflin, 2004).

**MYRIAD DUTIES**

In addition to his accomplishments as a professor, Craine has distinguished himself as chair of the Mathematical Sciences department and president of the Faculty Senate. Myriad responsibilities flow from both positions.

As chair he has the challenge of overseeing more than 4,000 students enrolled in mathematics classes, as well as 31-full-time and 60 part-time faculty. Craine is no stranger to administrative responsibilities. Prior to coming to CCSU he was director of the Mathematics Center at Trinity College. He’s well-suited to facilitating the Mathematical Sciences department’s formidable mission. “We have four different areas of study: pure math, which is theoretical; applied, covering statistics and actuarial science, including the master’s in data mining; math education; and developmental math,” explains Craine.

Associate Professor of Mathematical Sciences Nelson Castaneda describes Craine as “very supportive of all mathematical initiatives in our department. He actively participates in the department’s frequent colloquia. He encourages undergraduate students in the William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition. Tim attends the department’s seminars dedicated to discussing the challenging Putnam problems and submits solutions to them. He’s given his full support to faculty participation and organization of conferences, both on and off campus. We’ve had math education conferences in the past and now we are organizing a regional Graph Theory Day this fall and a geometry conference in 2009.”

In June 2005 Craine was part of a team from CCSU that attended a weeklong workshop at Evergreen State College and as a result the Learning in Communities program was initiated. It is now in its pilot stage with first-year students who entered the University in fall 2006 and 2007. He and Dr. Candace Barrington, associate professor of English, are teaching in the program this year. He also played a major role in helping a cohort of undergraduate students from Sam Sharpe Teachers College in Jamaica complete their requirements for a CCSU degree.

Beyond campus, he has had ongoing involvement with the Mathematics Basic Skills Committee of Connecticut and serves as an advisor for state level curricular frameworks and proposals to revise certification requirements.

**HOW TO IMPROVE RETENTION?**

Always eager to further mathematics education, Craine is currently working with Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Carl Lovitt and with the English department to establish the Bridges Program. Modeled after a program at Western Connecticut State University, Bridges aims to reduce the number of high school students who need remediation upon entering college.

Thinking about the Bridges Program, Craine recalls a former 10th grader in his geometry class in Detroit who did not excel in the class and ended up earning a C. Two years later he won the top prize at the Metropolitan Detroit Science Fair for mathematics project dealing with Pythagorean triples. He went off to Antioch College to study art and mathematics, later attended graduate school at Wesleyan University in mathematics and is currently director of mathematics at a college of art and design in Florida. He is also an acclaimed artist whose work deals with political themes as well as fractals. Craine smiles, “I believe the lesson for us as teachers is that we have an impact on all of our students, not just those who earn the A.”

— Geri Radacsi
Angela Davis Presents Views at CCSU

Author, political activist and scholar Angela Davis (left) appeared at two CCSU events recently. In the first, she discussed the question “Are prisons obsolete?” Also appearing at the Torp Theatre event were State Representative William Dyson, of New Haven, the former Appropriations Committee Chair and longtime prisoner re-entry advocate; Attorney Gerard Smyth, Connecticut’s former Chief Public Defender and current CCSU adjunct professor and staff member of the Governor William A. O’Neill Endowed Chair; Maureen Price, Executive Director of Community Partners in Action; and James Tillman, who was exonerated after serving 16 years on a rape and kidnapping conviction. Dr. Davis later lectured on “Race, Class, and Gender Issues in American Society.” She has spent the last 15 years at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where she is Professor of History of Consciousness, an interdisciplinary PhD program, and Professor of Feminist Studies. The author of eight books, Davis has spoken throughout the United States, Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, and South America, raising issues associated with incarceration and the generalized criminalization of those communities that are most affected by poverty and racial discrimination. Her next book, *Prisons and American History*, is nearing completion.

Women’s History Month Celebrated

CCSU recently marked Women’s History Month with an array of events and activities including lectures, seminars, and theatrical performances. The New York-based ensemble “The Guerilla Girls on Tour” (in costume below) appears with, from left, Jacqueline Cobbina-Boivin, coordinator of the Women’s Center, Doris Honig Guenter, Women’s Center Director emeritus, and Professor of History Heather Prescott. Dr. Prescott was the keynote speaker at a program titled “Women, Education, and Culture: Celebrating Women’s Accomplishments.” Loretta Ross (below), an activist, author and community organizer, delivered a lecture titled “Understanding Reproductive Justice.” Another highlight of the month-long celebration was an International Women’s Day film festival. Featured was the Academy Award-nominated documentary “God Sleeps in Rwanda,” which examines the lives of five young women in the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide. Another film, “Our Memory is on the Future,” produced by the Federation of Cuban Women, was followed by a panel discussion that included the views of Professor of Anthropology Abigail Adams, Associate Professor of Geography Cindy Pope, and Professor of Mathematical Sciences Tim Craine.

¡Yo Soy Latina!

The Latin American Student Association co-sponsored *Yo Soy Latina*, an ensemble play that challenges diverse Latina women to examine their identities and connections in America. The premise of the play unites women who come to share their individual anecdotes of living Latina in contemporary America. The characters include Migdalia, a Nuyorican who experiences prejudice from her family due to her interracial marriage; Jennifer, a young Mexican-American college student who discovers her Chicana rights; Alicia, a Colombian actress who struggles with landing Latino roles because of the “lightness” of her skin; Maria Elena, a Panamanian, who faced inequity from other Latinos because of the “darkness” of her skin; Soledad, a Dominican mother who finds the courage to leave her machista husband in pursuit of her own dream; and Louisa, of Cuban-Irish descent, who defends her rights to be Latina.
Robert M. Dowling
Focusing on the Intersection of Literature and History

Robert M. Dowling, associate professor of English and recipient of the 2008 University-level CSU Trustees Research Award, credits his mother for introducing him to the plays of Eugene O'Neill at an early age. As his scholarly interests developed in the late ‘90s at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, Dowling returned to the playwright who had fascinated him in youth.

“Before seriously turning to Eugene O’Neill as a subject of my research,” he says, “I primarily investigated the way realist and naturalist writing reflected upon, and helped usher in, the massive historical transformations of American society from the Victorian era to the modern period of the 1920s. O’Neill takes this intersection between literature and history a step further for me. He is most often characterized as a kind of solitary poet howling in the wilderness, a mystical type who dealt mainly with ancient universal themes. These ideas have been well-mapped in O’Neill scholarship over the years.

“But what I hope to bring to the table, after years of working in depth with the historical and sociological aspects of realist writing, is that O’Neill, and I’m not alone in this, had in fact revolutionized the theater world by deeply probing his historical and cultural moment. So I try to emphasize the playwright’s worldview in its historical context, and most of the issues he dramatized remain controversial in our own time: abortion, incest, parricide, interracial marriage, immigration, prostitution, alcoholism, drug addiction, materialism, imperialism, suicide, anarchism, and socialism, all appear in O’Neill’s plays, which were often banned by local authorities.

“I’ve found that O’Neill doesn’t just use history to make generalizations and predictions about our larger American society, but he takes realism a step further, like Stephen Crane did before him, by showing how historical issues powerfully affect the psychology of individual minds. In that way, all of my interests over the years combine beautifully in this one man’s work.”

Forthcoming at the end of this year will be Dowling’s latest book, Critical Companion to Eugene O’Neill: A Literary Reference to His Life and Work (Facts on File, Inc.). This ambitious work—in two volumes—contains Dowling’s in-depth biographical essay, giving fresh insight into the impact of O’Neill’s personal experiences and historical moment on his art. “I’m extremely proud of completing this manuscript after two and a half years, because it is the first book in more than 20 years to analyze in separate essays [each written by Dowling] all 50 of O’Neill’s published plays,” he says. The volumes also include the essays of some 40 contributors, who address the people, places, and topics relevant to O’Neill’s life and work. The Companion will be well over 500 pages.

SLUMMING: “RIGOROUSLY INTERDISCIPLINARY”

Cultural history, along with 19th- and 20th-century American literature, drama, urban studies, and ethnic studies, are Dowling’s specialties. He’s written scores of articles examining these subjects.

Last year, when his first book Slumming in New York: From the Waterfront to Mythic Harlem (University of Illinois Press) was released, a reviewer lauded its “breathtaking” scope.

Slumming has often been described as a remarkable exploration of the underbelly of New York City life from 1880 to 1930, one that takes readers through the city’s inexhaustible variety of distinctive neighborhood cultures. Investigating a wide range of New York “slumming” narratives in which mainstream outsiders write about marginalized urban insiders, Dowling shows how literary works transformed moral threats into cultural treasures.

Katherine Joslin, author of Jane Addams, A Writer’s Life, writes that “Slumming in New York gracefully weaves together reformist tracts, sociological studies, and realist and naturalist fiction at the turn of the last century. It is rigorously interdisciplinary in its literary, historical, and sociological approach to novels, social tracts, ragtime and jazz, minstrel shows, vaudeville and Yiddish theater, and the ‘slumming’ that took place across the boundaries of race and class in New York City.”

SURPRISE DISCOVERY OF O’NEILL STORY

Last year, Dowling uncovered an unpublished, never-before cited Eugene O’Neill short story “The Screenews of War,” which had not come to light in over 90 years. He was doing online research at the University of Virginia’s Barrett Library when he came across what he eventually realized was the O’Neill story.

“O’Neill was such a giant in American letters that I just assumed this short story was out there in O’Neill scholarship. It really has been a slow process of gratiﬁcation, because it’s taken a long time to ﬁgure out what I had found,” says Dowling. “This story adds another piece in the puzzle of all his creative work.”

Late this spring, O’Neill’s story, along with a lengthy introductory essay written by Dowling, will appear in the highly regarded journal Resources for American Literary Study. In the essay, Dowling points out that O’Neill’s genius in the dramatic arts did not come naturally but through his experience in theatre with his father James O’Neill (one of the most celebrated actors of his day), the sheer force of his indomitable will, and by dint of hard work.

In the last five years, Dowling, who joined CCSU’s English Department in 2004, has published approximately 40 articles in his field in a variety of journals, critical anthologies, and reference texts. Dowling has presented papers at numerous conferences, including two at the Modern Language Association (with another one this December), and three (with another one this May) at the American Literature Association. He directed a panel discussion on April 24 commemorating Norman Mailer’s death.

Dowling’s third book, Bohemians, Radicals, Progressives, and Lefties: Eugene O’Neill and His Contemporaries (co-edited with Professor Eileen Herrmann), a critical anthology on O’Neill’s early influences, has been solicited by McFarland Publishers, and a proposal for an anthology of Irish-American literature has also been solicited by Rutgers University Press (co-edited with CCSU Professor of English Robert Dunne).

NEXT CHAPTER?

In 2005, Dowling coordinated a campus tribute celebrating the 150th anniversary of Walt Whitman’s Leaves of Grass through presentations, panel discussion, and poetry readings. Looking ahead to 2010, he plans to work with various departments on campus to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Mark Twain’s death. The next chapter of Robert Dowling’s academic accomplishments promises to make interesting reading.

— Geri Radaci
This spring, the CCSU Theatre Department presented Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, directed by Associate Professor of Theatre Thom Delventhal, who also played Prospero. Delventhal’s modern adaptation replaced Prospero’s magic books with a laptop computer. The auditorium was surrounded by screens representing sails, which displayed video accompanied by live and recorded music. Ariel was played by three different actors—Kate Bunce, Danielle See, and Sarah Hutchinson Warner—to bring out separate facets of the character—heart, will, and head. Prospero’s daughter Miranda was played by Ashley Carvalho and Kimberly Carvalho, portraying two different aspects of the character, the dutiful and the rebellious, respectively.

The production which retained Shakespeare’s traditional tale of fairies, witches, monsters, betrayal, retribution, redemption, and forgiveness, marked the first time in at least 10 years that the Theatre Department has performed in Welte, Delventhal said. Due to the increased seating capacity, the viewing audience grew by at least 50 percent, larger than any Theatre Department production in a decade.

Recently, the CCSU Dance program hosted The Spring Dance Repertoire Concert in Welte Auditorium. The event was a collaborative dance concert featuring the choreography of internationally acclaimed Jennifer Muller, Joseph Albano, and Professor Catherine Fellows, dance director. Sarah Rifkin and Eric Carnes, solo dancers in the Albano Ballet company, performed the world premiere of *Americana*, a tribute to and social commentary on nationalism and pride, war, and sorrow. *Americana’s* musical score drew from work by Connecticut’s Charles Ives and other noted American composers.

Joseph Albano’s *An American in Paris* reappeared on the Welte stage, as Gershwin’s familiar score once again made the lively streets of Paris shine. The ensemble was a collaboration of professional dancers, CCSU alumni, and performers in the CCSU dance program.

Jennifer Muller’s *Speeds* was danced by students in the CCSU Dance Program (below). The piece was choreographed by Artistic Director Muller in 1974 to an original score by Burt Alcantara and has come to be known for its celebratory spirit and virtuostic dancing.

CCSU is planning to host the world-renowned Jennifer Muller professional company at Welte Auditorium in October. The CCSU dancers have been invited to perform in *Speeds* with the Jennifer Muller Company in her full-length Dance Concert.

*Spring Dance Repertoire Concert*

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*Spring Dance Repertoire Concert*
Shakespeare Class Performs

Selected scenes from Shakespeare’s *The Taming of the Shrew* were performed at the end of the semester by students in an ENG 220 course taught by Dr. Stephen Cohen, CCSU associate professor of English. The students (left to right), Denise Steele, Cory Cho, Khanh Nguyen, Jennifer Trigilio, Nicole Gallo, and Michelle Koza, answered questions about their performances after their curtain call.

Library Research Awards

The 2008 Elihu Burritt Library Undergraduate Research Awards finalists were named at the Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day (URCAD). The winners are: Lauren Eddy (Arts & Humanities) for “The Beginning of Women’s Athletics in the United States, 1850–1920, and the Battle Against Victorian Hegemony”; Robert E. Clark (Natural & Applied Sciences) for “Rates of Phorid Fly Parasitism on Economically Important Leaf-Cutter Ants in Disturbed and Undisturbed Forests of Trinidad”; Jennifer Stowe (Business, Education & Professional Studies) for “No Child Left Behind and Special Education Students”; and Ryan Hewey (Social & Behavioral Sciences) for “Negrotown: An Archaeology of African Agency from Colonial Connecticut.”

URCAD Awards Presented for Senior-Level Research

For the 10th consecutive year, CCSU celebrated the original research and creative achievements of undergraduate students with the Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day (URCAD). Undergraduates from all majors were invited to participate in the scholarly exercises, which included a plenary session, a poster session, and concurrent presentations of papers. Some 50 students presented their work. Assistant Professor of English Jason Jones again coordinated the event this year.

Prizes for senior-level research were awarded in four academic areas, and the winner in each category received $500 and an all-expenses-paid trip to Salisbury, MD, to present at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research, the largest undergraduate research conference in the nation.

The 2008 winners are: Lauren Eddy (Arts & Humanities) for “The Beginning of Women’s Athletics in the United States, 1850–1920, and the Battle Against Victorian Hegemony”; Robert E. Clark (Natural & Applied Sciences) for “Rates of Phorid Fly Parasitism on Economically Important Leaf-Cutter Ants in Disturbed and Undisturbed Forests of Trinidad”; Jennifer Stowe (Business, Education & Professional Studies) for “No Child Left Behind and Special Education Students”; and Ryan Hewey (Social & Behavioral Sciences) for “Negrotown: An Archaeology of African Agency from Colonial Connecticut.”
CCSU hosted the First International Academic Conference on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Pathways to Peace. The event was a first-of-its-kind international academic conference to explore the contributions of social scientific, humanistic research, and scholarship can make towards peace and reconciliation between the Israelis and Palestinians. Conference chair and Associate Professor of Psychology Moises F. Salinas noted, “We strived to maintain a balance between Israeli, Palestinian, U.S., and other international speakers and encouraged researchers from all sides of the conflict to send their proposals.”

The conference included a number of prominent keynote speakers, coupled with concurrent presentations and panels on topics ranging from geographical obstacles to various negotiation models, perceptions, and strategies. Among the speakers were Dr. Herbert Kelman, professor of psychology and social ethics at Harvard University; Dr. Saliba Sarsar, professor of political science and associate vice president for academic program initiatives at Monmouth University in New Jersey; Dr. Naomi Chazan, professor of political science and former member of the Israeli Knesset; Gaith al-Omari, senior research fellow at the New America Foundation and former senior advisor to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas; Daniel Levy, lead Israeli drafter of the Geneva initiative and senior fellow at both the New America Foundation and the Century Foundation; and Dr. Sami Adwan, professor of education at Bethlehem University, who also serves as co-director of the Peace Research Institute in the Middle East (PRIME).

The event was sponsored by Central Connecticut State University, the Jewish Academic Network for Israeli-Palestinian Peace, the American Task Force on Palestine, and the Geneva Initiative North America.

— Christopher Michalski

**Barnard Awards**

Four CCSU students with distinguished academic and leadership records were honored with the CSUS Henry Barnard Foundation Award.

Standing (left to right) with President Jack Miller are Lara Jane Kaplan, a psychology major; Allison Godbout, an elementary education major; Ryne Nutt, an accounting major; and Katelyn Marie Ferranti, a biomolecular sciences and mathematics major. Among their many accomplishments, Kaplan earned the Honorary Undergraduate Scholar Award from the New England Psychological Association; Godbout has been on the Dean’s List each semester and served as treasurer of Kappa Delta Pi and Alpha Upsilon Alpha; Nutt has been on the Dean’s List each semester and was an *ESPN The Magazine’s* Academic All-American for football; and Ferranti served as a math and science tutor at Bulkeley High School and conducted important cardiac research.

**Notable Programs**

Dr. Enoch H. Page, associate professor of anthropology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, presented this year’s Center for Africana Studies’ Annual Banquet and Lecture. His speech was entitled, “Don’t Cross That Line: The Historic Concept and Contemporary Practice of Low-Intensity Racial Patrol.”

CCSU’s School of Business and the American Savings Foundation Chair in Banking and Finance at CCSU, Brian Charlebois, jointly hosted a forum focused on investment policy, banking, and credit. John J. Patrick, president and CEO of Farmington Savings Bank, and Gerard O. Haviland, principal of The Haviland Group, spoke at the forum. Patrick discussed the current banking environment in Connecticut and nationally, as lending institutions rearrange priorities and there are focus shifts in banking and financial companies. Haviland discussed investment policies and their impact on long-term investment portfolio performance.

The Center for Caribbean and Latin American Studies, with the help of Dr. Moises Salinas, associate professor of psychology, organized “Contribuciones,” a Latino independent film festival. This is the Center’s first film festival with a jury and cash prize. Contribuciones organizers partnered with the Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival and the independent film festival distribution company FIGA to collect a variety of short films, made by Latino filmmakers, which illustrate Latino experiences.

Jim Daniels, the Thomas Stockman Baker Professor of English at Carnegie Mellon University, and an acclaimed poet, recently read from some of his notable works at the CCSU bookstore.

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President Honors Outstanding Seniors

The President’s Citation Awards are presented each year to outstanding seniors. The awards recognize accomplishments and contributions that the students have made to benefit the University. Pictured below (left to right), President Miller stands with the awardees Naa Amerley Sackey, Corey Ian Zohlman, Lara J. Kaplan, David R. Magnan, Stephanie L. Moran, and Elizabeth Torres, as well as Dean of Students Jane Higgins (far right). Award recipient Ryne Nutt is not in the photograph.

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Notable Programs (cont’d from page 13)

CCSU is continuing efforts to further diversity awareness on campus. The Safe Zone program is aimed at promoting safety and acceptance by reducing homophobia. Safe Zone programs include diversity and sensitivity training and discussions. Members of the community are provided with Safe Zone stickers. Those stickers, when placed on faculty or office doors, designate the area as a safe place for Gay, Bisexual, Lesbian and Transgendered (GBLT) persons, and any student wishing to be open. The stickers send a message that faculty and staff members are aware of GBLT issues and concerns, consider themselves allies of the GBLT community, and willing to listen to students’ concerns. Those who display the Safe Zone stickers pledge not to tolerate bigotry or discrimination.

The Student Union Board of Governors Living Room Lecture series sponsored the program “Security and Civil Liberties,” with Todd Brewster as the guest speaker. Brewster is an award-winning editorial producer for ABC News and a writer for Time and Life. He engaged faculty and students in an informal discussion on student concerns for civil liberties and their security in regards not only to the law but also to recent incidents at American universities.

Ramona Hernandez, director of the Institute for Dominican Studies at the City College of New York, came to CCSU to speak on “The Socioeconomic Standing of the Dominican People in the United States.” The lecture was sponsored by the Center for Caribbean and Latin American Studies, the Office of the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, and the Latin American Studies Committee (LAAC).

Dr. Rebecca Merkin of Baruch College, CUNY, recently spoke at Central about her studies of sexual harassment in the workplace in America and in Argentina. The lecture was sponsored by the CCSU Psychology Department and organized by Dr. Lauren Perdue, associate professor of psychology.

The CCSU School of Arts and Sciences sponsored a round table discussion on “Tax Reform and the Future on Connecticut.” Dr. James Stodder of the Lally School of Management and Technology, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute at Hartford; and State Senator William H. Nickerson, chief deputy minority leader, Connecticut state senate, were featured as presenters. Both discussed the pros and cons of tax reform, followed by a question and answer session. Ned Lamont, CCSU adjunct lecturer of political science and philosophy, served as the moderator.

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**Vladimir Putin’s Legacy**

CCSU’s Slavic and East European Studies program presented the lecture, “Vladimir Putin’s Legacy,” by Dr. Nicolai Petro (right), professor of politics, University of Rhode Island. Dr. Petro served as special assistant for policy in the Office of Soviet Union Affairs in the U.S. Department of State. He has received research awards from the National Council for Eurasian and Eastern European Research, the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies in Washington, D.C., and the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, among others.

**Dole Delivers Vance Lecture**

Former Senate Majority Leader and Republican presidential candidate Robert Dole delivered the 2008 Robert C. Vance Distinguished Lecture. The longest-serving Republican senate leader in U.S. history, he also spoke earlier in the day with a group of CCSU students and attended a fundraising dinner on campus before his Welte Hall speech. The winner of several military decorations for his World War II service, Dole was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1997. Dole is seen above with Professor of Political Science Gerald Duquette who moderated Dole’s student presentation. The series is sponsored by a grant from the Robert C. Vance Charitable Foundation. It honors the memory of the late Mr. Vance, a respected journalist who was editor and publisher of the *New Britain Herald* from 1951 to 1959.

**Celebration of African Diaspora and Culture**

The Africana Students Organization recently hosted their third annual Culture Shock Show (above). The show celebrated the influence of the African culture around the world. The show boasted performers from nearly every continent.

**Extra Credit**

Dr. Richard W. Benfield, CCSU professor of geography, has been awarded a Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust Research Grant for his project “Diversifying gardens: attracting new ethnic minorities in America’s public gardens.” Benfield will use the grant money to investigate the multi-ethnic nature of two world-renowned botanic gardens, Kirstenbosch in Cape Town, South Africa, and Van Dusen Botanic Garden in Vancouver, British Columbia.

The CCSU Police Department and Phi Delta Theta helped raise awareness—and funds—for the Special Olympics in their second annual “Jail ‘n Bail” event. They succeeded in raising $7,000, and online donations are still being processed.

William A. DeGrazia, CCSU adjunct lecturer of geography organized the 2008 Connecticut Geography Bee, which was hosted by CCSU. The bee was developed in 1989 by the National Geographical Society because of concern that young Americans were lacking geographical knowledge. Ten finalists from Connecticut were sent to compete nationally for a $25,000 college scholarship and a lifetime membership in the National Geographic Society.

Robert Diamond, CCSU gallery assistant at the S.T. Chen Fine Arts Center, had several of his art pieces displayed in the Meta Lacey Gallery at the Art League of New Britain. The show, “Saint ~ Sinner ~ Seductress: A New Look at Women from the Bible,” featured paintings by Diamond.
Africana Studies’ Open House Features Student Presentations

At the Center for Africana Studies’ open house, Kyle Smith, a psychology major, shared information about the Center with the attendees. The open house featured a poster display as well as presentations and performances by students.

Norman Mailer Remembered

Three of the late novelist and writer Norman Mailer’s closest confidants gathered on campus recently to reminisce about the literary giant and discuss the significance of his work. The CCSU program was titled “Remembering Norman Mailer: A Conversation with Barry Leeds, J. Michael Lennon, and John Buffalo Mailer.” Dr. Leeds, a CSU Professor of English emeritus at CCSU (above), is vice president of the Norman Mailer Society. He was a longtime friend of the literary icon and has written extensively on Mailer’s life and art. Dr. Lennon is Mailer’s archivist, editor, and biographer. The third panelist is a son of the famed writer and a published author in his own right.

Extra Credit (cont’d from page 15)

Four members of the CCSU athletic family, Charles “C.J.” Jones, Beryl Piper, Joe Arnone, and Dave Rybczyk were recently inducted into the New Britain Sports Hall of Fame. Rybczyk, a former basketball player and assistant coach, was inducted posthumously. Jones is CCSU’s director of athletics. Piper, like the others, is a former CCSU student-athlete. She currently coaches Central’s women’s basketball team. Arnone, “the voice of the Blue Devils,” is believed to be the nation’s longest serving public address announcer.

Dr. Catherine Kurkjian, CCSU professor of reading and language arts, has been named co-editor of Bookbird, an international journal published by the International Bureau of Books for Youth (IBBY).

CCSU student Shane J. Matthews, a political science major, has been appointed by Gov. M. Jodi Rell to the board of trustees for the state Dept. of Veterans’ Affairs. The board of trustees advises and assists the commissioner of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs. Matthews is currently a veterans’ liaison at the CCSU’s Center for Public Policy and Social Research. He served from 2000 to 2005 in the U.S. Navy.

Jane Natoli, an English major, wrote an article that was published in the May 2008 edition of the Connecticut History Journal. The article, “Voices of Connecticut Veterans: William Blair and Linking up with the Russians,” is about WWII veteran William Blair, who, while under German fire, led a volunteer patrol across the Elbe River. This effort effectively helped end the war in the European Theater of Operations. Dr. Matthew Warshauer, CCSU professor of history, edits the journal.

At the Music Faculty Recital soprano Adele Paxton, CCSU adjunct lecturer of music, and pianist Richard Hereld, performed the world premiere of John Duke’s “The Sleeping Beauty” and other settings of the work of English writer Walter de la Mare. The program also included works by Mozart and Schumann, as well as folk-songs from Scotland.

Dr. Ray Perreault, CCSU professor of manufacturing and construction management, was elected to the executive position of national secretary for the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC). The ASC is an international association that represents academic and industry professionals interested in institutional construction education. The executive board sets policies and leadership for the organization. Over 100 universities are members of the organization.

Professor of Geography, emeritus, Timothy Rickard was honored to receive the Association of American Geographers’ 2008 Rural Geography Specialty Group Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Rural and Agricultural Geography.
CCSU Teacher Candidates and Naylor School Students Visit Goodwin Park

CCSU’s teacher candidates and their faculty joined with one of CCSU’s Professional Development School (PDS) counterparts, the Dr. James Naylor School of Hartford, and held their eighth annual collaborative program at Hartford’s Goodwin Park, where pond and community life was observed and studied (right).

Teacher candidates, who were taking the “Learning Theories” course, learned about curriculum development as well as facilitating authentic learning activities. Dr. Karen Riem, CCSU associate professor of teacher education, led the project. While at the park, Naylor students enjoyed taking pictures, participating in peer and mentoring teams, and collecting and analyzing samples. Naylor students also did research and engaged in documenting their observations and maintaining science journals.

Napierkowski Speaks of Neglected Polish Writings

This year’s speaker for the annual Fiedorczyk Lecture in Polish American Studies was Dr. Thomas Napierkowski (above) of the University of Colorado. His lecture, “Lost in Translation No Longer: Reflections on Polish-American Literature,” focused on the largely neglected writing of Poles who live and write in the U.S. Napierkowski is a specialist on medieval English and contemporary Polish literature.

Middle East Lecture Series Continues with Two More Guest Speakers

Ambassador Asaf Shariv (left), the Consul General of Israel in New York, spoke at CCSU as part of the Middle East Lecture Series. The ambassador spoke about the current Palestinian-Israeli situation. Shariv is the youngest diplomat to be designated Israel’s Consul General to New York. He has previously been both Ehud Olmert’s and Ariel Sharon’s director of media and public affairs, while they each served as prime minister.

As another part of the CCSU Middle East Lecture Series, Dr. Ghada Karmi gave a speech on aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and advocated for a single, bi-national state solution. Her speech was based on her book, Marriage to Another Man, the title referring to the Palestinian dilemma. Dr. Karmi is a Palestinian-British author and an honorary research fellow and assistant lecturer at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter, in the UK.

Montez Johnson (standing in photo), assistant director of the Advising Center, Leah Skinner, assistant director of Recruitment and Admissions, and the CCSU Blue Devil mascot collaborated on a program for high-achieving students from Lawrence Middle School of Uniondale, Long Island, New York. Thirty students and their teachers were given a campus tour and a luncheon.

In order for students to participate in the visit to CCSU, they had to have perfect attendance, a minimum B+ average, and 10 hours of community service, and they had to submit a one-page essay on the career they wanted to pursue as an adult. At the end of the visit students were presented with awards and other gifts donated by various departments on campus.

Johnson stated, “There is no doubt in my mind that the experience these middle school students had at CCSU will be a positive image to help them see their future as college students.”
Cultures from Around the World Represented at International Festival

“Celebration of Cultures,” the 21st Annual International Festival, took place in April. Sharing music, dance, food, art, and artifacts with the CCSU community, the participants represented nations and cultures from each continent. The Japanese American Cultural Club (above) displayed different aspects of Japanese culture. Spring 2008 executive members of the Japanese American Cultural Club Raymond Feliciano, vice president (left), and Brittany Davis, president (right), represented the club at the event.

Syrian Ambassador Shares Views on Relations with U.S.

Dr. Imad Moustapha, Syria’s Ambassador to the United States, spoke about a range of regional issues and the status of U.S.-Syrian relations at the concluding CCSU Middle East Insights Lecture of the academic year. He is shown below with CSU Professor of History Norton Mezvinsky, left. Dr. Mezvinsky organized the highly-praised series in 2006. He hailed the speaker as a leading scholar and academic of high standing. “For the last decade Ambassador Moustapha has been deeply involved in negotiations between the U.S. and Syrian governments,” Mezvinsky noted. The diplomat is one of Syrian President Bashar Assad’s closest advisors and the co-author of the UN-sponsored “Human Development Report in the Arab World.” The lecture series is sponsored by CCSU’s Committee on Middle Eastern Studies of the George R. Muirhead Center for International Education, the Peace Studies Program, and the History Department. It is underwritten by Dr. Susan Pease, dean of CCSU’s School of Arts and Sciences.

Noted String Quartet Performs at CCSU Polish Concert Series

The Sylveen String Quartet was the featured performance at this year’s Alex and Regina Rudewicz Polish Music Series event. The ensemble was founded in 2004 and is based in Connecticut. The quartet debuted in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall and makes at least one New York appearance each year. The ensemble (from left to right), Adrian Sylveen Mackiewicz, violin; Brunilda Myftaraj, violin; Marianne Vogel, viola; and Hans Twitchell, cello; played pieces composed by Szymanowski and Gorecki, among others. The evening was sponsored by the Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies. Dr. Alex M. and Mrs. Regina Rudewicz endowed the Rudewicz Music Series.
CCSU student Dario DiBattista, Jr., majoring in political science with a minor in creative writing, was featured in Lary Bloom’s column in the Sunday New York Times. Bloom commented on DiBattista’s essay written for the “Power of One Book” essay contest in the English department’s “Power of the Word” conference. The contest required students to write an essay on a book that influenced their lives. DiBattista wrote on Erich Maria Remarque’s All Quiet on the Western Front. He served in the United States Marine Corps Reserve on two tours of duty in Iraq with a combat support unit and an outfit that worked to rebuild the country’s infrastructure. DiBattista is currently working on his non-fiction book to be titled Go Now, You Are Forgiven about his tours in Iraq.

In the Herald article, “Museum Focuses on Patrons’ Travels,” CCSU student Jeannine Henderson was recognized for her many hours of volunteer work at the New Britain Youth Museum. The article describes the museum’s newest exhibit, “From the Back of Beyond: The Travels of Dr. Elizabeth Cunningham and Gertrude Bridge,” which Henderson helped organize.

Melissa Layman, CCSU biology major, was featured in a Wethersfield Post article for her internship work with Dr. Sylvia Halkin, professor of biology. As part of her internship, Layman developed and documented activities for young children in the playgroup she co-leads. The playgroup participates in nature-related activities at the Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center in Wethersfield.

CCSU student Ron Libatique was recently mentioned in a Hartford Courant article for his involvement in E3, a local dance trio that he and two friends formed while still in middle school. In September 2006, E3 represented the U.S. in the small groups category at an international hip-hop competition held in Bremen, Germany. More recently, the group danced in the famed Apollo Theater’s “Amateur Night” competition and later were taped for the syndicated TV program “Showtime at the Apollo.”

Professor of Art Rachel Siporin was featured in a May Herald article, “It’s Guns, Atrocities and Accomplices in ‘Blindfold’ Show,” for her art exhibit, “Blindfold.” The exhibit was displayed at the New Britain Downtown Gallery. Siporin’s work was inspired by conflicts overseas. “The one who wears the blindfold is not the victim but rather the unknowing perpetrator of inhumane acts,” she told The Herald.

This year’s CCSU Annual June Baker Higgins Gender Conference focused on: “Sexing the Vote: Gender, Sexuality and Politics.” The conference included a discussion on “The Woman’s Suffrage Movement in Song, Word, and Image.” Topics discussed included: gender and electoral politics; the impact of female politicians on legislation and public policy; and same-sex marriages and civil unions. Dr. Heather Munro Prescott, professor of history (left), and Beth Lorenzo, adjunct lecturer of music (right), led a singalong of suffrage songs at the conference.

Jan Deveau, ITBD Business Development Specialist, responded to recent inquiries from the manufacturing community and launched a new program intended to answer the question “make or buy.”

**WHAT IS MOBA?**
MOBA (Make Or Buy Analysis) is a balanced standard procedure and tool, designed to analyze the cost and potential risk presented by the question, “Should I make or should I buy parts that I am currently processing?”

**WHAT IS THE MOBA OBJECTIVE?**
The MOBA objective is to provide an organization with a standard procedure and tool that clearly identifies the critical factors for consideration when it is thought that a process is not necessarily cost effective. Beyond the traditional cost analysis approach, MOBA identifies not only the critical factors but also the critical key disciplines.

This program is only offered by ITBD in a custom workshop held on-site of the business. For more information, contact Jan Deveau at 860-832-0708 or email Deveau_jas@ccsu.edu
Students Probe Biomolecular Sciences through Research

continued from page 1

linked to ‘getting your hands wet’ in the research lab. Active learners are more apt to define their educational goals and work toward being successful applicants for jobs, graduate study, or professional training in the health sciences after graduation.”

BMS PROGRAM

The Biomolecular Sciences department offers two BS degrees, one in biomolecular sciences and another in biochemistry, along with the master's degree in biomolecular sciences. The department also offers health-related courses that support undergraduate programs in gerontology, nursing, physical education, and athletic training.

According to Dr. James Mulrooney, incoming chair, the department offers a curricular focus on molecular and cellular mechanisms, which is integrated with physiology (whole organisms). Faculty emphasize hands-on learning through laboratory instruction and independent student research.

Research is tied to close faculty advising, which supports students here and beyond. The BMS department strives to prepare its graduates for advanced professional training in medicine; for graduate study in such areas as genetics, microbiology, molecular biology, and cell physiology; and for immediate entry into other careers that use the concepts and techniques of molecular and cellular biology. “Our graduates may seek jobs in bioscience industries, with either a BS or a master’s degree, in such local pharmaceutical and bioscience companies as Pfizer, Bristol Myers, Boehringer Ingelheim, or Roche,” says King.

Scores of recent graduates have been accepted to medical and dental schools, veterinary training, master’s and Ph.D. studies, nursing/physician assistant training, and biomedical research.

FACULTY TEAM A BODY SYSTEM ITSELF

“There’s a lot of collaboration among the faculty,” observes Mulrooney. “Our whole team of faculty works as a group, almost like a body system itself, as we do intensive advising.” As King points out, “In our weekly student-faculty seminars we discuss current research and share, along with pizza sometimes, the fruits and frustrations of hands-on research.”

The faculty commitment to student learning is illustrated by the fact that in the 2006–2007 academic year Biomolecular Sciences faculty sponsored more than 125 independent projects, including eight graduate and three undergraduate theses. Faculty and students authored four formal publications and made seven presentations at national meetings.

This past April, 55 students (three-fourths of whom presented or served as co-authors of presentations) and six faculty members traveled to the 62nd Annual Eastern Colleges Science Conference at Niagara University, in Niagara, NY.

IMPORTANCE OF GRANTS

To support student-centered research and educational outreach, as well as curriculum, program, and faculty development efforts, Biomolecular Sciences faculty routinely solicit funding from a variety of internal and external sources. The grant monies generated or available in 2006-2007 from 33 grants submitted by all seven faculty members totaled $975,396—a record high for the department.

At present, there are three concurrent National Institutes of Health grants held by King (for study on the genetic cause of sterility in mice), by Mulrooney (studying cell-to-cell interactions), and by Dr. Michael Davis (searching for new antibiotics from soil bacteria). “It’s probably unprecedented at CCSU to have three NIH grants all in the same department,” exclaims King. “This is one of the ways we are able to afford research on campus. Grants allow us to fund supplies and equipment and to underwrite student research.”

The highly-accomplished faculty are widely-published and engage in a broad array of community outreach and service. They offer diverse expertise: Davis, bacterial genetics and physiology; Dr. Barry Hoopengardner, comparative genomics and RNA metabolism; Dr. Marty Kapper, cellular and comparative physiology; King, mammalian developmental genetics; Dr. Kathy Martin-Troy, molecular biology and genetic engineering; Mulrooney, cellular adhesion and migration; Dr. Cheryl Watson, cardiac physiology and cell signaling; and Dr. Betsy Dobbs-McAuliffe, developmental biology.

“We try to get to know every single student in the department,” declares King. “That’s most satisfying, because we get to watch them mature and develop as their educational goals take shape. We strive to make them aware and prepared for the challenges ahead.”

— Geri Radaci

Dr. José Moya (above), Barnard College professor of history, director of the Barnard Forum on Migration, and the interim director of Latin American Studies at Columbia University, spoke at CCSU in early March. His lecture, “Latin American Migration in Global Perspectives” was sponsored by the CCSU Latin American Studies Committee, the Connecticut Latin Americanists Partnership, the Yale Council on Latin American and Iberian Studies, and the CCSU Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.
Education Club Partners with Girl Scouts of CT

Communication major Caroline Dearborn (above) and education major Monika Laudenberger have partnered with Loretta Lincoln of the Girl Scouts of Connecticut to run an after school program with Girl Scouts at Holmes Elementary in New Britain. During the 10-week program, Dearborn and Laudenberger visited every Monday for two hours to help the girls with their unit on the environment. This collaboration has led to a partnership between the Girl Scouts of CT and the CCSU Education Club.

Diversity on Campus

This has been a year of reflection, discussion, and action centered on issues of equity, fairness, and diversity at CCSU. As President Jack Miller noted, some of this was “spurred on” by student pieces in The Recorder, but those were widely recognized as “symptoms” of long-standing problems. The University community responded assertively to address these issues and to make CCSU a more welcoming place for all. Over 100 actions were taken during the year (a list is available at www.ccsu.edu/CCSUNow).

Numerous lectures, workshops, and conferences were held during the year. Among those taking place during the second semester were training programs conducted by CCSU Assistant Professor of Psychology Marisa Mealy and by Dr. Frances Kendall (left), a diversity specialist from California; a day-long forum conducted by a blue-ribbon commission on diversity, an independent commission appointed by President Miller which gathered information about the campus climate from CCSU students, faculty, administrators, and staff; and a culminating Campus Conversation on Diversity, which featured a keynote address by noted multicultural education authority Dr. Bill Howe and three panel sessions led by faculty and staff, all focused on uncovering and rectifying problems regarding diversity on campus.

In The News (cont’d from page 19)

The CCSU Student Center was featured in the Courant article “At CCSU, Running the Campus ‘Living Room.’” The article mentioned the Center’s 80,000 square-foot facility and the services that it provides. The article explained that the Center, which hosts events ranging from contests to comedians, is continuously bringing the CCSU community, those who commute and those who dorm, together.

International Poets Visit

As part of a CCSU Diversity Initiative grant, a group of international poets (below) visited campus for an outdoor poetry reading. After the reading, students moderated a discussion on race and aesthetics.

CCSU and Tunxis Create Pathways for Students

CCSU and Tunxis Community College have signed an agreement that has been six years in the making. Students in Tunxis’ Honors Computer Science/Mathematics Program are now guaranteed admission into CCSU’s bachelor of science degree programs in computer science, mathematics for secondary teaching certification, and theoretical mathematics as long as they have at least a 2.70 grade point average. CCSU’s computer science program is accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission of the American Board of Engineering Technology. Accepted students from Tunxis will transfer to CCSU with junior status.

Appropriately enough, the year ended with the appointment of Associate Professor of Psychology Moises Salinas (above) as Chief Diversity Officer/Executive Assistant to the President, a new position which was upgraded significantly from Coordinator of Multicultural Affairs/Director of Affirmative Action. While acknowledging that much work remains to be done, President Miller noted “progress has been significant.”
Consul General of Japan in Boston Speaks on East Asian Relationships

The Honorable Yoichi Suzuki (left), Consul General of Japan in Boston, recently came to CCSU as a speaker for the Spring Special Lectures on East Asia. His speech focused on “Japan’s Evolving Relationship with East Asia.” The lecture series was presented by the Center for East Asian Studies and Omnicom Delta Epsilon.

Professor of Ethics Speaks on Obama

As part of CCSU’s Carter G. Woodson African-American Lecture Series, Dr. Riggins Earl (below), professor of ethics at the Interdenominational Theological Seminary, visited CCSU to present: “The Existential Status of Democratic Presidential Candidate Barack Obama.” Dr. Earl is an ordained member of the Christian clergy and has been a professor of ethics and theology for over 30 years. A recipient of the Lilly Professor Research Fellowship, Dr. Earl is a national speaker and a published author on African-American religion and ethics.

Polish Evening of Culture

The Godlewski Evening of Polish Culture, presented by The S.A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies, staged The Polish Theatre Institute’s production of “The Shop of Songs” (Kram z Piosenkami) in Torp Theatre. The event featured Polish popular music over the centuries with lavish sets and costumes in a fully staged production with English narration.

Dr. Philip Garcia Speaks at CCSU

Dr. Philip Garcia (left), senior director of the institutional research for the California State University, Office of the Chancellor, spoke at CCSU. His lecture on “Latinos in Higher Education: The California Experience” was sponsored by the Caribbean and Latin American Studies Center, the Office of the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, and the Latin American Studies Committee. Dr. Garcia has published work on the unemployment record and earning power of the Latino labor force, the efficiency of student-retention programs, and ethnic settlement patterns in Los Angeles County.
Teachers’ Language Conference Focuses on Reality of Multilingual Classrooms

This year’s spring conference for language teachers focused on “Connecting the Language Classroom to the Multilingual Reality.” The program, “Languages in the Community,” was sponsored by the Modern Languages Department; the George R. Muirhead Center for International Education; the Center for the Teaching of French, at Yale; the Chinese Culture Center; the Connecticut Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese; the Connecticut Italian Teachers’ Association; and CCSU’s European Union/West European Studies Program.

Notable Programs (cont’d from page 14)

Professor of English Donald E. Hall, West Virginia University, delivered the lecture “The Value of Service in the Academic Community” and conducted a workshop on “Surviving Under a 4/4 Teaching Load.” The lectures were sponsored by The Faculty Senate, CCSU-AAUP, the Office of Academic Affairs, the Center for Teaching Excellence & Leadership Development, the Department of English, and the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program.

Maintaining a Sisterly Relationship

Director of CCSU’s East Asian Studies Center and Professor of Economics Ki Hoon Kim also serves as chair of New Britain’s Sister City Committee. Central’s “hometown” and the Japanese city of Atsugi, located in the Tokyo-Yokohama metropolitan area, are observing the 25th anniversary of their formal relationship. Dr. Kim has been instrumental in helping clear the path for traveling CCSU students to enjoy cultural and educational events in Atsugi and in providing similar experiences for Japanese students, citizens, and other sister city representatives at the University.

CCSU Hosts First International Mural Slam

The first international “mural slam” (above) was held in April, on the roof of CCSU’s Welte Parking Garage. Artists in all genres, including graffiti artists, mural painters, scenic artists, and others involved in public art works, attended the slam to paint a mural on their own four-by-twelve-foot section of wall. The artists were given eight hours to complete their murals. At the end of the slam, each artist received a unique prize, such as a “gold” brick or a golden toilet seat.
Blue Devil Students: Gladstone and Rutz Award Winners

The CCSU athletic department announced the Frederick Gladstone and Gail Rutz award winners on Wednesday, May 7, at its Senior Awards Ceremony. Football's Ryne Nutt collected the coveted Frederick Gladstone Award, while Lindsey Snyder, a swimmer, was awarded the esteemed Gail Rutz Award. The awards are given to the top male and female student-athletes in the senior class.

All-Americans both in their sport and in the classroom, Nutt and Snyder have helped lead the resurgence of both CCSU football and women's swimming and diving. The Blue Devil football program won two Northeast Conference crowns during Nutt's four seasons, while Snyder guided the Blue Devil swimmers and divers to NEC and ECAC titles this year.

"We have the privilege to honor two outstanding student-athletes this year," Director of Athletics C.J. Jones said. "Ryne and Lindsey have excelled in the classroom, on the field and in the pool, and in the community. They are exemplary ambassadors for the University."

After redshirting in 2003, Nutt started every Blue Devil game over the next four seasons. He blocked for the Northeast Conference's top offense in 2004, the league's number one rushing team in 2005 and 2007, and the nation's top ground attack in 2006. A three-time all-NEC selection, which includes first team plaudits in each of the last two years, Nutt is part of the winningest class in CCSU football history. In addition to the two Northeast Conference titles, Central's 29 wins during his time as a player are the most over a four-year span in CCSU football history.

For his efforts on the field, Nutt has piled up awards. In addition to his Northeast Conference accolades, the Warren, OH native has earned Mid-Major All-America distinction from The Sports Network and ECAC All-Star selections in each of the last two seasons. A three-time all-NEC selection, which includes first team plaudits in each of the last two years, Nutt is part of the winningest class in CCSU football history. In addition to the two Northeast Conference titles, Central's 29 wins during his time as a player are the most over a four-year span in CCSU football history.

"Ryne has been integral in the continuous growth of CCSU football," Blue Devil head coach Jeff McInerney said. "The program is reaching a new level, and Ryne has played a large role in that. He is everything that is good about college athletics."

Nutt's accomplishments also extend the classroom. A three-time ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District I selection, Nutt, an accounting major, earned ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America status as a junior and senior. Joining players from both I-A and I-AA schools, Nutt was a second team honoree. He is just the second CCSU student-athlete to be named to the team on two occasions. The 2007 captain also collected the Northeast Conference's Football Scholar-Athlete of the Year honor and the prestigious Nils V. "Swede" Nelson Award. The Gridiron Club of Greater Boston awards the latter, which is given for exceptional achievement in academics, athletics, and sportsmanship.

Nutt, who carries a 3.97 GPA, was honored as a Barnard Scholar and was also one of eight CSUS students selected by the Connecticut General Assembly for outstanding academic achievement. Additionally, Central President Jack Miller distinguished Nutt with a 2008 President's Citation. The President's Citation is presented annually to outstanding seniors in recognition of their leadership and volunteerism.

As a member of the most decorated class in CCSU's swimming and diving history, Snyder also excelled both in and out of the pool. As a senior, the two-time captain led the Blue Devils to a Northeast Conference Championship, the team's first since 2001, and an ECAC Championship, the program's first.

"Since her arrival, Lindsey has helped take the program to new levels," CCSU head coach Bill Ball said. "She is a model student-athlete who has established the foundation for the Central Connecticut swimming and diving future."

Snyder was named the Most Outstanding Swimmer at the 2008 NEC Championships and then earned a team-best 52 points to lead CCSU to ECAC victory. She set a pair of records at the NECs, winning her fourth straight 200 back title in a record-breaking time of 2:01.43 and picking up her third 100 back title in an NEC-best 57.02. Snyder also won the 200 individual medley, giving her eight career NEC individual titles. She is also a member of nine CCSU NEC relay champion teams.

The Winterport, ME native then went on to win her second career 100 back crown at the ECACs. She also finished third in the 200 back and 200 IM. Over the course of her senior campaign, she broke school records in the 100 back, 200 back and 200 IM. A CollegeSwimming.com Mid-Major All-America honoree this season, Snyder has made NCAA ‘B’ cuts and reached finals at the U.S. Open and USA Swimming Spring Championships during her tenure.

Out of the pool Snyder, who currently serves as the President of Central's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and carries a 3.82 GPA, has earned two College Swim Coaches of America Academic All-America distinctions. Her 2007–08 grades and times have put her in line for a third.

The combined successes of Nutt and Snyder embody the missions of both the athletic department and Central Connecticut State University as a whole.

— Jason Stronz