CIE Urges Students to Study in the Global Community

Whether they have studied in Ghana, Belize, Panama, Australia, the U.K., or any of some 21 countries on six continents, CCSU students almost invariably say: “It changed my life. I’ve come back a new person.”

Because international education can have positive influences on career paths, world-views, and self-confidence, Dr. Nancy Birch Wagner, director of the George R. Muirhead Center for International Education (CIE), comments, “We want to work with faculty and students to integrate global education into the curriculum.” She points out that Central has an extensive network of university partnerships worldwide. Working with academic departments and area studies programs, the Center promotes graduation of globally competent students.

“We urge students to experience the world and study in the global community—either long-term through the Study Abroad program or short-term through a course taught abroad,” Wagner declares. During the past academic year, the Center achieved a record high of 378 students participating in long- or short-term study abroad opportunities. Scholarships have provided students incentives to travel and helped to defray some costs.

In Summer 2006, the CIE, US-China Business Center, and departments of political science and criminal justice collaborated on a student course abroad to China. Pictured above (from left to right) are Heather Dorsey, Rachel Tiernady, Andrew Clark, Lynsay Ruffolo, Dr. Shamir Ratansi (Faculty leader – department of Criminology and Criminal Justice), Chasity Hicks (bending), James Battista, and Jenna Skarda.

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CIE Urges Students to Study in the Global Community

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A benefit of the CIE linkages with universities worldwide is that foreign exchange students come to the New Britain campus. “These students live in the dorms and interact with CCSU students throughout various disciplines, bringing new perspectives to class discussions,” observes Nancy Weissmann, CIE international education coordinator.

Course Abroad and Study Abroad

The popular course abroad program offers opportunity for intensive overseas study, which can run from 10 days to one month and be conveniently taken during Winter Session, Spring Break, or the summer. The short three-credit courses are organized and led by CCSU professors. Some 37 courses have been proposed by faculty for 2009.

“The course abroad program is one of the cornerstones of the Center for International Education,” states Lisa Marie Bigelow, CIE associate director. “I began managing the course abroad program in 1995, when there were only a handful of courses offered abroad. Due to growing popularity with both faculty and students, which mirrors a national trend, we have seen exponential growth in the course abroad program over the past ten years.”

“This fall a brochure will announce which course abroad programs are available for registration,” explains Weissmann.

Courses under consideration for the Winter 2009 session include, among many others, Anglo-American Literary London with Dr. Jason Jones, associate professor of English, and Dr. Aimee Pozorski, assistant professor of English; Egypt: Pharaohs and Fish in Cairo, Egypt with Dr. Richard Benfield, professor of geography and Dr. John Mitran, professor of sociology. There are many proposed choices for spring 2009, including China: Educational Practices and Culture in Shanghai, Xi’an, Yunchuan, and Beijing with Dr. James DeLaura, professor of technology and engineering education, and Dr. Michele Dischino, assistant professor of technology and engineering education.

Offerings for Summer 2009 include Japan: Buddhist Temples, Samurai Castles, Atomic Bombs, and Hello Kitty in Tokyo, Kanazawa, Kyoto, Nara, and Hiroshima with Dr. Shizuko Tomoda, professor of modern languages and Dr. Mark Jones, associate professor of history; Field Studies in Ghana in Accra with Dr. Charles Mate-Kole, professor of psychology, and Dr. Evelyn Phillips, professor of anthropology; Eastern and Central Australia: Mountain, Rainforest, City, Seashore, and Desert in Sydney and Uluru with Dr. Sylvia Halkin, professor of biology, and Muriel Miller, adjunct professor of art; and Spanish on the Move in Guadalajara, Mexico with Dr. Gustavo Mejia and Dr. Lilián Uribe, both professors of modern languages.

Complete information about the 2009 course abroad offerings will be available on CIE’s website at www.ccsu.edu/cie. The 2009 Course Abroad Catalog is also available in CIE, Barnard Hall, Room 124.

Student Accolades

Fresh from the Americans in Paris course, led by Associate Professor of Communication Karen Ritzenhoff during this past Spring Break, communication major Kelly Jackson exclaimed: “The week in Paris was one of the best of my life. Apart from the culture, memories, and friendships I have experienced, I am going home a different person and have grown.”

Some students opt for long-term study at universities in Europe, the Caribbean, West Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America. Daniel Krah, a senior finance major with a Japanese minor, studied at Kansai Gaidai University (Osaka) from fall 2006 until January 2008. He states: “It was enriching living in a dorm with over 500 international students from more than 50 countries and staying with a host family and in an apartment on my own.” He reflects, “It was unique studying in Japan for me because I was the minority for once.”

Empowered by a sense of independence acquired by making decisions on his own, Krah says, “I became a more open and accepting person. Most important though, now I realize the significance of the relationships we form and how much we all depend and rely on everyone around us.”

Exchanges and Internships

The majority of CIE programs are set up as one-for-one exchanges, allowing CCSU and international students to trade places and study abroad. Internships are also encouraged. “Students can study for credit, working in a company, non-governmental agency, elementary school, or local establishment under the academic supervision of Central faculty,” explains Weissman.
Dr. Bob Emiliani, associate professor of manufacturing and construction management, in the School of Engineering and Technology, has completed the fourth and final volume, REAL LEAN: Learning the Craft of Lean Management, of the REAL LEAN series, which is intended for a corporate executive audience. As with the other volumes, this book emphasizes both Lean as a management system and the “Respect for People” principle.

There’s the resume appeal. “Graduates with unique international study or internship experience are set apart and have a distinct appeal to employers,” says Weissman. “Skill sets acquired abroad can inspire pursuit of an advanced degree, further career paths, or ignite an interest in a career direction. Nicky Houlihan ’07, who studied in the UK at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN), is now running a supplemental kindergarten program in Preston, England. Alex Daw, a fine arts major at UCLAN who came to CCSU as an exchange student, is finding success as an artist in the UK.

Recent Initiatives at CIE
Passport to Global Citizenship is a new program, which was initiated by President Jack Miller and is intended to give first-year students the opportunity to spend a week in January 2009 in England studying history and culture.

“CCSU has recently enrolled in the American Council of Education’s prestigious Internationalization Laboratory,” says Wagner. “Our goal is to collaborate with faculty and administrators to integrate international education into the curriculum. We’ll help students with pre-departure education, setting priorities for when they are away and for after they return. We’ll work with departments to ensure that global study is fully communicated campus wide.”

CCSU hosted a Connecticut State University International Education Conference on Nov. 21 at the conclusion of International Education week. The forum is a means to discuss ways to strengthen international education across the CSU system.

“On this campus, we’re working hard to foster cross-cultural understanding and prepare CCSU students to enter an increasingly interdependent world,” concludes Wagner.

— Geri Radacsi
Student Spotlight: Cory Robinson—Excelling On the Field and Off

Despite growing up in a troubled neighborhood in East Baltimore, Cory Robinson always wanted to attend college. “My mom graduated from John Hopkins University with a masters’ degree. Seeing her graduate made me want to do the same.”

As a senior majoring in communications and an outstanding defensive back for the Blue Devils football team, Cory is soon to end his career with CCSU on a positive note because of connections made both on and off the field. Cory is very active at Central, singing in the Ebony Chorale Ensemble, volunteering at the Academic Center for Student Athletes, belonging to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and, of course, playing on the football team. He currently holds down two jobs at CCSU—one in Memorial Hall and the other in the office of Marketing and Communications.

This past summer Cory worked with the New York Giants, managing their youth summer camp. He was originally approached for this position by one of his advisors in the Academic Center for Student Athletes.

“I interviewed with the company and was hired,” said Cory. “While working for the Giants’ Camp, I was able to meet many past and present members of the Giants’ organization. It was a great experience, and I am fortunate to have had this opportunity.”

The camps ran for five weeks, and Cory traveled to camp locations in Greenwich and West Hartford, CT, as well as Staten Island and Rye, NY. Cory worked with coaches, local operations managers, and headquarters in organizing camp activities, such as player appearances, facility locations, resources, and key contact information. Cory was also able to put his communication skills to use in managing customer relations and relaying camp-related issues to the main office.

Managing Football and Schoolwork

After attending The Cardinal Gibbons High School in Baltimore, Cory arrived at Central prepared for college life, both on and off the field. “My parents stressed the importance of being a good student as well as a good athlete.” At Cardinal Gibbons, Cory earned athletic recognition in football, track, and wrestling, as well as academic awards, which brought him many football scholarship offers, including one from Central. “I chose Central because when I made my recruiting visit, I had a good feeling about this school. All of the pieces seemed to fall into place,” remarks Cory. He made his final decision as a result of his parents approving all that Central had to offer.

Many of CCSU’s faculty have guided Cory on his road to success, but he especially credits Dr. Glynis Fitzgerald, associate professor of communication. “Dr. Fitzgerald has been such an inspiration to me. She has helped me to understand organizational communication and has helped to build my confidence,” he said.

Cory’s goal is to coach football at a Division I school, although eventually he wants to return to Maryland and coach at the high school level. “I love the game of football and that’s something that will always remain, but what drives me to want to coach is knowing that I could be involved in helping young people gain some of the opportunities, and more, that I am so blessed to have had,” said Cory.

—Caroline Dearborn
Sarah Stookey: Opening Eyes to Social and Economic Possibilities

“I see money as a lens through which we can look at society and organizational values,” says Dr. Sarah Stookey, associate professor of management and organization. The thought neatly summarizes her doctoral dissertation, completed in 2006 at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. And the idea continues to influence her teaching today at CCSU.

Drawing from a master’s in economics from the University of California, Riverside, and an MBA in organizational studies and a PhD in management from UMass, Stookey challenges students to see business and economic norms in a new light. She urges them to become conscious of assumptions about what is right and necessary in organizations and society and to evaluate these assumptions in terms of their own experiences and beliefs.

“I want my students to think carefully about such things as the ethical dimensions of business. So, in my teaching, I integrate global, economic, and social ideas with a strong sense of citizenship,” she declares with fervor.

With the economy making front page news these days, Stookey set up subscriptions to The New York Times for her students—a fact expanded upon in an article in the Hartford Business Journal, where Stookey was recently featured.

Stookey is cited as saying that the economic crisis has brought a renewed focus on the question of a regulated market versus a deregulated market. The recent efforts toward more regulation underscore how perceptions of appropriate economic practices can change quickly. “It’s useful to see the way that business is always occurring within a social context and the rules and expectations of business are constantly changing,” Stookey said.

It is Stookey’s hope that students learning about the economic crisis now will have the knowledge and perspective to avoid creating a similar environment of reckless lending and spending, which has led to the current troubles.

A Philosophy Rooted in Nicaragua

Stookey’s teaching philosophy was born far from School of Business classrooms—in Nicaragua. There Stookey’s fascination with studying business and management arose after almost a decade of helping to promote community-based economic development during the 1980s.

Straight from Harvard University with a degree in government, she worked in 1983 at an agricultural cooperative in Estelí, Nicaragua. “I wanted to study Spanish and learn about the Sandinista Revolution. I was drawn to the social changes going on,” she recalls. From 1984–93, she worked for the Nicaraguan government in progressively more responsible positions in public administration. She shakes her head, “It’s such a different world. I worked typically in isolated, mountainous, coffee-growing areas of northern Nicaragua with farmers and local officials to improve productivity and democratic government.”

That international development experience she terms “extremely powerful” because, she says, “I was taking part in a serious social transformation, trying to make social systems from the ground up that embraced values of democracy and equality. To this day, my teaching reflects the values of taking responsibility for how our society works and seeing possibilities for creating organizations for a better society.”

Circling Back to Nicaragua

Now, coming full circle, Stookey plans to return to Estelí, Nicaragua, bringing CCSU management and international business majors on a Global Economy field study in spring 2009. “The course delves into the historic and cultural dynamics of globalization and their effect on the economies and societies of countries on the periphery,” states Stookey. Students will live with a local family, visit institutions such as banks, farms, and businesses, and attend talks on economic development and trade. They will visit coffee growing regions, indigenous communities, and maquiladoras (foreign-owned apparel factories in free trade zones). Stookey’s course is complemented by another course, Globalization and Gender on the Ground in Nicaragua, which will be taught simultaneously on site by Professor of Anthropology Abigail Adams.

“My students will consider the characteristics of the rural economy, which includes small-scale farming, continued on page 7
Focus on Scholarship: Stephen Cohen Champions Historical Formalism

In the last 100 years, literary criticism has oscillated between an emphasis on form (genre, style, features of the text) and an emphasis on contextual history of a work’s creation (biographical, historical, or intellectual). Enter Stephen Cohen—a mediator who steps into the clash.

The olive branch Dr. Cohen, associate professor of English, proffers is historical formalism, a rapidly growing and new critical approach for Shakespeare studies and for literary criticism as a whole. “Historical formalism suggests that to understand fully a work of literature and its historical sources, it is necessary to look at not only its content but its form as well,” explains Cohen.

Cohen has focused his scholarship on historical formalism since the early 1990s when he was working on his doctoral dissertation on a Mellon Dissertation Fellowship at the University of California, Irvine. He earned a master’s in English from UC, Irvine, and a bachelor’s from Harvard University.

After teaching English at UC Irvine and at the University of South Alabama, Cohen joined CCSU in 2002. He has published essays on the history and theory of historical formalism in REAL: Yearbook of Research in English and American Literature and in Renaissance Literature and Its Formal Engagements (ed. Mark Rasmussen, 2001). He has written articles on political and generic conflict in Measure for Measure and the political significance of cuckoldry in the formal trajectory of Shakespeare’s romantic comedies.

A Ground-breaking Collection
Now Cohen, who is expert in Shakespearian and Renaissance literature, has caused a stir in the world of literary criticism. He is the editor of Shakespeare and Historical Formalism (Ashgate Publishing, May 2007) – the first collection of essays applying historical formalism to Shakespeare’s works.

Reviewer Henry S. Turner, English Renaissance expert, states: “Cohen argues powerfully for renewed attention to the theoretical and cultural complexities raised by the problem of form, and he has assembled an unusually strong collection of voices to demonstrate how promising a ‘historical formalism’ can prove to be… Cohen’s introduction deserves to be widely cited for its meticulous argument, synthesis of positions, and breadth of reference. A subtle and substantial engagement with a problem whose recent resurgence is long overdue.”

Reviewer Barclay Green, Northern Kentucky University, notes: “The collection offers scholars, whether proponents of history or form, theoretical and critical claims well worth grappling with. We may be seeing early modern studies refashioning itself without embracing only one side of a history/form dichotomy.”

It’s taken about three years to complete the manuscript and get it published. Cohen reflects, “It was incredibly helpful for me to bring essays together by many people doing similar work in different ways. Most satisfying was showing their work to a reading audience under a single volume. I was making a contribution to the field and working with newer, younger scholars, and helping them get their ideas out.”

Impetus for the Book
The impetus for the book, Cohen explains, came in 2003. He had organized a seminar at the Shakespeare Association of America, Victoria, BC, Canada, bringing together scholars engaged in historical formalism studies. “The seminar was the origin of the book, because some of the attendees became contributors to the book,” Cohen says. “I came to think there...
Critical Management Studies Division of the International Academy of Management, part of a five-year leadership cycle.

On campus she is a member of the American Council on Education Internationalization Laboratory committee to promote global education. In the Greater Hartford area, Stookey will be initiating a new collaboration between middle schoolers (probably from the Naylor School in Hartford and a New Britain school) as a way of deepening both groups’ understanding of the social and economic dimensions of globalization—especially as they play out here in Connecticut.

It is her hope, Stookey says, that this experience will help CCSU students to ground the more abstract information and views they have been looking at in her classroom and help them become more sensitive to their own involvement in the global economy and society and to the ways people are increasingly interdependent—and open their eyes to the possibilities for making globalization a more positive force of social change.

— Geri Radacsi
CCSU Launches Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program

This fall, CCSU launched a baccalaureate program in nursing, aimed at providing an academic track for future leaders in the field and alleviating Connecticut’s growing shortage of health care professionals.

CCSU started the program this fall with its first class of pre-nursing students, according to nursing department chairperson Associate Professor Linda Wagner. “As high school guidance counselors and others become more familiar with our new program we expect to see a steady influx of students,” she noted.

Students accepted into the major will practice in a new simulation lab currently being constructed in Henry Barnard Hall. They will have clinical rotations in specialty areas and affiliate with local hospitals and health care settings in the area. The nursing courses will run over four years, and students will graduate prepared to sit for the National Licensing Exam for Registered Nurses.

The U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration estimates that Connecticut will be short more than 11,000 nurses by 2010. A decade later the shortfall could double, the agency predicts, leaving the state with fewer than half the nurses it needs. The new program is a reflection of CCSU’s ongoing efforts to be a significant resource, contributing to the cultural and economic development of Connecticut.

“CCSU’s interest in developing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing program arises from our institutional mission to address workforce issues in Connecticut. It is well documented that there is a nursing shortage in the state, one that is expected to continue for some time into the future,” Wagner said.

Dr. Mitchell Sakofs, dean, School of Education and Professional Studies, also expects the program to grow. “We should see interest and enrollment really start to pickup when students begin examining their potential college and career options,” Sakofs said.

Dr. Sakofs said the new program was approved by the Connecticut Department of Higher Education in June to supplement and enhance CCSU’s existing RN to BSN program, which was established more than two decades ago and was accredited by the National League for Nursing (NLN) and later by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The program is fully accredited by CCNE until 2016.

“The previous program offered a baccalaureate degree only to students who were already Registered Nurses. The new Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program is designed to prepare a liberally educated person to function as a professional nurse in various roles and healthcare settings. After completing the program, graduates are expected to be professionally competent generalists in nursing who recognize the need for continued personal and professional development throughout life; with their initial degrees in hand, they will possess the educational background for post-baccalaureate study in nursing,” Sakofs said.

“We are committed to providing broad access to affordable nursing education to Connecticut’s students and to graduating students who are ready to assume positions as professional nurses in the State of Connecticut,” Wagner added.

Approval for the BSN program by the Board of Governors of Higher Education was followed by similar action by the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing.

Students and high school guidance professionals interested in obtaining more information about the new BSN program can call the department at 860.832.0032.

— Christopher Michalski
CCSU Sustainability Initiatives

CCSU has made a significant advance in campus sustainability by meeting the standards to achieve climate neutrality set by the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC).

In August of 2007, President Jack Miller signed the Presidents Climate Commitment (PCC) and CCSU became a charter member of the ACUPCC. CCSU commits to achieve climate neutrality by a date and with a plan that the University will set this year.

Dr. Miller made the commitment in consultation with the CCSU Sustainability Council. As Dr. Miller mused, “This is a big commitment. The goal of ‘climate neutrality’ is far more comprehensive than merely eliminating carbon emissions. In fact, the technology does not yet exist for some of the steps we must take. Regardless, it is the right commitment. The leadership provided by higher education now makes it possible for the entire nation to develop the needed sustainable technologies, policies, infrastructures, institutional practices, and culture changes.”

“...initial steps were very encouraging and helped us see how much CCSU had already accomplished,” commented Associate Chief Administrative Officer Dan Moran who serves as co-chair of the Sustainability Council. When Dr. Miller signed the PCC, the University had already accomplished several of the initial steps required. The Sustainability Council was already in place as a very active team to implement the plan. The Sustainability Council had already embarked on four of the two required “tangible actions” suggested by the ACUPCC for its members to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) while they developed more comprehensive plans. CCSU already sets the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED Silver standard for all new campus building. CCSU operates with an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy and a Solid Waste and Recycling Plan and is actively expanding public transportation access for all faculty, staff, students, and visitors to the institution.

On September 15, CCSU completed and submitted its GHG inventory, which is an inventory of all GHGs emitted by the University due to fossil fuel consumption on-campus, use of electricity generated off-campus, and daily commuting GHGs, as well as emissions by GHGs escaping from refrigerators and air conditioners. Not a big surprise for our commuting campus, transportation accounted for 52% of Central’s GHGs. But that “news” arrives at a time when CCSU community members look to “green” their personal transportation and reduce their fossil fuel costs. The Sustainability Council will work hard this year on supporting CCSU to address those needs.

Furthermore, Central will achieve climate neutrality while meeting the charge to graduate globally-oriented and well-traveled students. Dr. Abigail E. Adams, professor of anthropology and co-chair of the Sustainability Council, observes, “There’s nothing like jet travel to kill your carbon budget, but our goal for sustainability is more than the number ‘0.’ Until alternatives exist, some fossil-fueled travel counts as ‘citizenship miles.’ My study abroad students built a green sidewalk this summer in Costa Rica, in part as carbon offset work addition to carrying out a rigorous program of academics and cultural immersion.”

The Presidents Climate Commitment and climate neutrality are important objectives in reaching CCSU’s goal for sustainability: “Small footprint, big contribution.”
Middle East Lecture Series Begins New Year

CSU Professor Norton Mezvinsky (below) began the 2008-09 Middle East Lecture Series with his lecture, “Syria, Israel and the Palestinians: Will There Be a Peace Process in the Near Future?” Mezvinsky presented information gleaned from his recent trip to Syria, and drew upon information from Middle Eastern and Washington, DC sources. Mezvinsky serves as Academic Director for The International Council of Middle East Studies, a Washington-based think tank.

The Middle East Lecture Series is sponsored by the Office of the Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, the Middle East Studies Committee of the Center for International Education, the Peace Studies Program, and the History Department.

Mezvinsky’s expertise includes US history between 1877 and 1920, US immigration history, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the history of Judaism, and terrorism in the post-modern world.

CCSU Students Attend Career Seminar at The Hartford

Students in CCSU’s School of Business visited The Hartford for a private career seminar that included a tour of The Hartford’s campus, an information session, and a resume workshop. The 26 students received individual resume critiques by members of The Hartford’s Talent Acquisition Department.

The seminar was organized by the CCSU School of Business and The Hartford through the efforts of CCSU student Stephany Brandao, an accounting and finance major with a minor in economics who serves as Acting President of the Dean’s Student Advisory Council, as well as Assistant Dean Sharon Braverman and Interim Associate Dean Paul Gagnon.

Over 20 of the 500 Central alumni who are employed at The Hartford attended the seminar to share their experiences and answer questions. Patrick Curry, head of Talent Acquisitions for The Hartford, welcomed the event.

“The Hartford is looking for people with drive and heart to become assets for their team, and Central’s School of Business has those people. With so many CCSU graduates working there, a relationship between the School of Business and The Hartford is logical. This event is another step in establishing that relationship, and I have faith that it will continue to develop,” notes Brandao.

In March 2009, The Hartford will conduct an official recruiting day at the School of Business for students interested in pursuing positions in The Hartford’s summer internship program and in first professional career-track jobs.

Language for a New Century: Contemporary Poetry from the Middle East, Asia, and Beyond, edited by Associate Professor of English Ravi Shankar, brings together a wide assortment of poems by East Asian, Middle Eastern, South Asian, and Central Asian writers. The book is organized into nine sections of shared themes: childhood, identity, the avant-garde, politics and oppression, mystery, war, homeland, mortality, and sexuality. Co-editors Tina Chang, and Nathalie Handal, and Shankar preface each section with personal essays linking the themes to the world outside of poetry. The over 400 poets included in this volume transcend international borders through shared, humanistic, artistic expression.

extra credit

Dr. Briann G. Greenfield, associate professor of history, has joined the directors’ board of the Connecticut Humanities Council (CHC). The CHC runs programs to explore the cultural benefits of both history and literature, such as its new $1.7 million Heritage Revitalization Initiative, which is producing an online encyclopedia of state history. The CHC also funds cultural programs to benefit residents and visitors.

This past summer Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, professor of economics and director of CCSU’s East Asian Studies Center, traveled with New Britain Mayor Timothy Stewart to Atsugi, Japan, to visit Mayor Masanori Kobayashi. In 1983, then-New Britain Mayor William McNamara initiated a sister city program with Atsugi. The New Britain Sister City Program is a joint venture between the City of New Britain and the University. Over the years, CCSU students have participated in cultural and educational events in some of New Britain’s sister cities, and the University has hosted students and other representatives from the sister cities.
**in the news**

**Laura Bowman**, professor of psychology, was featured in *Education Week* for a study involving college students who multitasked between instant messaging and reading. The study concluded that students who send and receive instant messages while completing a reading assignment take longer to get through books but still understand the material. “Students who are managing busy lives may think they are accomplishing more by multitasking, but they will actually need more time to achieve the same level of performance on an academic task,” she noted. Professor Bowman and her colleagues based their findings on 59 college students who were tracked in a university laboratory while simultaneously reading selections from college psychology textbooks on a computer screen and receiving instant messages.

**Dr. Paul Petterson**, chair of the political science department, was quoted in *The Hartford Courant’s* article “Scrutiny of Dodd Observed.” Written by CCSU alumnus Stan Simpson ’84, the article focused on how Dodd’s integrity was being questioned for his financial dealings with Countrywide Financial Corporation.

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**CCSU Faculty Offering Wide Array of Courses Abroad in 2009**

The popularity of the CCSU course abroad program is growing, both in terms of student participation and faculty interest in developing new programs. During the 2009 calendar year, the CIE will administer 37 course abroad programs sponsored by almost 50 faculty members representing 19 academic departments, including programs to destinations not previously offered, such as Egypt, India, Nicaragua, and the United Arab Emirates.

Whether interested in business, the liberal arts, the sciences, or the professions, CCSU students will find a program to further their progress toward degree requirements and to satisfy the University’s international or language requirements. And participation in a course abroad program will enhance students academic careers and resumes. Over 400 students are expected to enroll in the course abroad program, which offers travel programs in Winter Session, over Spring Break (a field research component imbedded in semester-long courses), and throughout the summer.

A complete listing of the 2009 course abroad programs, along with application forms and information on the scholarships available to all matriculated students, is available on the Center for International Education’s website at www.ccsu.edu/cie/coursesabroad.

Participation in a course abroad program is open to CCSU faculty and staff on a space available basis.

— Lisa Bigelow

*Pictured above, Jeanne Aladin, CCSU student visiting the Garden at Versailles. “My classes consist of students from China, Japan, Korea, Ghana, England, Peru, Russia, Mexico, and other American students. We’re learning about each other’s cultures in the process.”*
In Memoriam: Matthew W. Schall
Construction Management Scholarship

Melissa Papp, an English major with a minor in psychology, has been developing a scholarship fund for CCSU students majoring in construction management, in memory and honor of her late friend Matthew Schall. The grass-roots effort has already exceeded its first goal, with donations continuing to accumulate. The new goal is to reach $25,000 so that the scholarship can become endowed and remain perpetual to promote and help create a culture of giving at CCSU. Part of the fundraising effort involved a rubber duck race, organized by Papp and sponsored by the School of Engineering and Technology, Institutional Advancement, and the CCSU Construction Management Club.

Papp and Schall were friends who attended New Fairfield High School together. Schall went to Western Connecticut State University before matriculating to CCSU in the fall of 2006 as a junior in the construction management program. In the summers, he worked in the construction industry with his father, who noted that their work together helped shape Matthew’s goals and ambitions. His friends had learned trades, and Matthew was heading into the field with excitement. “He came to focus on the understanding that CCSU could offer what he wanted,” his father William Schall said.

On August 1, 2007, Matthew’s life came to an end as the result of an automobile accident. “He was the most positive, happiest person I’ve ever met. He went above and beyond for everyone,” Papp reflected. “You never want to see something like this happen to such a kind, loving person.”

As a Boy Scout in Troop 137 in New Fairfield, Matthew worked with his fellow scouts to construct a jungle-gym playground for the children in his hometown. This project earned him the rank of Eagle Scout. According to Papp, “His belief in public service was a contributing factor in my wanting to carry the torch in his honor.”

His friend Justin DiFabbio commented, “Matt and I had been friends since first grade. His loyalty and incredible personality are unmatched. The scholarship that Melissa has organized will pass the generous spirit of Matthew onto the recipients and their families.”

When Matthew’s uncle, Joseph DiMartino, recently got married, he and his wife, Karen, requested that any show of generosity be directed to the scholarship. “This was a real show of their respect and love for Matthew,” William Schall said.

Melissa remains humble about her endeavor. “Mr. and Mrs. Schall have been instrumental in the success of the scholarship. Mrs. Schall sent the information to her entire family, and their generous donations shaped a solid foundation for the scholarship fund.”

In the first few years of his life, Matthew had numerous eye operations that his father believes contributed to his acceptance and love for his fellow man. “He was non-judgmental and accepted individuals for who they were. He was also a very good listener, and these two qualities made him loveable,” his father said.

Matthew enjoyed country-western music, snowboarding, wakeboarding, and camping. His favorite toy was his homemade potato gun that he would shoot over the water while wakeboarding. Matthew’s uncle Joseph described him as “a character with character.”

His father reflected back on his son’s life. “He held the spirit of being generous and helpful. If there’s a classic picture of an American boy, it was my son. I find it truly humbling that a young person such as Melissa has such a large heart to engage in an initiative of this caliber.”

“Most of all,” he said, “Matthew loved his friends and family. They always came first.”

— Christopher Michalski
Brian M. O’Connell Memorial Day

In remembrance of Brian M. O’Connell, CCSU professor of computer science and philosophy, the departments of philosophy and computer science and the office of Institutional Advancement held two events on September 24 to commemorate him both as a professional and a person. The events also helped draw support for a scholarship fund created by his family and friends in his honor.

Professor O’Connell taught courses in several areas, ranging from philosophy of law to robotics and computer ethics. He was also an exceptional scholar, who was widely published and who served as a keynote speaker at numerous conferences around the world.

O’Connell was a practicing attorney before joining CCSU. He was an active member of the Connecticut Bar Association and also very active in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), holding the title of senior member. He was honored with a number of awards and recognitions for his service to the organization. During his involvement with the IEEE, O’Connell served as chair of the Connecticut section, secretary/treasurer of the Sensors Council, and president and vice-president of the Society on the Social Implications of Technology, as well as several other official positions.

The commemorative events began in the Living Room of Marcus White Hall where an array of people spoke of O’Connell and shared memories of him. Later that day, a “Remembrance Reception” was held in the Constitution Room of Memorial Hall. The reception was attended by people from CCSU, the University of Connecticut Law School, the Connecticut Bar Association, and the IEEE, as well as others.

Both events helped to generate support for the Brian O’Connell Fund, which will provide money for student scholarships and bring outstanding speakers to campus. Donations can be made at www.ccsu.edu/BrianOConnell.
Marta Chodulski: Pursuing Her Dream and Helping Others to Pursue Theirs

The Move
Marta Chodulski followed her dream and moved to America from Poland nearly 10 years ago. Many things influenced Chodulski’s decision, but most important was her desire to live in America. “America is the land of opportunity. I believed that America offered me some of the best opportunities to reach my goals,” she says.

Chodulski moved to New Britain, Connecticut, straight out of high school in hopes of learning English and continuing her education. “My father is a college professor, and he always stressed to all three of us siblings how important education was and how it is the one thing no one would be able to take away from us,” she explained.

Why New Britain?
Chodulski moved to New Britain because she wanted to pursue a bachelor’s degree at Central Connecticut State University. New Britain also has a large Polish population with a rich Polish tradition.

Since Chodulski did not speak English, she filled her first six months in her new country with night classes in Rocky Hill and Wethersfield, where for two hours a day she learned how to speak, read, and write English. Chodulski also watched countless hours of television, which she credits to helping her to gain a better sense of American dialects. “My goal,” she says, “was to learn the language as quickly and as efficiently as possible, since I knew that the only way for me to get accepted by CCSU was to pass the TOEFL exam. My long hours of studying and watching a lot of television paid off, and I was able to pass the exam.”

Family Tradition
Chodulski soon entered on the path to education that her parents and elder siblings had traveled before her. Chodulski’s older sister gained a Ph.D. in civil engineering at the University of Texas as a Fulbright scholar. Her brother earned his master’s degree in pharmaceutical development at the Warsaw Medical Academy. The youngest of the three, Chodulski earned her degree in management with a concentration in human resources from Central.

A Long Road
Chodulski’s journey was not an easy one. “I worked a full-time job throughout my time at CCSU. I was fortunate enough to find an employer who believed in me and gave me all the available resources to continue my education.” Chodulski worked as a bridal consultant for many years. Although she believed it to be a very successful and satisfying temporary career, she says “I wanted something more. I felt that I had achieved as much as I possibly could in the bridal industry and after I received my degree I knew it was time to put my years of schooling to work.”

Chodulski’s outgoing personality and her love of working with people would ultimately make a career in recruiting and development a perfect fit for her. Long days and a lot of sacrifices finally paid off. After graduating, Chodulski took a position as director of recruiting and development at Northwestern Mutual in Glastonbury, CT.

“My passion is to provide students with the right career path that will not only make them financially secure but will also allow them to develop to their full potential, allowing them to turn their dreams into reality.”

Help along the Way
Looking back on her time at CCSU, Chodulski acknowledges many professors and fellow students who were very supportive and instrumental to her success. Although Chodulski credits many people with helping her to get to where she is today, there is one professor that
Chodulski feels has been most influential over the years — Kathleen Wall, adjunct lecturer in management and organization. “Her class in Organizational Behavior prepared me for everyday issues within an organization. She also taught me to stay true to myself and my purpose. Professor Wall was such an inspiration to me during my years as a student, and she has continued to be a mentor to me,” she notes.

Wall considers Chodulski “an amazing young woman” who “effectively raised the bar for everyone in class because she role modeled a different approach to learning. She offered personal examples and stories — not to bring attention to her own story but to highlight for her peers that with hard work, sacrifice, and dedication, people can and do achieve difficult goals.”

Chodulski and Wall have continued to remain close, meeting on occasion to offer continued support and encouragement to one another.

Chodulski also continues to offer her experience and expertise to students at Central, bringing colleagues from Northwestern Mutual Financial Network to campus to meet with students, and she has established arrangements with CCSU’s Office of Career Services. Chodulski says, “CCSU is a huge part of my life, and I will always be connected with Central. I started with a dream of earning a degree and ended with landing a dream job for the future.”

— Cory Robinson

Scholarship Established in Memory of Frances Librera

Left to right are Colleen (Meyer) DiSilvestro ’73, Carol Ammon ’73, and Paula (Phenix) Allan ’73 at the dedication ceremony.

Carol Ammon ’73 has organized and helped establish a scholarship in memory of fellow alum and roommate Frances E. Librera ’73. The scholarship will benefit full-time, matriculated undergraduate students in the School of Education and Professional Studies who are majoring in Physical Education and Human Performance.

The scholarship was established to honor Librera’s memory, her contagious laugh, and beautiful smile that touched all who met her. She remained life-long friends with her college roommates, Ammon, Paula Pheniz Allan ’73, Colleen Meyer DiSilvestro ’73. She earned a bachelor of science degree in 1973 and led a successful career as a business analyst for ING and Aetna in Hartford, CT. She excelled at tennis, volleyball, and swimming, and was a familiar face in Kaiser Hall. She was a member of the Blue Dolphin Synchronized Swimming team and a majorette. She also helped organize a large “Home Run Derby,” which she won several years in a row. She passed away in 2006.

Scholarship organizer Ammon received a bachelor’s degree in biology from Central, and is a founder and CEO of Endo Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a specialty pharmaceutical company with market leadership in pain management. She was named the CEO of the Year in 2004 by the Eastern Technology Council, and in March 2006, she was selected by Central Penn Business Journal as one of Pennsylvania’s Best 50 Women in Business.

A room in Kaiser Hall has been dedicated in Frances Librera’s memory.

CCSU & Capital College Sign Articulation Agreement

CCSU President Jack Miller and Dr. Calvin Woodland, President of Capital Community College, signed an articulation agreement that allows students who earn an associate’s degree in insurance and financial services at Capital to transition seamlessly to the finance major at CCSU. Attending and representing CCC were Joan Marchessault, department chair of Business and Technology; Dean Maryann Affleck, and Professor Mary Jean Thornton. CCSU Dean of the School of Business Siambak Shojaei, Finance department chair Kathy Czyrnik, and Provost Carl Lovitt represented CCSU during the signing ceremony.

Daniel Mulcahy, professor of teacher education, has published The Educated Person: Toward a New Paradigm of Liberal Education. In his book, Mulcahy makes the case that the related ideas of the educated person and liberal education are in need of serious rethinking. The book contributes to this rethinking through an analysis of influential historical and contemporary treatments of liberal education, as well as scholarship in feminist theory and critical pedagogy. Mulcahy concludes by presenting a new ideal of the educated person and a reconceptualization of liberal education.
Newly Established Club Seeks Associate Members

A National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) club has been organized at CCSU. NAMI on Campus is seeking faculty and CCSU graduate students to join the club as associate members. The club is dedicated to educating students about the realities of mental illness and provides support for those affected by suicide. For more information, please contact Michaela Fissel, president of NAMI on Campus, at ccsunami@yahoo.com.

ITBD’s Community Business Development Center Summer Youth Programs Growing

The summer is a time of rest, fun, and goofing-off for many students. But for 140 high school students in the New Britain area, this summer proved to be much more productive and educational. Students from New Britain High School, E. C. Goodwin Technical High School, and other high schools in the greater Hartford area participated in the Summer FHITEC program. What started in 2002 as a small Tier I job-readiness program for only 30 students has now grown to include a Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III program for 140 students. Thanks to the efforts of the staff of Central’s Institute of Technology and Business Development, under the direction of Youth Coordinator Cathy Sylvester, and the Consolidated School District of New Britain, led by the District Coordinator of Science, Technology and Applied Education Tom Menditto, the Summer FHITEC Program has grown by leaps and bounds. ITBD hosted 85 of the 140 students in its Tier II and Tier III programs.

Funded by Capital Workforce Partners, FHITEC is a six-week Summer Youth Employment and Learning program that provides many students with their first experience working in the business world. For returning students, it is a chance to cultivate their newly acquired skills. FHITEC is an acronym for “Financial, Healthcare, Information Technologies, and Engineering Careers.” This multifaceted youth program combines specific career exploration, classroom instruction on fundamental job seeking and employability skills such as resume writing and interviewing, and a paid job shadow or work engagement component. The program is a great opportunity to create and engage the next generation of workers.

In addition, students from Tier II and Tier III had the opportunity to hold meaningful, paid part-time jobs. Through the tireless efforts of the ITBD staff, including Cathy Sylvester, Mullins, Executive Assistant to the President for Community Business Programs, ITBD Jan Deveau, and University Assistant Lauren Eddy, 85 students were placed in 44 New Britain businesses to complete the youth employment component of the program. Students worked as either job-shadowers (Tier II) or student workers (Tier III). Much of the program’s success was due to the involvement of the New Britain business community. Both students and employers benefited from FHITEC. Students gaining valuable experience, holding real jobs and learning crucial life skills while local businesses appreciated the extra sets of

Pictured above are: Virginia Brown, Tatiana Sotomayor, Leydi Guzman, Shawonna Boxley, Casey Colon, Samantha Michael, Danschia Colon, and Crystalee Deliz.
hands. More than that, the program provided a chance to ready the next generation of workers and invest in the future of the New Britain economy. As Peter Bakai of Creed Monarch, who supervised two Tier III FHITEC students this summer, remarked, the program is a “win-win situation.” Not only do students get to witness the goings-on of a factory or a job, he said, but there is the practical advantage for the employer as well, because “the employer may get an employee out of the arrangement.”

Students showed their mettle—and just how far they came this summer—at the End of Program Ceremony held on campus in August. In front of an audience of over 250 people, students presented their capstone group projects, the culmination of six weeks worth of learning and effort. Afterwards, students were awarded certificates for successfully completing the program.

Participating New Britain businesses and organizations included Achieve Financial Credit Union; Acme-Monaco; A.J. Wright; Avery’s Beverage; Central Connecticut Association for Retarded Citizens (CCARC); Central Connecticut State University — Information Technology Services, Early Learning Center, and School of Graduate Studies, Perkins Loan Office; Christ Waters America; Creed Monarch; Court Support Services Department (CSSD); Integra-Cast, Inc.; Jones, Raphael, & Oulundsen, Inc. Insurance; Klingberg Family Center; La Quinta; Lions Low Vision Center; M2 Systems; City of New Britain — Accounting Department, Department of Licensing, and Water Department; New Britain Boys & Girls Club; New Britain Emergency Medical Service; New Britain Rock Cats Baseball; Peter Paul Electronics; PV2; Small Business Development Center (SBDC); Sir Speedy; Sodexo; State Farm Insurance - Steve Westall; TD Banknorth; and Walnut Hill Care Center.

FHITEC instructors included Terrance Ferrarotti and the New Britain EMS (Health Care); Chip Janiszewski (Entrepreneurial); Joe Gosselin (Engineering); Angela Salerno (Education); Dr. Khoon Koh, CCSU Department of Marketing (Hospitality and Tourism); TD Banknorth (Banking and Finance); and Sean Condon (Information Technologies).

— Lauren Eddy

### Election 2008: Will the Environment Win or Lose?

A panel discussion held in Torp Theatre on September 15 featured local experts and political leaders invited to discuss pressing environmental issues facing Connecticut and the country. Panelists (left to right) included Ned Lamont, 2006 Democratic candidate for US Senate; Daniel Esty, Director, Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy; Chris Donovan, CT Speaker of the House; Rev. Tom Carr, co-founder, Interreligious Eco-Justice Network; Raymond Kalinowski, CT State Rep.; Tom Condon, columnist and deputy editorial page editor, *The Hartford Courant*. 

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**ITBD news**

ITBD presents its annual Executive Breakfast Seminar Series, sponsored again by KPMG, LLP for the third consecutive year. KPMG Senior Managers and ITBD met in August to develop a powerful series of three key business topics for the 2008/2009 seminar season.

The series features the most current business topics, timed to address our present conditions and challenges. Each seminar will be co-presented by KPMG, CCSU faculty and industry professionals. Breakfast seminar topics and dates include Green Business Strategies on March 18, 2009, and Six Sigma Business Strategies on May 13.
Thanks to a major effort that has been in planning and development for two years, CCSU’s outdoor fields—for lacrosse, football, soccer, baseball, and softball—and an adjacent recreational field are about to get a major upgrade that will enhance their utility for all CCSU students. Funding for this project comes from fees collected since 2002 and specified by the CSUS Board of Trustees for recreation and intercollegiate athletics, according to President Jack Miller.

Over the next three years, several of the outdoor fields will be retrofitted with new artificial turf that offers advantages over grass. Additionally, new grandstands will be added to the soccer field and, beneath it, a modern facility housing bathrooms and concession space. Finally, an NCAA track will be installed around the soccer field.

The improved turf phase of the project includes significant improvements to the nearby pavilion, including the addition of bathrooms. Those enhancements significantly increase the pavilion’s ability to accommodate larger groups and functions. The baseball field will also benefit from new grandstands. Additional landscaping and lighting throughout the complex, including around the completely re-graded recreation field north of the baseball diamond, are also planned.

According to Associate Chief Administrative Officer, Dan Moran, “Not all of the improvements are visible to those using the facilities. Undergirding the whole complex is a remarkable subterranean drainage system the University is installing to meet Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requirements. These fields generate run-off from precipitation. Our challenge was to engineer them in such a way that they permit zero run-offs into this area’s drainage basin.” The University is further working with engineers and the DEP to develop this same process throughout the campus as part of its sustainability program.

To achieve that goal, Macchi Engineers, the company working with Facilities on the plan for the upgrade, called upon Geller Sport, Inc., a leading landscape architecture and civil engineering firm based in Boston. The fields will be re-graded—with sand bases supporting the new turf—draining into an underground system utilizing a large cistern system to catch the water and avoid run-off to the nearby stream.

The football field has already been equipped with the turf, which, according to Sal Cintorino, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, provides several benefits to the University. “Nearly as soft and textured like natural grass, it’s easier for athletes to play on and results in far fewer injuries than earlier generations of artificial turf. Moreover, the new turf is much more durable. In the winter, snow can be cleaned off the fields with motorized equipment without damaging the turf, substantially reducing ongoing maintenance expenses.”

Once the lighting is in place, Cintorino notes, “all of the fields will become accessible for the entire University community.” The upgrade will dramatically boost the recreational value of the fields for all students.

The recreational field and the baseball and softball fields are expected to be completed by late next spring or early summer. The target date for resurfacing the soccer field is spring 2010. The new track will be installed last. Its completion will allow the University’s track team to practice and compete on campus for the first time in over a decade and will also be available for use by the CCSU community. The Department of Public Works is managing the grandstand and bathroom phase of the recreation athletic field enhancements. Moran and Cintorino are unable to say precisely when the track will be complete; they are working toward a target date of 2011.

Moran is quick to note, however, that many of the enhancements will be complete by next spring. “These improvements make our outdoor facilities much more useful for the entire CCSU community.”

— Jim Smith
For chief planner of the event Michael Ansarra, the NAACP Harmony Classic—a football game between CCSU and North Carolina Central University (a historically black university)—proved to be a successful blend of football and diversity for the central Connecticut community. The 8,322 people in attendance at Veterans’ Stadium in New Britain’s Willow Brook Park were treated to a magnificent performance by a nationally recognized band and a Blue Devil victory, but the impact of the game went beyond what took place on the field.

“The responses to The NAACP Harmony Classic have been overwhelmingly positive,” said Ansarra, senior associate athletic director at Central. “The atmosphere was electric. It all exceeded my expectations.”

The 35-23 CCSU win over North Carolina Central was the culmination of a weeklong celebration of diversity on the CCSU campus. The institution discussed issues of diversity across its disciplines.

“I remain excited about the weeklong focus on campus surrounding diversity that was supported by the AAUP Union,” Ansarra stated. “Moreover, I am happy that the Athletic Department was able to spearhead and support the University’s goals of greater community involvement with the support of the oldest civil rights organization in the world— the NAACP.”

In its first game off campus since the 2000 season, CCSU broke former NEC member Stony Brook’s record home crowd of 8,136 in 2002. The Blue Devils never trailed in the game, scoring just under 10 minutes after the start when junior Hunter Wanket capped a 10-play, 61-yard drive with a one yard touchdown run. Junior James Mallory, who entered the weekend as the nation’s leading rusher, ran for 169 yards and a touchdown, while classmate Nick Colagiovanni caught two touchdowns from Aubrey Norris, another junior, to lead the Blue Devil offense. Sophomore Jeff Marino led the CCSU defense with 12 tackles and an interception.

“It was a great week,” Mallory told reporters after the win. “We knew about all the people who were coming and it fired us up. We were really pumped up for this game.”

Both CCSU’s marching band and North Carolina Central’s nationally recognized Marching Sound Machine thrilled the crowd.

Thousands of people left their tailgating behind and filed into the stadium unaware that CCSU had a 14-3 lead over the visiting Eagles. They were welcomed by the Blue Devils marching band, under the direction of Dr. J. Thomas Seddon, and then treated to North Carolina Central’s Marching Sound Machine.

The Marching Sound Machine’s halftime show, which included a reenactment of Michael Jackson’s “Smooth Criminal” music video, gave way to more football. And many of the late arrivers stayed to watch the Blue Devils close out their win.

“More people are interested in CCSU football now,” Head Coach Jeff McInerney said. “But what’s more important is that people further understand the importance of celebrating the diversity in our community. In all, it was a great day for the city of New Britain and Mayor Tim Stewart, CCSU and President John Miller, and the entire State of Connecticut.”

The NAACP and CCSU officials echoed McInerney’s excitement.

“As the NAACP begins to kick off its 100th Anniversary Birthday Celebration, it is fair to say that The Harmony Classic was the most exciting African-American event in all of New England,” CT NAACP State Conference President Scot X. Esdaile noted. “The event was a huge showcase of diversity, with people of all different backgrounds sharing in an event of true community involvement. We are looking forward to a long-term relationship between CCSU and the NAACP.”

Ansarra agreed.

“For one day, CCSU and its athletic department were the talk of the State of Connecticut and the New England region,” Ansarra said.

― Jason Stronz