New Fast-Track MAT Program!

“I fit the profile for the program perfectly,” declares Ellen Roth-Perreault. She is obviously pleased to be in the School of Education and Professional Studies’ new Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program. It is targeted for prospective teachers of secondary mathematics, science, Spanish, English, and technology and pre-engineering education (K–12). The program, inaugurated September 2008, offers them a unique opportunity to earn both a master’s degree and certification in state-designated shortage areas.

Ideal candidates, such as Roth-Perreault, have earned a bachelor’s degree in one of the relevant disciplines and completed required state testing. She holds a BA in English literature, magna cum laude, from Salisbury University (and, for good measure, an MA in organizational development from Marymount University). She has also passed the Praxis II English subjects tests.

A former management consultant for ten years with Booz Allen Hamilton, a world-wide strategic management and technology consulting firm, before deciding to pursue her dream of teaching high school English, Roth-Perreault also perfectly fits admissions requirements for the program.

An Accelerated Route with High Standards

“The MAT program is designed to provide an accelerated route into shortage area classrooms while meeting all state and national accreditation standards,” states...
“We can selectively accept 25 students each year,” explains Hoffman. “A cohort group that begins around Memorial Day in late May with a full-time schedule of classes will be able by July 4 of the following year — some 13 months later — to gain a master’s degree and teacher certification.”

She observes that the MAT program appeals to those who are contemplating a career shift, are serious about working with young people, and have an undergraduate degree in the appropriate content area. “We want candidates to document at least 60 hours of experience with groups of children they want to teach, part of which needs to be in a public school setting. Why? Because we want them to have thought about the teaching work environment and the demands in the rhythm of teaching.”

**Demands Faced by Beginning Teachers**

The new MAT program is a versatile tool to address increasing expectations placed on teachers’ shoulders. Hoffman stresses that one of the MAT program goals is “to prepare beginning teachers who are not only starters but stayers in the profession. For those making a career transition, we’re committed to providing high-quality instruction and a rigorous admissions policy.”

Therefore, the curriculum emphasizes theory guided by practice; classroom lectures are coupled with applied activities. Field experiences, a critical part of the program, are supervised by both a certified public school teacher and a University supervisor. Observes Hoffman, “In designing the curriculum we looked at demands faced by beginning teachers — especially classroom management and working with inclusion. Future teachers need to be prepared to reach English language learners, as well as students with special needs, and to incorporate literacy instruction into classroom content.”

Michelle Hier, who has a background in the biological/environmental sciences, has enrolled in the program. She worked as a wetland scientist and in several lab and research positions. Currently doing her internship at Bolton High School, she is incorporating class strategies and ideas into actual practice. Almost breathlessly, she comments: “I never realized just how many demands there are on a school teacher’s time. It can be pretty overwhelming. I want to know each and every student, make the learning interesting and relevant, attend to the many special education needs, teach a set of state-outlined standards in a way that captivates students attention, ensure I’m teaching effectively so that students are capable of doing well on the CAPT (without shoving it down their throats), stay involved in the life of school, and on and on. Our CCSU professors do a good job of including all of these aspects in their teaching.”

**Distinctive Cohort-Model Instruction**

A distinction of the MAT program, according to Hoffman, is its cohort model of instruction. Cohorts are groups of students who move through their teacher education program together, sharing coursework. They become a learning community that acts as an academic and social support system.

“One of the great things about this program is that students are together for 13 months, and this creates collegial learning and tight
bonds that persist well into teaching careers. The bonds endure as new teachers advance professionally,” remarks Hoffman.

Roth-Perreault also has high praise for the MAT program faculty. “I can’t stress enough how outstanding the faculty is. In particular, Professor Hoffman I can trust for a realistic view of educational issues. Dr. Cara Mulcahy from Reading and Language Arts is outstanding at teaching us the skills we need to teach reading strategies as content specialists. That’s a key feature—we’re learning how to promote literacy regardless of our content majors. Dr. Steven Ostrowski in English is a very serious and demanding professor, and he shaped me into a better writer and a more aware future English educator. And finally, Dr. Marie Hopkins in Special Education is phenomenal. She has an amazing background in special education.”

The new MAT program is an outstanding example of CCSU’s responsiveness to the workforce development needs of Connecticut.

Hoffman states with pride that the program has won strong backing, not only from the University but also the Connecticut Department of Higher Education, for building on the strengths of the School of Education’s existing NCATE-accredited programs and addressing current and growing demands for qualified teachers in critical areas.

— Geri Radacsi

“Just Plane Crazy” at the CCSU Student Center

Future engineers participate in the annual BEST Robotics competition held in the CCSU Student Center. Teams of middle school students from around the state came to participate in the “Just Plane Crazy” competition. Hosted and organized by CCSU’s School of Engineering & Technology, the event was sponsored by Pratt & Whitney, a United Technologies company, and Lowes of Newington. The event was directed by Assistant Professor of Manufacturing and Construction Management Ravindra Thamma.

Portrayal of Latinos in the Media

Fox News 61 anchor Laurie Pérez (center, right) visited CCSU to speak about “How Latinos Are Portrayed in the US Media.” The event was sponsored by the Center for Caribbean & Latin American Studies and organized by Interim Director of the Center Antonio García Lozada (center, left).
Jennifer MacFadden: Turning an Internship into a Promising Career

“Jennifer MacFadden exemplifies the ultimate Central student,” says Dr. David Fearon, professor of management and organization. MacFadden, who completed her undergraduate studies at Central in December 2008, not only excel in her studies and extracurricular activities, she also turned an internship into a promising career opportunity with Alstom Power, Inc.

Alstom Power is a French-based engineering company which produces power generation plants worldwide. Alstom Power is the third largest company in the industry, and, according to MacFadden, one in four of the world’s light bulbs is produced by them.

MacFadden first learned of Alstom Power while attending CCSU’s 2008 Spring Career Fair. “The representatives of the company were very nice and informative,” MacFadden says. “When I submitted my resume, the first response I received was that there weren’t any internship opportunities available at the time. To my surprise, they later reached out to me with a summer internship opportunity, which I began in May 2008.”

Fearon served as the advisor for MacFadden’s internship. Fearon says that “Jennifer has a personality that appeals to everyone who knows her. As a student of mine, she showed much determination and was always focused.” MacFadden’s character gave Fearon confidence that she would represent herself, and CCSU and the School of Business, well.

Fearon provided MacFadden with a number of difficult assignments to be completed throughout the internship. According to MacFadden, “One of Dr. Fearon’s assignments was to design a presentation on how Alstom Power could attract and retain ‘Generation Y’ employees.” Along with these assignments, MacFadden was required to keep a journal reflecting on each day’s experiences. “Doing the journal kept me focused and helped me to adapt better to the atmosphere of the workplace. It also allowed me to reflect on my experiences, good and bad, and helped me appreciate the opportunity even more.”

MacFadden continued to work as a paid intern for Alstom Power during the fall semester, when hard work finally paid off. She was offered a full-time position with the company in December. “With jobs in this region becoming scarce, Jennifer’s accomplishment should encourage Central students to believe that doing their best will be rewarded,” says Fearon. MacFadden credits Fearon, along with her supervisors Michael Cooper and John Bona, with helping in the development of her career. “They have been the people who have pushed me the most. They offer me direction, and I feel that they want me to succeed. When people show that they care, it makes you appreciate working for them.”

MacFadden will graduate in May in the top 10 percent of her class. She is a member of the National Business Honor Society and of Delta Mu Delta. MacFadden volunteers with the YMCA, and she has served as student ambassador to England, France, Italy, and Greece. MacFadden has accomplished so much in so little time, but she says she would not have done so without the support of her fiancé and other family members. However, no one has been more of an inspiration to her than her mother. “She showed unbelievable strength and perseverance in her successful battle with breast cancer. My mom has really inspired me to believe that all things are possible.”

—Cory Robinson
James Buxton: Sculpting an Open Door to Discovery

CSU Professor of Art and sculptor James Buxton likes to quote Joseph Campbell, the American professor, writer, and scholar of mythology and comparative religion: “If you follow your bliss, doors will open for you that wouldn’t have opened for anyone else.”

CCSU students whose field of bliss is art are fortunate to encounter Buxton’s instruction, which opens doors to discovery, as well as with craftsmanship and technique. Surrounded in his classroom by student art projects and the smell of sawdust and paint, Buxton, who has taught at CCSU since 1991, insists students discover their own unique paths to self-expression. “My students can’t be clones of me,” he stresses. “I realized early in life that prejudgment of an individual is wrong and that we have very little insight into what an individual will become or accomplish in life! Students must determine their lots in life by their grit, determination, persistence, and luck.”

Enlightenment of Mr. Caustic

With open-minded patience, Buxton insists students navigate by trial and error. He affectionately recalls Jerry Redding, who received a master’s in art education in 2006. “He was Mr. Caustic,” Buxton laughs. “He gravitated toward materials that could ruin his health. He loved to build his forms in resin, which is highly flammable. So we worked outdoors, because the smell and toxicity would foul the air inside.”

Redding, a retired middle school teacher now concentrating on being a sculptor, asserts, “James opened up extraordinary creative avenues for me. He enlightened me on the artistic attributes of non-poisonous metals, such as copper, and taught me how a pop rivet gun can be used to join these materials.” Today, when making abstract biomorphic forms suggested by tree trunk bark and plants, Redding still uses techniques he learned from Buxton. He recalls how Buxton urged him to bring sculptures to an auto body shop to have them chrome plated: “My master’s show sculptures turned out bright silver, and I still exhibit them on my lawn.”

Providing a well-rounded foundation in the wide range of sculpture and craft classes he teaches, Buxton advises, guides, and supports his undergraduate and graduate students. For example, he’s showing Robert “Jeremy” Jordan, a senior art major, how to upgrade his skills in mold making. “Jeremy is working on a horse right now,” explains Buxton. “First we make a wire armature, then cover that with an oil-based clay, then mold the clay to show the animal’s muscles and form, then we must decide how to separate casted form from the mold. It’s a painstaking process.”

Buxton’s expertise ranges from classical stone and wood carving, to welding, to the more experimental. “We may outfit a sculpture with a motion detector to deliver audio messages when a viewer walks past. Or ecological art will emerge from recycled and found objects,” he elaborates.

“I love the physical energy”

Buxton’s personal journey into the bliss of art began when he was a child growing up in Newburgh, NY. “I always wanted to be an artist,” he remarks. While earning a BFA at Cornell University, he decided to become a sculptor, because he says, “I need to have freedom to walk around a piece. I love the physical energy required in doing the work. There’s exuberance in the lifting, rolling, grinding, pounding, banging, cutting, welding,” he grins. Buxton’s 6’4” frame easily withstands these labors. He went on to graduate from the University of Pennsylvania where he earned two MFAs (in printmaking and in sculpture). He also studied at the Paris Academy in France.

Describing his art as narrative and abstract, with some symbolism and recognizable forms, continued on page 15
Creepy, crawly creatures have fascinated Tiffany Doan since she was a child growing up in Florida. While other kids might outgrow pursuing and collecting nature’s odd-looking treasures, Dr. Doan—who went on to become a biologist researching the evolution and ecology of tropical organisms—is still absorbed in studying reptiles and amphibians.

Today the associate professor of biology, who joined CCSU in 2004, says simply, “I’ve forever been curious about lizards.” It’s not surprising then that her principal research focus is lizards—the family Gymnophthalmidae, commonly called spectacled lizards for the distinctive “spectacles” around their eyes. Doan has published taxonomic, phylogenetic, and biogeographic studies in scholarly journals about them, and is considered to be the world expert on this lizard family.

“This family is interesting because out of the approximately 38 genera, there are species that inhabit rainforest, savanna, and high Andean habitats,” she comments. “Even though I am studying a relatively small taxonomic group, the implications for biogeographic, evolutionary, and ecological processes of other South American fauna, both in the Andes and the Amazon, have led to a much broader significance for those studies.”

**Discovers Three Species**

Doan’s most in-depth work has involved lizards formerly placed in the genus Proctoporus, a high Andean group that occurs throughout the northern and central Andes of South America. “I study how they have speciated and differentiated into six species. When I started studying this group of lizards in 1999, there were three species known, and I’ve discovered three species new to science. So, I’ve been able to name them and that’s fun.”

Five years ago she completed an extensive tissue and specimen collection that included all known species of Proctoporus in Peru and Bolivia. Tissues of these species had not been available before, and their collection represented an important opportunity to examine phylogeographic patterns at both small and large scales.

In addition to studies of the Gymnophthalmidae, Doan has many side avenues of research involving other reptiles and amphibians. She is currently working on a phylogenetic/taxonomic study of the pit viper genus Bothriechis, in which she and collaborators will be describing a novel species.

“With a student collaborator I have written an analysis of data from Project Tambopata, a two-year population ecology project in the lowland tropical rainforest of Peru,” explains Doan. As coordinator of herpeto-fauna on this international collaborative project, Doan was responsible for “the recording of over 20,000 captures of anurans and reptiles and gained an incredible body of population and community ecological data on over 100 species.” Those data led to the publication of several papers. In Fall 2008 she made a joint presentation with a student at a meeting of ichthyologists and herpetologists in Montreal, Canada. Another project on the systematics of the enigmatic Bufo typhonius toad complex is underway with collaborators from six different institutions.
Extensive Field Work Experience
Field work, a critical part of Doan’s studies, has taken her—and her students—to Peru, Costa Rica, Panama, and Trinidad. She was recently invited by Operation Wallacea (established in 2000 by the UK to support conservation of biodiversity) to begin conducting new research in South Africa and made her first trip there.

Doan finds involving students in research fulfilling. “Students obtain knowledge about how field and laboratory research is conducted, and they also bring fresh attitudes and ideas to problems.”

She recalls that in 1997, prior to earning her PhD in quantitative biology from the University of Texas at Arlington, she embarked on a two-year research project run through the Tembopata Reserve Society, a British conservation organization, in Madre de Dios, Peru, to assess the effect of eco-tourism on wildlife. “We lived in tents—no electricity, no Internet,” she laughs. “I loved living that way, running around the rainforest to catch lizards and frogs, marking them, releasing them, trying to gain information on population levels for the 208 species.”

Coming full circle, she now has brought CCSU students on field studies to Madre de Dios (in 2005 and 2007, with another trip planned for 2009). “It feels great,” she exclaims. “Most of these students haven’t been out of the country.”

Molecular Lab Research
Seven of Doan’s students have been working in her molecular laboratory since 2005. Stephanie Tom, a biology/secondary education major, enthusiastically describes her lab experience: “Through Dr. Doan’s lab work I am able to gain insight into phylogeny and phylogeography. During the two semesters I’ve done DNA extraction, DNA amplification, and Gel Electrophoresis (to see if DNA is actually in the sample we extracted) and have even sent some samples to the lab to have the extracted DNA sequenced. Although this work deals mainly with the lizards Dr. Doan studies, it can relate to humans as well.”

Olutayo Sogunro, who worked in Doan’s lab for four semesters, presented her research at the Eastern Colleges Science Conference and CCSU’s Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day, both in April 2007. Sogunro has since graduated and is in medical school.

On the research horizon for Doan is a student field trip in August 2009, to be conducted jointly with Dr. Richard Benfield, professor of geography. And, as an expert on South American reptiles, she’s been invited to attend, along with colleagues from Harvard and Cambridge, a workshop at Imperial College, London, to map the distribution of all reptiles in the world.

Whether guiding biology students through neighboring Stanley Quarter Park to catch salamanders or through a Peruvian rainforest to track reptiles and amphibians, Doan insists on precision in the practice of scientific research.

Amy Kadison, a senior biology major and a veteran of field trips to Peru, Panama, Trinidad, and Tobago, declares, “Dr. Doan has taught me the importance of perseverance as a field biologist. She’s an incredibly hard worker who expects the same from us. She’s truly a fountain of inspiration and knowledge.”

—Geri Radacsi

The Future of Journalism?
Adam Davidson (left), global economics correspondent for National Public Radio, delivered the keynote address, “From War to Wall Street,” at the conference “Journalism: Where Are We, Where Are We Going?” in November. The conference, organized by Dr. Vivian Martin, associate professor of English and coordinator of the journalism program, and Anthony Canella, associate professor of English, focused on the sweeping changes and challenges facing the news media. Prominent Connecticut journalists, including CCSU alum Stan Simpson, participated, and topics ranged from web-based innovations and the reinvention of the newspaper, to the possibilities and pitfalls when the public reports the news via blogging and other web-based media. The conference was sponsored by the journalism program and the Robert C. Vance Endowed Chair in Journalism and Mass Communication, with support from the English and Communication departments. Seen with Davidson above is Alex Blumberg, a contributing editor for NPR’s Planet Money.
Central Connecticut State University honored two of its finest professors with the 2008–2009 Excellence in Teaching Award. Recipients were Dr. Cassandra Broadus-Garcia, associate professor of art, who was recognized for her dedicated and energetic teaching, advising, and counseling of undergraduate and graduate students majoring in art education; and Dr. Aldorigo Scopino, a long-time member of the History Department’s adjunct faculty. His knowledge and enthusiasm for history has rubbed off on hundreds of students.

At a ceremony in November, President Jack Miller acknowledged the many superb educators on the CCSU faculty named as Excellence in Teaching finalists and semi-finalists, as well as those named to the Teaching Honor Roll.

Finalists were Dr. Jason Jones, associate professor of English; Dr. Aimee Pozorski, assistant professor of English; and Dr. Kathleen Wall, adjunct lecturer of management and organization.

Selection of honorees is based on a comprehensive process with nominations coming from the campus community at large. Full- and part-time faculty members are eligible for the award given for inspired teaching that promotes extraordinary learning.

Cassandra Broadus-Garcia

Cassandra Broadus-Garcia is “pro-active, personable, dedicated, and one of the most caring professors I’ve had at CCSU,” said student Kelly Greenier. “Working one-on-one with her on an independent study project, I was inspired by her goal to connect CCSU and the Hill-Stead Museum (Farmington) culturally and scientifically. This project allowed me to research and collaborate with other art teachers to produce a lesson suitable for students of various ages.”

Describing her teaching style, Dr. Broadus-Garcia, who joined the Art Department faculty in 1994, stated, “I strive to make my classroom an arena for students to learn skills and demonstrate outcomes in an environment that is interactive, collaborative, and welcoming.”

According to Dr. Cora Marshall, chair of the Art Department, Dr. Broadus-Garcia has distinguished herself as a conscientious and energetic art education professional. Her assessment work with the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Beginning Educator, Support and Training (BEST), has impacted art educators across the state. She works with museums in the Greater Hartford area, extending the classroom to galleries with original works of art and offering students opportunities for community engagement.

“Cassandra is particularly gifted at identifying students’ needs and encouraging their contributions,” said Marshall. “Her strengths include pedagogical knowledge, genuineness, warmth, compassion, and integrity. Indeed, she is an outstanding teacher, as recognized by the Connecticut Art Education Association, and I get to see the direct result of her teaching abilities.”

Broadus-Garcia, who is a native of Mississippi and now resides in Simsbury, holds the PhD in art education from The Ohio State University.
Aldorigo Scopino
Adjunct lecturer of History at CCSU for some 20 years, Aldorigo Scopino has been an 8th-grade American history teacher at the Captain Nathan Hale Middle School (CNHMS) in Coventry, Connecticut, for the past 30 years. He resides in Bolton.

He commented, “It is not merely the history of an idea, event, or development that makes for an interesting discussion or lecture, but the anecdotal material that surrounds these phenomena. Whenever students can make linkages in history, through film, literature, artwork, or song, they become pro-active learners. Book knowledge is wonderful, but the personally interesting anecdotes of history work to embellish the discipline.”

Christine Rojek, a continuing education student, described his style: “In fact, I would say that Dr. Scopino’s lecture came across as more of a story telling—as opposed to a normal lecture that often comes across as dry and uninteresting—and I found myself showing up to class a little early each Saturday morning, eagerly awaiting the next installment of the colonies, Salem Witch Trials, slavery, feminist movements, and any number of important events in American History that were previously uninteresting to me.”

CCSU Professor of History Matthew Warshauer, observing Scopino in the classroom, said, “Dr. Scopino is a knowledgeable and effective professor, but what struck me most was his passion. He exudes a seriousness and intensity that grabs his audience, while at the same time showing friendliness and approachability. Students were free to ask questions and express their opinions.”

Scopino, holds the master’s from Brown University and the PhD in history from the University of Connecticut.

—Geri Radacsi

For a full listing of honorees, please visit www.ccsu.edu/Courier/2008/Dec_Jan/HonorRoll.htm.

CCSU Offers New Bias Incident Response Plan

One of the first initiatives completed by the new Office of Diversity and Equity, directed by Chief Diversity Officer Moisés Salinas, is the creation of a Bias Incident Response plan. Included in the plan is a form, for use by any member of the University community, to report incidents of bias, discrimination, or sexual harassment. The complete plan can be accessed on the Diversity and Equity website at www.ccsu.edu/AffAction.

Black History Month Celebration

CCSU will hold many events in February to celebrate the rich history of African Americans in America. For a listing of Black History Month events, visit www.ccsu.edu/CCSUnews/BHM.htm.

As part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month activities, the Ruthe Boyea Women’s Center sponsored a lunchtime talk by Diane Walczok of St. Francis Hospital’s Connecticut Breast Cancer and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (CBCCEDP). Representatives from various organizations, including Hartford Hospital and The Hospital of Central Connecticut, also attended. The talk was to support and educate those affected by breast cancer. A second program, sponsored by the Women’s Center, the African-American Commission, and the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Connecticut, Inc., and titled “Learn What You Need to Know About Breast Cancer Prevention, Treatment, and Services,” was hosted by WFSB Channel 3 reporter Aleesha Chaney. The program featured speakers Barbara Smith, outreach educator for CBCCEDP, and Dr. Lori Wilson, UCONN assistant professor and surgical oncologist.
Inaugural Connecticut Latin American Studies Research Conference


Donna Lisitano Honored

CCSU ITBD Advisory Committee recognizes Donna Lisitano for her service (2006-08) as the ITBD Advisory Committee Chairwoman.

Photo (left to right): President Jack Miller, Executive Assistant to the President Rick Mullins, Donna Lisitano, State Rep. 30th District Joe Aresimowicz, and the 2008–10 Advisory Committee Chairman Richard Larkin, partner in Brown Larkin & Co., Bristol, CT.

in memoriam

Dr. Albert Lindia, professor of education, emeritus, died November 3, 2008. While a professor at the University, he also served as the affirmative action officer. Prior to his career at CCSU, he served as special assistant for the Department of Education, in Washington, DC.

Mary Jane Hogan Nolan (Zaleski), who retired in 1995 as CCSU assistant director of Student Center Operations, died November 2, 2008. Nolan earned both her bachelor’s (’80) and master’s (’81) degrees from the University.

notable programs


Poet Alex Lemon visited CCSU to read from his two collections: Hallelujah (Milkweed Editions, 2008) and Mosquito (Tin House Books 2006). The reading was sponsored by the English department.

The Women’s Center and the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program co-sponsored “Feminist Critique of the Porn Industry.” Estella Lopez of Stop Porn Culture, discussed this controversial industry which have an annual revenue of $8 to $10 billion, twice that of major league baseball.

Gloria Alba Andino Lopez, distinguished Nicaraguan community leader and development activist on tour in the US with Witness for Peace, spoke on the prospects and perspectives of family farms in Nicaragua. Depleted natural resources, government policies, and factory dominance are some of the obstacles that Nicaraguan farm owners face today.

The Ruthe Boyea Women’s Center sponsored the presentation, “What Is at Stake in 2008?” Susan Yolen, vice-president for public affairs and communication, Planned Parenthood of Connecticut, discussed women and reproductive rights; Mitch Charkiewicz, CCSU assistant professor of economics, addressed economic and financial issues; and Carole Mackenzie, LCSW, University of Hartford adjunct professor of psychology, addressed civil and human rights.

In October, CCSU’s Institute for the Study of Crime & Justice joined the Connecticut Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity to address “Disparity in Connecticut: Where are We Now & Where are We Headling?”

In October, Dr. David Kideckel, professor of anthropology, presented “Citizenship, Political Identity, and Globalization,” a roundtable discussion also including Raluca Nahom, Ph. D. candidate, Romanian National School for Political and Administrative Studies, and Dr. Shaaj Varkey, professor of political science, University of Kerala, India.
Central’s longest serving president (1929–68), Herbert D. Welte, was honored again recently during ceremonies marking the relocation of his original portrait from Founders Hall to Herbert D. Welte Hall—named and dedicated in 1963 in recognition of Dr. Welte’s life of service, leadership, friendliness, and affection—and the hanging of a new portrait in Founders.

The Welte family provided a new portrait, which was created from an old photograph, and had it placed in Founders Hall, where it joins the other past presidents of the institution. About 20 members of the Welte family attended the ceremonies, including Herbert D. Welte, Jr., from North Dakota.

A native Nebraskan, President Welte led the transformation of the institution from a two-year normal school to Teachers College of Connecticut to Central Connecticut State College. He was recognized in his lifetime as a national leader in teacher education.

Over the years many Welte family members, including a daughter, sons and some grandchildren of Herbert, graduated from CCSU or one of its earlier iterations. And, although Welte died in 1986, his family remains connected to CCSU through the Welte Society, an endowment fund for theatre and the arts. Annually, the Welte Society provides grants to the Departments of Art, Music, and Theater at CCSU to support production costs associated with departmental exhibitions, concerts, and plays. Last year, the Welte Society provided a grant in partial support of “CCSU Night at the Museum,” a community engagement collaboration with the New Britain Museum of American Art which showcased the talents of CCSU students and faculty in art, music, dance, and theatre. This year, in addition to the ongoing support of the three departments at CCSU, the Welte Society provided partial support for the production of The Nutcracker, which was performed in Welte Hall in December, and the ongoing “A Little Night Music” concert series.

Dr. Welte was recognized by his colleagues for his patience and restraint, and his humility and justice. The portrait now located in Welte Hall is accompanied by memorabilia from his administration, providing visitors with compelling glimpses into some of his many remarkable accomplishments.

— Judy Humphrey
Impact of Latino Vote in 2008

Professor Rodolfo de La Garza (above) of Columbia University, an expert on Latino political behavior and immigration, speaks to students about the Latino impact on the 2008 Presidential Election.

Blueprint for American Prosperity

Ned Lamont (left), CCSU Distinguished Professor and 2006 Democratic candidate for Senate, speaks with Bruce Katz (right), vice president and director, Metropolitan Policy Program, The Brookings Institute, Washington, DC, and the Adeline M. and Alfred I. Johnson Chair in Urban and Metropolitan Policy, to discuss future policies and priorities that will arise on the state level.

CCSU Hosts Presidential Surrogates Debate

CCSU Professor Paul Petterson (on right), chair of political science, speaks with Republican J.R. Romano (on left), past political director of the Connecticut Republican Party, and Ned Lamont (center), 2006 Democratic candidate for Senate and CCSU Distinguished Professor, discuss such issues as the financial crisis, health care, and tax reform center stage in the Marcus White Living Room.

Veterans Thanked for Years of Service

Founder's Hall was again the location of CCSU's annual Veteran's Day ceremony in November. Robert Ouellette (left), who received the 2008 CCSU Veterans Public Service Award, poses with Joseph O'Keefe (right), recipient of the 2008 Student Veteran Excellence Award.
The International and Area Studies Program Addresses Terrorism

CCSU recently hosted an array of speakers who explored state terrorism during the International and Area Studies Program 2008–09 Lecture Series.

The lecturers included David Scheffer, President Clinton’s Ambassador-at-large for War Crimes Issues, who spoke on “US Policy and the International Criminal Court;” Dr. Edward Kissi, assistant professor of Africana studies at the University of South Florida and a fellow at the Yale Center for Holocaust Studies, on “State Terrorism and Genocide in Sudan and Somalia;” and Dr. Enoch Page, of the University of Massachusetts - Amherst, on “State Terrorism and Surveillance.”

CSUS Board of Trustees Holds Open Forum

Following its annual November meeting at Central, the CSUS Board of Trustees hosted open forums to give students and faculty the opportunity to express concerns. From left to right, CSU Chancellor David Carter responds to a question while BOT Chair Lawrence McHugh looks on.

CSUS: We Are Four. We Are One.

The Connecticut State University System celebrated the 25th anniversary of its founding, in 1983, at the November CSUS Board of Trustees meeting. To commemorate the anniversary, Dr. Thomas Farnham (right), professor of history emeritus at SCSU, produced a history of the CSUS. The book was designed by CCSU design students (left to right) Danielle Eckert, Jenna Boccuzzi, and Steven Spencer, and (not pictured) Yann Ju Chang and YaLing Tsai, with the supervision of Professor Susan Vial, chair, Department of Design (Graphic/Information).

extra credit

Toyin Ayeni, coordinator, International Student and Scholar Services, CIE, was invited to speak at the Education Advising Center in Abuja, Nigeria, as part of its pre-departure orientation on US immigration rules and regulations. At the event, students were prepared for arrival in the US, with discussions on campus experiences, cultural adjustment issues, and expectations and the reality of schooling in the US.

Connecticut chorales CONCORA joined CCSU University Singers to perform American Voices. Taking place at New Britain’s First Church of Christ, the program presented American popular music, folk songs, and spirituals.
Nearly seven months after boarding a bus for Boston’s Logan Airport for a flight to Ireland, the Central Connecticut State University women’s soccer team returned to the Greater Boston area — arriving as champions.

The Blue Devils won their fifth Northeast Conference Championship in seven seasons, earning a berth in the 2008 NCAA Women’s Soccer College Cup. They lost, 3-0, versus Boston College in first round action, but that’s of little consequence now. The program regained its championship form, and the returning members from the 2008 team will now look to join a prestigious rank.

Mick D’Arcy became the women’s soccer team’s head coach in 2000. His first recruiting class arrived in New Britain for the fall of 2001. Since then, every student-athlete who has played four years for D’Arcy has left the program with two championship rings and, in turn, two trips to the NCAA Tournament.

“When we recruit, we talk about the history of the program,” D’Arcy said. “We also say that the past is no indicator of what is going to happen in the future. The new crop understands there is a tradition, but they have to write their own story.”

That tradition began before D’Arcy arrived. The Blue Devils won their first Northeast Conference title in 1997 and appeared in the NCAA play-in round. They defended their crown in 1998 and played at Harvard in NCAA first-round competition. It didn’t take long after D’Arcy’s arrival for CCSU to return to the national stage.

In 2002, the team collected its third league title. And thus began a string of four straight championship seasons. The Blue Devils became the first CCSU sports team to win an NCAA Division I tournament game. They defeated Boston College in first round play during the 2003 Women’s Soccer College Cup.

The Blue Devils lost semifinal contests in 2006 and 2007. And while they have not missed an NEC Tournament since 2001, sometimes just being there gets lost in winning the championship.

“One of the things the game teaches you is to be humble,” D’Arcy said. “To lose two semifinals after winning four in a row was difficult. But you have to remember there are a lot of people who will never win an NEC Championship.”

But don’t be mistaken. The Blue Devils are always ready to add to their trophy case.

The program began its quest for another title in May. The team came together to fund raise for a “Celtic Voyage.” They trained together for a week before departing for Ireland, and they lived together for eight days without the presence of a typical college student’s daily distractions.

“We enjoyed each other’s company and didn’t have to worry about external issues,” D’Arcy said. “The focus was on the team and spending time together.”

“I joke that it was a throwback week. Because there were no cell phones and limited internet capabilities, there was no texting and little Facebook or emailing. People sat down and communicated in one-on-one, face-to-face settings. Their time wasn’t taken up by people outside of our group, and this helped everyone get to know and understand each other better than they had before.”

Junior Karise Hilt and sophomore Lauren Salvia offered a player’s perspective.

“We became more than just a team,” Hilt said. “We became a family.”

Women’s Soccer Team Wins NEC Tournament, Again
The Blue Devils started their 2008 regular season 3-1-3. They defeated UConn for the first time in program history during that run. The conference season began with a 2-0 loss at St. Francis (PA), but CCSU rebounded with a four-game winning streak. Long Island snapped it with a 1-0 victory in Brooklyn, but that proved to be the lone remaining loss against NEC competition.

The team closed out the regular season with league wins over Sacred Heart, Fairleigh Dickinson, and Quinnipiac. They then beat Monmouth in the Northeast Conference semifinals and avenged the regular season loss versus Long Island with a 1-0 victory over the top seed in the NEC Championship contest.

Leah Blayney’s goal in the 52nd minute ultimately proved to be the difference, but it was goalkeeper Erin Herd’s play that earned the most recognition. Herd, a senior, was named the tournament’s most valuable player. She had eight of the CCSU program-record 12 shutouts on the season, including two in the NEC Tournament. Senior captain Jill Kusek, sophomore Lauren Salvia, and freshman Brittany Jackson joined Herd on the all-tournament team.

With the fifth title in seven seasons secured, the Blue Devils moved on with hopes of avenging another regular season loss to Boston College early in the regular season. “We went in there to win,” D’Arcy said, “It was great to get there, but it hurt to lose.”

Hilt was one of several Blue Devils to garner postseason honors. She was a first team All-NEC and second team NSCAA/adidas All-Northeast Region honoree. Sophomore captain Clio Tregear also earned both honors, joining Hilt on the all-league first team while collecting third team all-region status. Herd and Blayney, a junior, were first team All-NEC recipients, and senior Hannah Bromley and junior Rachel Caneen earned second team honors. Bromley, Herd, and Kusek will all play in the NEWISA Senior Bowl.

With the season over, Central’s 2008 NEC Championship trophy has found its place next to the previous six. Kusek and Herd, the only four-year players on the 2008 roster, finished their careers with a pair of rings. And the team will move on to next season with hopes of granting Brittany Emin, Caity Casey, Ciara Crinion, Blayney, and Hilt that same opportunity.

“The standard has been set,” D’Arcy said. “What we have to do is try to be better than everyone in the NEC every year. The five in seven fact is great, but it’s over. It is time to move forward.”

— Jason Stronz

James Buxton: Sculpting an Open Door to Discovery

continued from page 5

Buxton says, “My work is inspired by the writings of African-American artists of the Harlem Renaissance and contemporary African-American women writers, as well as the artistry of African-American singers.”

Over two decades, he has had artwork in numerous solo and group exhibitions. In June 2008, his solo show, titled “Rivers Deep,” at the Greater New Britain Art Alliance’s Downtown Gallery was “looking for a glue or connection to the African Diaspora.” The 15 pieces, including prints, paintings, and sculpture, dealt with the affinity African people have had to rivers as gathering places—for baptisms, for example, or as water routes bearing slaves to America on ships.

In July 2008, The Hartford Courant’s iTowns section ran as its front cover an image of one of Buxton’s sculptures in his Hudson River Landscape series, drawn from impressions of growing up in the mid-Hudson Valley.

Partial listing of other solo exhibitions featuring Buxton’s art includes such diverse venues as Westchester Community College, the Farmington Art Guild, the Winfisky Gallery in Salem, MA, and the Sibley Hall and Tjaden Hall Galleries in Ithaca, NY. He has also been represented in group shows at CCSU, the Hospital for Special Care in New Britain, the African-American Affairs Commission of Hartford, the Madison Mile Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition in Madison, Gateway Community College in New Haven, and the Essex Art Association.

“Big Unveiling”

There’s a “big unveiling” on the horizon. Buxton is working on a substantial outdoor sculpture he’s calling “Let Freedom Ring” as a tribute to Martin Luther King and Barack Obama. A bell attached to the piece will invite the viewer to participate in the art experience by ringing it. A dove will sit on the sculpture’s edge as a symbol of peace and freedom. Buxton describes his labors: “The sculpture is all stainless steel, and I must admit it’s hard to work with. It will have girth and mass, about 500 pounds, and stand six-feet high. Moving the piece will require some help from my friends.”

Then Buxton adds, “This new sculpture promises to be a reminder that America can be all that it aspires to be.” And it’s that note of aspiration that marks the commonality of Buxton’s art of sculpting with his art of teaching.

— Geri Radacsi
In the recent Theatre Department’s production of *The Birds* by Aristophanes, Benjamin McLaughlin (above, left) and Roger (RJ) Negron played the roles of Pith E. Tauros and his slave Man Odorous. The script was a new adaptation by director and Associate Professor of Theatre Thom Delventhal and the cast. The play takes place in Washington, DC, and features god-politicians and birds of several celebrity species. As a result of their performances, McLaughlin and Negron were nominated by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) to compete for the Irene Ryan Scholarship at the end of January. Students Kate Bunce (costumes), Dan Valfer (lights), and Don Gamsjager (sound) were also nominated by KCACTF to compete for national honors in their fields. Photo by Kevin Shaw.