Top CCSU Student Researchers Honored for Creativity

Extraordinarily talented seniors emerged as top award recipients at the 11th Annual Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day (URCAD) on April 3, 2009 at Central Connecticut State University. Their rigorous, and often ingenious, research explored such fascinating subjects as censorship in contemporary literature, history of labor relations at the Cheney Silk Mills, an alternative antique photographic process, research on cellular adhesions, and how African descendants mobilized resistance against capitalism and captivity.

The 2009 URCD award winners were seniors Colin Burke (Art), Nicholas Grillo (Biomolecular Sciences), Sharon Kenniston (Education/English), and Tom Rubino (Anthropology). These students made oral presentations of their work at URCD and again at the 23rd National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

In conjunction with URCD, 2009 Elihu Burritt Library Undergraduate Research Awards were presented by Assistant Librarian Susan Slaga. Awardees are

continued on page 2
Matthew T. Bannon, a senior history/secondary education major, and Kenniston.

“Showcasing the original research and creative achievements of CCSU undergraduates, the day featured a plenary session, a poster session, and concurrent afternoon paper sessions,” said Associate Professor Jason Jones, URCAD coordinator. “Undergraduates from all majors are invited to participate in this event.”

URCAD Award Winning Projects

Colin Burke’s project was “Haptic Photography: A Investigation in Cyanotype Photograms” (Advisor Professor of Art Sean Gallagher). Burke stated, “I explored the alternative/antique photographic process, cyanotype. This was a cameraless, lens-free exploration of contact printing using 3-D objects to create photograms on cotton fabric ranging in size from 8.5” square to 6’x 9’.”

As subjects Burke chose shopping carts and an oxygen mask and tubing. He explained, “The carts represent the last moments I spent with my dad outside of a medical setting. He used the cart as a walker, putting his oxygen tank in the child seat and I would walk alongside him.”

The first Studio Art major recognized by an URCAD award, Burke observed, “Creating a body of work is a complex and often isolated and personal experience, so to have that recognized is very affirming.” He has been accepted to a graduate, interdisciplinary MFA program at the San Francisco Art Institute. “I don’t think this would have been possible without this specific project, which became my application portfolio,” he said.

Nicholas Grillo’s “The Role of ECM Components in Parietal Endoderm Migration and Adhesion” (advisor Associate Professor of Biomolecular Sciences James Mulrooney) represents Grillo’s work in Mulrooney’s laboratory for the past five semesters researching cell adhesions. “To understand the process of development, I have been examining the cellular interactions involved in the migration of parietal endoderm, the first migratory cells of the early embryo,” he said. The question leading his research has been: How does the concentration of Fibronectin in the matrix influence the cell’s ability to attach and migrate?

Grillo observed, “Presenting at a national conference is important because it embodies everything about working in the scientific community. You work for years then eventually go and report you findings to your colleagues. This opportunity is also a great resume builder and will certainly help me stand out when applying to medical school.”

Tom Rubino’s project was “New England’s Invisible Africans: Outsider Communities in Pre-industrial Connecticut” under advisor Professor of Anthropology Warren Perry. He said, “Winning an award for my project makes me feel like I can raise the bar in the future.”

Rubino pointed out that the existence of free and independent African communities in the North has been largely ignored by historians. “This has led to the pervasive notion of New England as a lily-white region, a revisionist history which supports a detached and triumphalist vision of northern race relations,” he declared.

During the late colonial period, a growing number of free African Americans in New England made a living in small communities, he explained. Negro Hill in Burlington is one such site, occupied from the 1780s through the 1830s, which Rubino asserted, “strikes a definitive blow against the passive whiteness of northwestern Connecticut. Though historical and archeological research Rubino set out to prove the location of the Negro Hill site, as well as uncover evidence about how the people there lived, and those in other outsider communities in Connecticut, such as Negro Town, The Lighthouse, Danbury Quarter and Little Egypt.

Winner of Two Research Awards

Sharon Kenniston captured both the URCAD and Library awards. Her senior thesis, “Unspeakable Things Unspoken: Toni Morrison, Literature Censorship and the Modern American Classroom,” examined Toni Morrison’s controversial novels Beloved and The Bluest Eye. An elementary education and English major, Kenniston maintained, “In the past twenty years, these two novels have found their way to banned book lists across the nation for reasons such as inappropriate language, sexual violence, immorality and violence.”

Through close examination of these novels and a review of literary criticism, Kenniston asserted her conclusion: “Case studies reinforce my belief that high school students should be allowed the opportunity to explore
such valuable pieces of literature.”

Her advisor Assistant Professor of English Aimee Pozorski, said, “The importance of Sharon’s project is her insistence upon opening the lines of communication between people invested in issues surrounding Education and others invested in issues surrounding the work of literary interpretation and analysis.”

Kenniston lauded resources of the Elihu Burritt Library which, she said, were exceptionally helpful to her research. “The access to multiple databases, in particular JSTOR and the historical New York Times database, and the plentiful books on the subject of Toni Morrison, her works and censorship led me to a final product that I am proud to call my own,” she said.

**Importance of Library Resources**

Library Award Winner Matthew Bannon’s senior seminar paper titled “Delicate as Silk: Labor Management Relations in the Cheney Silk Mill of South Manchester, Conn. 1918-1934” drew on the Burritt Library resources and a broad array of primary and secondary sources to examine labor relations during an historic period.

“CCSU students do a tremendous amount of research work to complete their assignments and final papers. It would not have been possible without the resources, services, and librarians at Elihu Burritt Library and other Connecticut libraries,” said Slaga.

Bannon maintained that a fairly healthy relationship existed between management and labor in the Cheney silk mill in the early 20th century when the company was profitable. Bannon said, “During the 1920s and 1930s amid the Great Depression the relationship struggled. The company’s workforce was unionized in 1934. The paper examines the nature of the Cheney workforce, social control methods used by the company and ways that the workforce began to develop their own voice over time.”

Associate Professor of History Mary Ann Mahony, who was Bannon’s advisor, said that he used a broad array of primary and secondary sources beginning with CON-SULS, followed by constructive use of Library databases such as WorldCat. Mahoney stated, “He was able to locate not only copies of *The Hartford Courant* for the first three decades of the 20th century, but the U.S. Census for 1920 and 1930 (at the Connecticut State Library), and Cheney documents (at the Dodd Library at UCONN).”

What imaginative and fresh student research projects will next year’s URCAD showcase? CCSU students already are putting on their thinking caps.

— Geri Radacsi
Time flies in Khoon Koh’s classes. Listen to senior marketing major Amanda Moyer: “My favorite class with Dr. Koh was Services Marketing. It runs three hours on a Thursday night when nobody wants to be in class. But Dr. Koh made it constantly interesting.”

Senior marketing major Michael D’Avino agrees. “I actually used to arrive early for that class, because I was eager to see what Dr. Koh had in store for us.” Moyer pipes in, “Dr. Koh is so motivated to get the best out of his students.” D’Avino agrees, “Professor Koh always goes the extra distance to make sure he is doing all he can for his students. If there is a problem with a grade, he wants to meet and talk about it. If there is any way he can improve, he is open to our opinions.”

Moyer nods, “He is animated, fun and serious all at the same time. And the stories he shares of real-life experiences really help you to understand the subject matter better and gives you something to relate it to outside of the text book.”

What’s His Secret?
Ask Professor of Marketing Khoon Koh his secret for sustaining student attention and keeping them engaged, and he raises his eyebrows, “I’m excited about my discipline and that’s catching. Plus, I’m an entertainer—though not like in Vegas.” Although Koh, who joined CCSU in 2002, says he vigilantly refreshes his lectures to ensure they are packed with contemporary ideas, he is known for adding another special ingredient: entertainment. “When people enjoy education, they retain information better,” he maintains. “So I combine education and entertainment — ‘edutainment,’ so to speak. Making learning fun is not synonymous with trivializing education. Rather, I am offering a value-added product.”

Masterfully, Koh transforms into an Actor in his classes. While he holds a Ph.D. from Texas A&M, an M.Ed. from Temple University, and a bachelor’s from the University of Alberta, Canada and is a scholar in tourism marketing and entrepreneurship, he is not above acting out the parts of his allegories. Teaching the rudiments of tourism entrepreneurship, he enacts a “fable” of the lion and gazelle, who are locked in a daily life and death struggle. “There are no fixed survival strategies here,” he cautions. “The gazelle can run straight, zigzag, leap or turn around to stay alive [Koh gets a callisthenic workout showing these movements] while the lion must adapt to the situation otherwise it will starve. He can strike.” Koh roars, leaps and pounces to applause from the students.

Koh’s students quickly grasp the concept: Successful tourism entrepreneurs must have knowledge, use innovative thinking, and take action to adapt, survive, and grow.

Core of Teaching Philosophy
A man given to insightful aphorisms, Koh sums up the centerpiece of his teaching philosophy: “Teach with passion. Treat
students with compassion. He elaborates, “Students face daily challenges: sustenance, employment, obligations, commitments, interrelations, family, and health issues. Pursuing a higher education is another challenge. Hence, I am always ready to listen and willing to work with them without compromising academic rigor and integrity.”

Using a light touch, Koh says he wants marketing majors to acquire such important skills as critical thinking, problem solving, good written and oral communication; to master advances in technology; and “to have all the skills needed to run a business or to think like a small business owner.”

He wants students to gain first-hand experience through community-based challenges, that is, working with real-life organizations. As Director of the Institute of Tourism and Hospitality Research at CCSU, he has involved them in his outreach projects. “The Institute is a research body to serve tourism organizations in Connecticut through our professors’ expertise,” he explains. Right now he has some of his students working on a market research/survey project to determine the market receptivity for the Hartford Knox Parks Foundation’s proposed botanical gardens.

Koh challenges his students (and himself) to strive for kaizen, the Japanese word for continuous improvement. Formally and informally, he seeks feedback from his students about his performance as an educator. Furthermore, he conducts research to expand his knowledge base and has shared his scholarship by publishing numerous articles in recognized journals, contributing book chapters, and making presentations at academic meetings in his areas of expertise.

He admonishes students to value good service to their customers. “You must treat your customer right at all times,” he urges. “In marketing we know that consumers go through different stages of decision making. Even up to the point of purchase, they can change their minds.” To illustrate, he relates a troubling incident.

Real-Life Lesson
A few years ago, Koh went to South Carolina to present at an academic conference, and as he was about to check into the hotel where he had made reservations, the clerk spoke to him in a condescending manner smacking of racial bigotry. Koh, a native of Singapore, asserts, “I became a U.S. citizen 21 years ago and I’m proud of it.” He canceled his room reservation on the spot dragging his two bags into the street with no place to stay. His students are appalled, but also intrigued. What happened? Koh parries, keeps them in suspense with smiles and pauses before admitting he found a hotel after four tries. “Remember, consumers are capable of making decisions, however irrational seeming, on the spur of the moment,” he stresses.

Then he re-iterates the three crucial concepts he says he drills into students each semester. He says, “Remember, Primum non nocere—practice no harm; Avista—strive for excellence; and Kaizen—work for continuous improvement. It is clear that Koh incorporates these ideas in his own teaching as he hopes to shape future generations of students into making a better world—by being self-starters, critical thinkers, and socially responsible citizens.

—Geri Radacsi

New Britain’s Trash Displayed at Maloney Hall

The CCSU Art Galleries recently joined forces with artist Bob Johnson of RiverCubes and Artful Trash Management (ATM) to create its own RiverCube. Students from the Art Club, Friends of the Earth Club, and Biology Club met with Johnson (above) by the local Bass Brook Basin to collect trash to build the RiverCube, which is now displayed on campus outside of Maloney Hall.
Focus on Scholarship: Ángela Morales

Re-Discovering the Golden Age of Spanish Letters

Associate Professor Ángela Morales and graduate student Chris LaBelle, during an independent study meeting on Miguel de Cervantes’ Don Quixote, discuss why the sequel to the original novel is regarded by critics as superior to the first part.

When, in her bachillerato (high school), Ángela Morales first read Don Quixote de la Mancha, she pronounced Miguel de Cervantes’ masterpiece “boring.” That was in the 1980s in her native Madrid. Today, the CCSU professor of Spanish, whose passion for Cervantes has led her to breakthrough scholarship on the Golden Age of Spanish letters, sighs, then laughs. “I thought the novel was cruel and I didn’t connect with it at all.”

As an undergraduate in Spanish philology at the Universidad Autónoma of Madrid, Morales became enthralled with the baroque, sonorous language of the Golden Age. Deep reading of the Spanish literature of this 16th- and 17th-century period revealed for her that Cervantes was parodying the popular chivalric novels of his day. “As the humor dawned on me,” remembers Morales, “I was laughing with Cervantes who was criticizing the flaws of escapist literature and the unrealistic views of Spain’s pride in its empire, which was in rapid decline.”

Morales became fascinated by Don Quixote (Vol. I, 1605–Vol.II, 1615), which she says came to be the most influential work of fiction in the Western world and is the second most read book after the Bible. She went on to complete a PhD in Spanish literature at SUNY, Stony Brook. Before coming to CCSU in 1998, she taught Spanish at Saint John’s University, Minnesota, and at California State University, Long Beach.

Morales’ research has centered on early modern Spanish literature, with special emphasis on Cervantes, theater, and literary censorship. “I am interested in how the 16th- and 17th-century Spanish texts engage tradition and, at the same time, establish directions for future creation,” she states. “It is incredible, if we think how Cervantes was able to anticipate narrative realism and at the same time modernist and postmodernist responses to realism. My work on 17th-century Spanish and European drama has given me the chance to explore such topics as metatheater (a device whereby a play comments on itself, drawing attention to the literal circumstances of its own production) and the dialogue between the theatrical world and painting as a fine art.”

Findings on Literary Censorship

Exploring literary censorship, Morales embarked on an archival research project during several summers at the National Library and the National Archives in Madrid. She examined the Index of Forbidden Books issued by the Holy Inquisition between 1625 to 1634, years in which the Council of Castile forbade the publication of dramatic plays and novels in Spain.

“The significance of my long-term project in which I have been working for years is that
this investigation proposes a new review of the cultural control during imperial Spain,” observes Morales. By all accounts, the cultural control exercised during the 16th and 17th centuries monitored all forms of private and public expression through censorship and the watchfulness of the officials of the Inquisition. However, Morales has discovered that the censors who granted official approvals for publications frequently overlooked the presence of material explicitly prohibited by the Holy Office. “I found that the censors were not only members of the clergy, but were also friends of the very same authors they were judging,” she explains. “Particularly, expurgated books printed outside the Kingdom of Castile (in Aragón, Seville, etc.) did not comply with the Inquisition’s orders due to a lack of cooperation of the local authorities that perceived the Inquisition as a tool of control by the central government in Castile.”


New Book on Tirso de Molina

Forthcoming this year is her new book written in Spanish, Tirso de Molina (1579–1648), vida y obra (A Study of the Spanish Playwright Tirso de Molina; Ediciones Eneida, Madrid, Spain, 2009).

Tirso de Molina was a famous playwright of the 17th century who wrote several hundred plays and created the legendary hero of “Don Juan” reformulated by Molière, Mozart, Byron, and others. Tirso was a dramatist and a friar who was denounced, for political reasons, by the Inquisition in 1625 for writing immoral plays and subsequently banished from the court of Madrid by his religious order, the Mercedarians.

Of her literary biography, Morales says, “I tried to demonstrate that the effect of the censorship is visible in his use of new dramatic techniques, such as the metatheater, comical shift, and recurrence to historical themes. And, tracking the successive editions of his dramas proves falsification of official permits for publication.”

After reviewing numerous biographical data, Morales contends that Tirso de Molina felt the permanent threat of the Inquisition. Further, he was opposed to the political regime of the Count-Duke of Olivares, King Philip IV of Spain’s favorite, as the subtle allusions in his historical plays and his history of the Mercedarian Order demonstrate.

Latest Research Directions

Morales has been looking at how the Catalan region’s arts have expanded to a global platform, and she will present her scholarship at the 2009 International Conference on the Arts in Society in conjunction with the Venice Biennale in July.

Currently Morales is researching how the memory of the Spanish Civil War (1936–39) is represented in film, especially in Pan’s Labyrinth, as a language to express trauma of the unresolved open wounds of the civil war. She presented on this subject at the Cincinnati Conference on Romance Languages and Literatures, held at the University of Cincinnati last summer.

As Morales pursues new ideas, whether in comparative literature or in film, her approach will not be “quixotic” but grounded in noble scholarship guideposts, such as integrity, perseverance, and courage. Don Quixote would be proud.

— Geri Radacsi

Lots of Laughs for Hughley

Actor and stand-up comedian D.L. Hughley (above) performed in Welte Auditorium in late April. Hughley’s visit helped kick off CCSU’s 2009 Spring Week.
Second Annual UMC Event Showcases Student Art and Creativity

The UMC New Britain Collaborative—a partnership of CCSU, the New Britain Museum of American Art (NBMAA), and members of the New Britain community—hosted a two-day event in April, featuring the second annual “CCSU Night at the Museum,” a chance for students and faculty to show off their creative sides. Additional events included the construction of an all-natural learning and play area, the creation and exhibition of environmental art at the NBMAA, a virtual tour of Walnut Hill Park in downtown New Britain, a community project showcasing New Britain School children, and a performance by jazz musician and Grammy winner Paul Winter.

One exhibit featured work by students from Jefferson Elementary School in New Britain, who were involved in a community engagement project in which they crafted miniature models of ethnic dwellings (at left). These projects were accompanied by a painting on canvas, created by New Britain school children and students of the American School in Paris, on the topic of world peace and the environment. The Eli Whitney Museum in Hamden provided students with the materials necessary to produce their artwork.

To provide a place where students can express themselves through art and connect to nature, CCSU Associate Professor of Communication Karen Ritzenhoff initiated a project to create an outdoor playground at Jefferson Elementary School. The groundbreaking ceremony for this NatureScape (top, right) was held on April 16. The project was completed in 10 days.

Nancy Sarra, principal of Jefferson Elementary School, supports CCSU’s efforts: “The NatureScape brings nature inside our school walls and provides a quiet, serene place within an urban environment.” The project is part of a continuing effort by CCSU to involve students and faculty with the New Britain community. The NatureScape was made possible by grants from the Hartford Courant Foundation and CCSU, as well as by the donation of materials by Envirocycle and Litchfield True Value.

Assistant Professor of Communication Leah Glaser created a virtual tour of Walnut Park in downtown New Britain, using iPod ‘podcasts’ as tour guides. The tour included commentary by CCSU history students on landmarks in the area.

The two-day event concluded with a live performance from Connecticut resident and six-time Grammy winner Paul Winter (bottom, left), a saxophonist, composer, and explorer of the world’s musical traditions. Winter has recorded 30 albums and performed in over 2000 concert halls across the world. The concert was made possible through a grant from the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, as well as by Professor of Geography Charles Button and the Global Environmental Sustainability Action Coalition (GESAC).

—Michael D’Avino

East Asian Lecture Series

Dr. Jon-Shen Fuh (right), president of Fuh International, Inc., spoke in Vance Academic Center in April. His lecture, “Some Observations on the Chinese Economy,” was part of the East Asian Lecture Series. His visit was co-sponsored by the Chinese Culture Center in Hartford, CT.
Jeff Rodriguez Wins National Robotics Competition

“Jeff’s robot won hands down over the competition,” declared Associate Professor of Technology and Engineering Education Michael Vincenti. He was speaking about Jeffrey Rodriguez, a senior technology and engineering education major and winner of the first Technology Education Collegiate Association (TECA) Robotics Contest held at the ITEA Conference in Louisville, KY, in March.

Competing on the national level against other university teams, Rodriguez designed and built an ingenious radio-controlled, four-wheel drive robot that was powered by twin, 12-volt Dewalt drill motors and batteries. Vincenti, who was Rodriguez’ advisor, explained, “Jeff’s robot was the fastest of all those competing. Even though his design included a three-speed transmission, he easily beat the competition in this time-trial event, and he never had to shift beyond first gear! Jeff modeled the entire robot in Autodesk Inventor before building it and did a great job of documenting the design process. As a result, he also scored well above the competition in design portfolio points.”

The design had to take into account such “unknowns” as the type of surface and various obstacles the robot would need to negotiate. “The design is flexible, and, with some stretch of the imagination, the platform technology can be applied for purposes of moving objects, for example, in an industrial setting,” said Rodriguez.

Rules of the competition required contestants to design and build a robot that could manipulate tennis balls through a playing field for an eight-minute period. “The convoluted pick and placement movements are tricky, and I was incredibly nervous,” stated Rodriguez. He needn’t have been, because the 25-year-old Rodriguez, with some 11 years experience with “bots,” is an old-hand. In 1999, he started to amass bot savvy when he joined the Rockville High School robotics team, which won the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) national prize in 2002.

Just nine days after his latest TECA victory, Rodriguez participated in the VEX Robotics Championship in Kaiser Hall. He coordinated the judging for the day-long event, which featured more than 40 teams of competitors from high schools in Connecticut and surrounding states. It had been an active week for Rodriguez and other students involved in the TECA contest in Louisville, including CCSU-TECA president Laura Baker, Tim Bouffard, Mike Bono, David Gorski, John Horan, Rachel Kane, John Matteis, Diana Nagler, Chris Reynolds, Staci Stamm, and CCSU-TECA’s treasurer Gill Rondinone, who organized the trip.

Now Rodriguez, who is enrolled in the CCSU Technology and Engineering Education program which leads to K-12 teacher certification in Connecticut, is hoping for another success—landing a teaching job some day. Soon he will be embarking on his student teaching at Rocky Hill’s middle and high schools. And he’s acquired valuable experience in Associate Professor of Teacher Education Karen Riem’s Principles of Applied Learning Theory course by participating in an outreach project with third-graders at the Naylor School in Hartford in which an underwater robot was used to probe aquatic life in a Goodwin Park pond.

With his enthusiasm and bot smarts, no doubt Rodriguez will stimulate many young minds when he turns to teaching in his own classroom.

—Geri Radacsi

Black Holes at CCSU

Yale University Professor of Physics Michael Zeller (right) presented a lecture on “The LHC and Black Holes” at CCSU’s Copernicus Planetarium. Zeller discussed the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), the world’s largest and most powerful energy particle accelerator, and the truths and myths surrounding this controversial project. This event was sponsored by the CCSU Physics Club as part of the Robert F. Voytek Memorial Lecture Series.
Barnard Scholars Commended

CCSU students Lianne DiFabbio, Steven Edwards, Ryan Hewey, and Amanda Johnson were honored at the 21st annual Henry Barnard Distinguished Student Awards Banquet in late April. Twelve seniors from the Connecticut State University System received this year’s awards at the Aqua Turf in Southington, CT. To be eligible for a Barnard Award, students must possess a minimum 3.75 GPA and hold a record of community service. CCSU President Jack Miller, in distributing the awards, provided background on each CCSU winner:

Lianne DiFabbio, a sociology major with a theatre minor and a 3.75 GPA, was commended for attaining the Capital Scholarship, induction into Alpha Kappa Delta, and completion of the CCSU Honors Program, as well as being named “Best Musical Actress” by the CCSU Department of Theatre. Her volunteer credentials include co-founding Stratford for Shakespeare to bring back the Stratford Festival Theatre and organizing “Learning to Repair the World,” a program that brings youth of varying religions together in open discussion.

Steven Edwards, a management information systems (MIS) major with a 3.83 GPA, was praised for obtaining Excellence in MIS recognition, as well as the St. Paul Travelers Scholarship. As webmaster, vice president, and, ultimately, president of the MIS Club, Edwards vastly increased enrollment in the club. His team at the 2007 Travelers IT Business Case Competition was awarded third prize. Continuing this success in his major, Edwards became an ambassador for the MIS Department, helping to recruit students into the newly formed major and minor. He is currently co-webmaster for the Coginchaug Valley Education Foundation and an application analyst for ING.

Ryan Hewey, an anthropology major with an archaeology minor and a 3.99 GPA, was lauded for earning the Senior Prize for Social and Behavioral Sciences at CCSU’s Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day, which advanced his research to the National Conference on Undergraduate Research. Hewey received Anthropology Department honors as the graduating senior with the highest GPA. He has organized benefit concerts to assist in building schools in Mali, West Africa, and volunteered his services at the Hunter Montessori School in New Hartford and the Archaeology Laboratory for African and African Diaspora Studies at CCSU. Hewey will pursue a PhD in historical archaeology in the fall.

Amanda Johnson, an elementary education and English major with a 3.75 GPA, graduated magna cum laude in December 2008. She was awarded the Pauline M. Alt Teacher Education Scholarship, the Foundation Scholarship, and the Undergraduate Library Research Award. Johnson has made Dean’s List every semester, while also participating in the CCSU Honors Program. She has been an active participant on campus, serving as a group leader for the First Year Experience Student Orientation and as a peer mentor and counselor for CCSU’s Natural Helpers. Already employed, Johnson works as a fourth-grade teacher at Macdonough Elementary School in Middletown.

Henry Barnard was born into a wealthy family in 1811. He attended Yale, graduated with a degree in law, and became immersed in educational politics. Barnard encouraged policies to force schools to adhere to specific standards, such as the minimum number of teachers, buildings, and textbooks. In 1867 Barnard was named the first United States Commissioner of Education. He died in his home city of Hartford in 1900. The scholarship was established in his honor.

— Luke Albertson
“Since Stonewall”: A Look at the Struggle for Equal Rights

During a June 1969 police raid on the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar located in New York City’s Greenwich Village, members of the gay community rioted in opposition to oppression and unfair treatment. The riots, which began spontaneously and continued sporadically for five days, helped lead to the formation of gay alliance groups and a national gay civil rights movement. Forty years later, CCSU honored the anniversary of the riots on June 4 with a reception and exhibition at Elihu Burritt Library titled “Since Stonewall.”

The exhibit focused largely on what has happened since the Stonewall Riots but also contained materials from as early as the 19th century, including literature by Walt Whitman and Oscar Wilde. Whitman’s poetry, which often included homoeroticism, shocked American audiences. Wilde was convicted of homosexual activities and was sentenced to prison.

A large part of the exhibit was devoted to the role Connecticut played in the gay rights movement. “Connecticut was a pioneer, the second state, after Illinois, to decriminalize sodomy,” stated Associate Director of Library Services Frank Gagliardi in a New Britain Herald article. The exhibit also featured works by religious organizations unsure about issues in the gay community.

The reception featured a lecture given by Associate Professor of Sociology Elizabeth Kaminski. Before introducing Kaminski, Gagliardi spoke briefly about several diversity initiatives taking place at CCSU—for the first time Central is placing an ad in the program book for “Outfilm CT,” the annual gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) film festival held in Hartford. In addition, CCSU’s GLBT student group, PRIDE, recently obtained a new center in the Student Center. The group has been recognized by the University since 1985.

The exhibit also included a display of the library’s broad collection of materials concerning the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities. The books, newsletters, periodicals, ephemera, and archives were on display through the month of June. The exhibit and reception were sponsored by the Elihu Burritt Library.

— Heather Lusebrink

ITBD Staff Member Awarded Youth Development Practitioner Certificate

ITBD’s Youth Program Coordinator Cathy Sylvester received a Youth Development Practitioner Certificate in May during a ceremony at Capital Community College. Sylvester was a member of the first graduating class of the Youth Development Practitioner Academy and Middle Management Institute. The program is sponsored by Communities Empowering Youth—a joint organization of Capital Workforce Partners and the Hartford Office for Youth Services—and supports businesses in their efforts to address youth violence, abuse, and neglect.

Sylvester assists in organizing teacher enhancement programs at CCSU, to aid faculty in workforce development and advancement. She also helps manage the Financial, Health, Information Technology, and Engineering Careers (FHITEC) program for middle and high school students. In January, Sylvester crafted a grant proposal for an Urban/Suburban Youth Leadership Career Development Pilot Program that, if funded, would recruit and support youth in local communities.

Sylvester was one of thirteen to graduate—from over seventy students initially enrolled—from the rigorous, eight-course Youth Development Practitioner program. CCSU’s Executive Assistant to the President Rick Mulkins commended Sylvester’s efforts: “CCSU is very proud of Cathy’s accomplishments in the first graduating class of this valuable certificate program which is helping to shape our future workforce.”

— Luke Albertson
ccsu in the news

Accounting Students Volunteer for a Good Cause

Beginning in November 2008, CCSU students were trained on campus to participate in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program by Laura O’Keefe, a representative of the non-profit organization Co-Opportunity. The program is run by the IRS to give free assistance to low-income individuals in completing their income tax returns. After training, students were assigned to various locations, through Co-Opportunity or the Human Resources Agency of New Britain, Inc. Fifty students were certified to prepare tax returns by the first week in February.

In an article submitted to The New Britain Herald by Associate Professor of Accounting Cheryl Crespi, CCSU senior Dan Krah, a double major in finance and accounting, stated that, “Nothing feels better than knowing that I was able to help individuals save thousands of dollars. Although it may have made my final semester a bit busier, I wouldn’t trade this experience for anything in the world.” He completed approximately 50 income tax returns through the program and recently accepted a job with Price Waterhouse Coopers.

CCSU student Dustin Johnson echoed Krah’s sentiments in the article, stating, “I enjoyed the program and the challenge the tax returns presented.” He earned four levels of VITA certification and hopes to get involved in the tax field after graduation. Working Friday and Saturday mornings, he completed about 30 tax returns.

One student, Nanette Fresher, produced such outstanding work that she was appointed to the position of site coordinator for a VITA site in the Greater Hartford area. Fresher, a recipient of the Financial Executives International Scholarship, accepted a position with the public accounting firm Simione Maccia & Larrow.

Krah has coordinated with O’Keefe on another program recently. He created an on-campus budgeting program to train students in assisting low-income individuals and families with budgeting. The idea was so popular that Krah had to schedule a second session to accommodate all of the interested students.

Professor of Anthropology Kenneth L. Feder was featured in an article for Damned Connecticut, a website focusing on unusual happenings in the state. Feder discussed his book Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries: Science and Pseudoscience in Archaeology and how well it has been received in archaeology classes across the nation. In order to spark the interest of his readers and students, Feder uses pseudoscientific explanations of archaeological phenomena and their corresponding fallacies to, in his words, “reel them in.” He is currently editing the seventh edition of his book.

Assistant Professor of Sociology Julie Fennell was interviewed for an article that appeared in The Philadelphia Inquirer, titled “Stop In the Name of Love.” Fennell also co-authored an article for the June edition of the journal Contraception about how coitus interruptus, or withdrawal, should be discussed as a legitimate form of contraception.

Gary Fierro, a broadcast journalism major, was featured in a recent article in The New Britain Herald titled “CCSU Student Working on Third Film Title.” Fierro discussed the process of filmmaking and also briefly spoke about his two finished films, Pickman’s Model and Re-animator: 1942. Both films are based on works by H.P. Lovecraft. His third film is tentatively titled Ditch.

CCSU’s first Girls in Technology expo was mentioned in The Hartford Courant article titled “Array of State Science Programs Targets Middle School Girls” in April. The daylong program was organized by the

The New Britain Herald reported on CCSU’s Associate Director of Continuing Education Richard Cheney and his new noncredit course Securing Employment: Effective Job Search Strategies. The course, which is open to the public, is designed to improve skills, habits, and job search efforts and will provide key ideas and methods to be used in job searches and interviews. Cheney noted that CCSU has a tradition of supporting community needs and that he hopes this unique course will aid Connecticut residents during this stressful time.

Assistant Professor of Teacher Education Barbara Clark answered Provost Carl Lovitt’s call to aid New Britain’s “Art in the Heart of the City” exhibit. New Britain City Hall recruited students from Gaffney Elementary School to paint images that reflected on homelessness for an art display titled “Creating a Compassionate Community: Symbolic Messages to End Homelessness.” Clark and some of her student teachers spent time at Gaffney Elementary School to explain the issue of homelessness and guide students through the creation of their art.

CCSU Professor of Sociology Mary Erdmans’ lecture on Polish immigration was featured in both The Bristol Press and The New Britain Herald. New Britain, according to Erdmans, ranks fourth in the US of cities immigrated to by Poles. In her talk, Erdmans discussed the reasons behind the varying intensities of Polish immigration during the 20th century.
The Brian O’Connell Lecture Series

On May 6, the first annual Brian O’Connell Lecture took place in the Philbrick-Camp Room in CCSU’s Student Center. University of Maryland Professor and Senior Research Scientist for the NASA Goddard Earth Sciences and Research Center Susan Hoban (right) gave a presentation titled “From STEM to Stern(e): Actually, It Was the Other Way Around.” Hoban discussed the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in today’s education system, as well as her experiences conducting research for NASA’s cometary science program.

Brian O’Connell (above) was a CCSU professor in both the Philosophy and Computer Science departments. An avid learner, he relished in the fields of robotics, ethics, and law; constructing robots and rockets with his students. After his death, a group of his pupils finished a sensor-equipped rocket started by O’Connell. Before coming to CCSU, O’Connell was a respected attorney; he brought this experience to his Philosophy of Law course. O’Connell died after a courageous battle with cancer in May 2008.

This free lecture series was established by family, friends, and colleagues of O’Connell and is sponsored by CCSU’s departments of Computer Science, Philosophy, and Physics and Earth Sciences, as well as by the Office of Institutional Advancement. This lecture was one of many activities held on campus this year in celebration of the International Year of Astronomy.

Connecticut Women’s Education and Legal Fund at several colleges throughout the state. The program aims to get girls interested in currently male-dominated academic areas, such as science and technology. CCSU students Colin Halloran and Dario DiBattista recently had their poetry published in the online version of The New York Times. In a section titled “Veterans, In Their Own Words,” student/war veterans had the opportunity to express their feelings. Halloran explained that writing “became an outlet for my emotions, as well as a way of giving people an honest glimpse into the experience, mind, and challenges of a veteran.” Assistant Professor of English Mary Collins said of DiBattista, “He was flabbergasted, and writing gave him direction, as well as vindication.” DiBattista has an active blog named “Go Now You Are Forgiven,” publicly available on Facebook.

Assistant Professor of Mathematical Sciences Shelly Jones was mentioned in a May New Britain Herald article titled “‘CAMPY’ Kids Ponder Mathematical Quandaries.” Jones taught a class with music producer Dunn Pearson, Jr.—Have Fun and Get Smarter Connecting Math with Music—for the Connecticut Association for Mathematically Precocious Youth (CAMPY) in which students learned about the relationship between music notation and fractions.

The New Britain Herald recently tapped CCSU Assistant Professor of Economics Carlos Liard-Muriente for input on the current economic situation in the US. Liard-Muriente stated that the current situation isn’t comparable to the Great Depression; we now have a larger federal government, as well as unemployment benefits and social security in place. Liard-Muriente predicted that by the end of the year, the country will see a recovery.

Professor of Anthropology Warren Perry was featured in The Hartford Courant as well as in Waterbury’s Republican American. Perry discussed the forensics behind the discovery of the identity of “Fortune,” an enslaved man from 18th-century Waterbury, via chemical analysis and X-ray technology.

CCSU Professor of History Heather Munro Prescott wrote an article on “The Swine Flu and Historic Memory” that was featured on the History News Network. The article included opinions on past pandemics, as well as information on the social history of medicine.

Associate Professor of English Ravi Shankar discussed wildlife rehabilitation on The Faith Middleton Show.

Professor of Biology David Spector’s article on Eastern Phoebes was featured in Weekend Gazette, Outdoors.

Assistant Professor of Communication Jeffrey Teitler was interviewed by Brad Davis on WDRC on February 28. Davis offered the following shout-out: “Jeff Teitler is a professor at Central Connecticut State University, and he is a very talented young man. And he started a documentary. This documentary will be shown at film festivals around the country, on public television, and it’s titled The Sweetest Land.”

Associate Professor of History Matthew Warshauer was featured in a Hartford Courant story addressing Connecticut’s key role in the Civil War. Warshauer, who is currently co-authoring Civil War Connecticut: From Slavery to Commemoration, depicts Connecticut as an important state in the eventual victory of the Union. In the article, Warshauer discusses the State’s reluctance to release hospital records of the Civil War soldiers diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, a source he says is crucial to his work.
April is National Poetry Month, and CCSU’s ever-active poetry community jumped at the chance to host events around campus. The 4th Annual Poetry Marathon was held in the Philbrick-Camp Room in the Student Center. Students and faculty enjoyed their lunches while reading and listening to verse at this opportunity—one of many during the month—for poetic expression offered by the CCSU English Department.

The month kicked off with a visit from guest poet Amy Lemmon, who read selected passages from her in-process work, Little Star, a prose memoir describing her efforts at parenting a child with Down syndrome. Lemmon published her first poetry chapbook, Fine Motor, in spring 2008 and her full-length poetry collection in fall 2009; her work was soon critically acclaimed. Lemmon’s poems have been published in the Cincinnati Review, Barn Owl Review, and Barrelhouse, among others. Lemmon is currently the editor of the online literary magazine Ducts (www.ducts.org).

Unable to contain the campus’ tremendous poetic energy, Poetry Month often overflows into May, and poetry readings continued throughout, with local bands often accompanying performances. Associate Professor of English and CCSU poet-in-residence Ravi Shankar, in partnership with his students, led the readings, which varied in style and organization. One event featured readings by students of New Britain’s elementary schools.

In early May, poet Carolyne Wright gave a reading in CCSU’s Vance Hall. Wright has published eight books and chapbooks of poetry, received National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and Bunting Institute of Radcliffe College fellowships, and has had her poetry published in Wagoner and Lehman’s The Best American Poetry. During her presentation, Wright read from and discussed her translated works of Bengali women poets, the fruition of her four years on the Indo-US Subcommission in India and Bangladesh.

CCSU student Caroline Dearborn won the Chasing Light Writing Contest, sponsored by the New Britain Symphony Orchestra (NBSO). Participants were challenged to write a poem inspired by the symphony’s Welte Theatre performance of Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Joseph Schwantner’s Chasing Light. Professor of English Gilbert Gigliotti noted that the contest “offered Caroline Dearborn and other students an opportunity to draw connections between two different modes of artistic expression: poetry and classical music.” Dearborn’s “The Forgotten,” a poem illustrating the love and remembrance of Alzheimer’s patients, was published in the NBSO’s May program for the final concert of the season.

—Luke Albertson

in memoriam

Associate Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, Emeritus, Paul Q. Beeching died on April 13, 2009. He joined CCSU in 1963 as a member of the English faculty and retired in 1989. Over his more than 50-year teaching career, he taught English literature, history, philosophy, drama, and playwriting and offered courses in the Bible as literature and the history of Christianity. While at CCSU, he instituted an honors’ program, based on the Great Books Program. Beeching served in the army during the Korean War.

CCSU Maintenance Department retiree Jackson Fort died April 20, 2009. Born in Alabama, he attended New Britain schools and was the first African-American student to graduate from E.C. Goodwin Technical School with a degree in carpentry.

Associate Professor of History, Emeritus, Richard Williams died June 3, 2009. Williams served in the Air Force from 1952–58, where he learned to speak Mandarin Chinese. While at CCSU, Williams led the first of many groups of CCSU students to visit mainland China after the establishment of diplomatic relations. He retired from teaching East Asian Studies at CCSU in 1992.
Professor of History Jay Bergman has been selected as a member of the Connecticut Advisory Committee to the US Commission on Civil Rights. Bergman and other members of the committee met with a member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in late May to talk about future plans. Members of the committee assist the national commission in investigating complaints of civil rights infringements in Connecticut.


CCSU Associate Professor of Theatre Thom Delventhal, served as master of ceremonies for “Laugh with Purpose,” a nine-hour long marathon consisting of comedy, improv, and music sponsored by New Britain’s Trinity-on-Main to raise money for New Britain’s Work Plan to End Homelessness program. As part of the event, two teams of students from the CCSU improv groups Schlock Therapy and Unmarked judged the Improv Olympix as high-school teams from across Connecticut competed for the 2009 championship title in May. Delventhal states, “we were just using our sense of fun to benefit those in need.” The event raised $486.

Head Coach of the Men’s Basketball Team Howie Dickenman was awarded the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) Literacy Champion Award. The award honors the coach who uses his or her position to promote children’s literacy. Dickenman, an alumnus of CCSU, has been head coach since 1996.

Professor of Modern Language Antonio García-Lozada was a guest lecturer at the French Université Paul-Verlaine, Metz. García-Lozada gave five lectures on American literature and culture to audiences of students and faculty. The research center “Ecritures” aided García-Lozada in his travels by providing him with resources to assist in his study of cultural and artistic trends that have crisscrossed the Atlantic Ocean.

Junior anthropology major Sara Larkin was honored by New Britain Mayor Timothy Stewart in late May as she prepared to leave for an 18-month tour of duty with the Army reservists. Larkin plans to take a leave of absence from CCSU while on her second tour. She was previously stationed as a military police officer in Germany, but has not been informed yet where she will be deployed this time.

Professor of Physics and Earth Sciences Kristine Larsen hosted a public talk in Copernicus Hall on “It’s the End of the World as We Know It: The Death of the Sun and the Universe” in late May. The talk was preceded by an Astronomy Academy show titled “Stars: From Beginning to End.”

CCSU Professor of Management and Organization Lee Wonsick Lee has been conducting research and lecturing on US society and business at Seoul’s University of Korea. According to Lee, “As a cultural ambassador, I plan to explore social issues in management and pursue research comparing cultural values and management practices in the US and Korea.”

The CCSU Department of Anthropology presented Krystal Rancourt with the first Kiyomi Kutsuzawa Scholarship in Anthropology. The scholarship was founded in the memory of the late alumna Kiyomi Kutsuzawa ’87, an anthropology major with a concentration in East Asian Studies who later obtained her PhD in anthropology from the University of Connecticut.

Students Help Teens Bridge Gap to College

Faculty and students of CCSU and New Britain High School (below) pose outside Willard Hall during the New Britain High School Bridges program in early May. The program was created to decrease the number of first-year CCSU students needing to take remedial college courses in math and English.
POW Flag Presentation

In the President’s Office (below, from left to right), Paul Gianaris ’70, Christine Balint, Katherine Kalwat, CCSU President Jack Miller, and Helen Chippo pose with the POW MIA flag recently donated to the University in honor of prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action. The flag, which was donated by Private Walter J. Smith, VFW Post 511, was made in Valley Forge and purchased by Balint from the Connecticut chapter of POW MIA Forget Me Knots. In 2002 Balint donated a personal collection of letters from Vietnam servicemen to the Elihu Burritt Library. The group also plans to donate an American flag.

Graduate Research Presentations

In early May, 94 graduate students participated in the eighth annual Graduate Research and Creative Presentation Day, held at various locations across Central’s campus. Hosted by the School of Graduate Studies, the event’s goal is to encourage participation and interaction among faculty and students while furthering knowledge through the sharing of research. Participants work closely with faculty advisors, who guide them throughout the research project. Graduate students in computer information technology, criminal justice, mathematics, psychology, and special education displayed poster presentations. Students of English and TESOL gave oral presentations of their theses, and early childhood and elementary education students presented their Action Research projects. The event had the largest turnout of students in the history of the event.

CCSU Awarded Grant for Interdisciplinary Science, Inquiry, and Literacy Training

CCSU has received a Teacher Quality Partnership Grant of $106,030 from the Connecticut Department of Higher Education (DHE) as part of over $860,000 in grants awarded to eight teacher institutes. The grants were awarded to leverage improvements in teacher scholarship and improve teaching skills for an increasingly diverse student body. Of the 17 proposals received by the DHE, only eight applicants were awarded grants, based on a rigorous review of planned activities, cost-effectiveness, and potential classroom impact.

The grant awarded to Central will facilitate the training of middle school teachers in the sciences. CCSU’s project, Interdisciplinary Science, Inquiry, and Literacy Training, will take place this summer and throughout the 2009–10 academic year and will accommodate 25 middle school teachers from Cromwell, Hartford, Vernon, and Wethersfield. The grant underwrites the cost of the program, allowing teachers to attend free.

Participating Connecticut River Valley teachers are scheduled for field trips to Hammonasset State Park, the Thimble Islands, and Berlin’s trap rock ridges. The teachers, guided by biology and geology faculty from CCSU, will explore the physical aspect of the state’s ecosystems and learn to integrate science instruction with literacy and research strategies.

Commissioner of Higher Education Michael Meotti notes that the grant-funded institutes are “designed to offer teachers powerful professional development that’s based on the realities of today’s classrooms. Teachers will have an opportunity to learn from faculty experts and from each other as they create and model new classroom lesson plans and strategies. These institutes provide teachers with intensive training as well as support that will help improve student learning.”

Professors of Physics and Earth Sciences Jeffrey Thomas and Marsha Bednarski are the project’s faculty leaders at Central. Thomas remarks, “We would like to thank the Connecticut Department of Higher Education for awarding the Teacher Quality Partnership Grant to CCSU. We would also like to thank all school administrators and teachers for supporting the Institute. We are eager to collaborate with middle school science teachers beginning this summer.”

— Luke Albertson
**Contribuciones Film Festival**

CCSU hosted its second annual Latino “Contribuciones Film Festival” in May. This three-day event included a wide array of feature films and shorts, as well as lecturers, with the goal of celebrating the achievements and contributions of Latinos in the film industry. The event opened in Torp Theatre with Luz Ramos’ talk “Latinas in the Film Industry.” Ramos (above) has worked domestically and internationally for ESPN and ESPN Deportes and is credited with being the first Puerto Rican woman to broadcast an NFL game live from the sports complex.

Many of the 15 short films dealt with issues confronting immigrants. Cultural stereotypes were challenged while diversity and integration were promoted. The feature film shown on the festival’s first day, *A Massacre Foretold by Nick Higgins*, contextualized the 1997 massacre in Mexico’s Acteal in terms of the current government, social reform, and racial and economic discrimination faced by the Mexican pacifist group Las Abejas. A variety of other topics were also touched on. *Mi Abuelo, Mi Papá y Yo* by Juan Carlos Vasquez and Dago Garcia depicted three types of love: teenage, adult, and mature. Angel Vázquez’s *Turning Point* addressed the problems of education of the poor and underprivileged. José Luis Orbegozo lectured on the making of his Columbia University MFA thesis film, *Proof of Birth*, which portrays an illegal Mexican immigrant and his attempts to obtain a legal driver’s license.

The festival’s first place award went to Gabriela Yepes’ *Danzak*, a film about the fulfillment of the death-bed wishes of a 10-year-old girl’s father. Second place was awarded to John Kirk’s *Shine*, which follows a college dropout pursuing his passion for dance. *Self Portrait* by Phillip Nieves received a special mention. Nieves’ autobiographical film portrays a Hartford Latino overcoming poverty and racial discrimination as he endeavors to attend college.

Associate Professor of Communication José Carlos del Ama Gonzalo noted the event’s success: “There are many Spanish-speaking people who would not get to see these films if not for the festival.”

The festival was coordinated by Yhara Zelinka, a graduate student in international studies, and organized by Chief Diversity Officer Moisés F. Salinas, Associate Director of the Center for Caribbean and Latin American Studies Antonio García-Lozada, and Professor of Psychology and Director of the Center for Caribbean and Latin American Studies Francisco Donis. The event was sponsored by the Office of Diversity and Equity, the Center for Caribbean and Latin American Studies, and the New Britain Museum of American Art.

— Luke Albertson

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**Blast Off!**

Mechanical engineering student Luke Ionno and CCSU Professor of Engineering Alfred Gates worked together to design and construct a camera block to be inserted into a suborbital UP-Aerospace rocket. The finished block included three cameras, one of which was programmable. A rocket containing the ashes of famed Titanic cinematographer Ralph White, as well as four student-made experimental blocks, was launched in New Mexico on May 2 with plans to reach Mach 4 speeds and an altitude of 72 miles. However, the rocket began gyrating after launch and failed to reach outer space, crashing just 4 miles from the launch area. The cameras to record the voyage, along with the other data-gathering blocks, were destroyed in the crash. UP Aerospace rocket scientists said that the gyrations may have been caused by a defect in the rocket structure, or a shift in its balance, but were likely not due to the motor, which provided the expected thrust.

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**A Colorful Convocation**

Associate Professor of Art Cassandra Broadus-Garcia (above) speaks at the Honors Convocation held in Welte Auditorium in May. During her speech, Broadus-Garcia used crayons as a metaphor for life and the challenges students may face once they leave CCSU.
notable programs

Hartford Seminary Professors of Islamic Studies and Muslim-Christian Relations Yaha Michot and Mahmoud Ayoub presented a lecture titled “Astronomy and Astrology in the Muslim World.” The talk took place in the Student Center and was sponsored by the Middle Eastern Studies Program, Muslim Students Association, and Physics and Earth Sciences Department.

CCSU has instituted a new Baccalaureate Social Work (BSW) Weekend Program that offers a unique pathway into that profession. Full-time agency employees with at least 30 college credits and a minimum GPA of 2.00 are eligible to apply. Designed for adult students with widespread responsibilities, the BSW program offers classes on Saturdays and during the evening. Financial aid is available for degree students.

CCSU students took part in a Breaking the Silence Rally in April. The rally, which took place during a day of silence, was a sign of protest against the violence, intimidation, and harassment experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. CCSU student group PRIDE held the rally, which was followed by a presentation of the spoken word poetry of Jha-D and an open-microphone session in the Student Center.

Chicago, a musical by Kander, Ebb, and Fosse, was performed in March in CCSU’s Welte Theatre. Directed by Associate Professor of Theatre Kenneth Mooney, this satire portrays a world of crime and notoriety. Cooperation between the Student Government Association and the Theatre Department made this production possible.

Edward Guay, former chief economist at Cigna, gave a presentation titled “Current US and World Economic Crisis” at CCSU in April. The speech took place in Vance Academic Center and was presented by the Finance Association.

CCSU undergraduate students now have the opportunity to study Spanish language and culture alongside students at Spain’s oldest university, the University of Salamanca. The program, “Cursos Internacionales,” allows CCSU students to study full-time at the school. Students interested in learning more should contact Professor of Modern Languages Lilian Uribe, who serves as the University’s liaison to the University of Salamanca.

An astronomy event, “Exploring Meteorites and Meteor-Wrongs,” was hosted on campus in mid-June by Professor of Physics and Earth Sciences Kristine Larsen. The event began with a talk on space rocks, followed by an opportunity for audience members to have their rock samples identified as meteorites or “meteor-wrongs.” Several family activities were also offered, including the chance to handle actual meteorites.

A panel discussion was held at CCSU on Earth Day in April. Participating in “Fast Food/Slow Food: Are We Ready to Pay the Bill?” were Bill Duesing, director of the Northeast Organic Farming Association; Ingrid Jon, district manager of CCSU’s Sodexo food service; Mike Kandefer, Urban Oaks Organic Farm; and Jane Slupecki of the state Department of Agriculture. The discussion focused on the health effects of eating fast food as well as the health benefits of families growing their own produce. The event opened with a buffet.

The final presentation in the International Studies Lecture Series on State Terrorism took place in mid-April and featured speaker Dr. Kamari Maxine Clark, an associate professor of anthropology at Yale University and a research scientist at Yale Law School. She lectured on “Fictions of Justice: Violence & the Challenges of Legal Pluralism in Sub-Saharan Africa.” The lecture was sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the International and Area Studies Program.

CCSU’s Intensive English Language Program was selected by Kansai Gaidai University, located in Hirakata City, Japan, to serve as an affiliated partner for its ESL/Regular Course Program. This program allows 160 undergraduate Japanese students attending Kansai Gaidai to study at an affiliated intensive English program in the US for the fall semester. CCSU welcomed eight Japanese students during the fall 2008 semester.

CCSU and the S.A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish Studies recently hosted the 2009 Milewski Lecture in Polish History. During his lecture, titled “Poland, Auschwitz, and the Uses of History,” Dr. Jonathan Huener touched on the history of the Auschwitz camp, political goals of the postwar state, and a variety of controversies associated with the camp. An affiliate of the Carolyn and Leonard Miller Center for Holocaust Studies at the University of Vermont, Huener is the author of Auschwitz, Poland, and the Politics of Commemoration, 1945-1979, which was awarded the 2004 Orbis Books Prize in Polish Studies from the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies.

CCSU’s Office of Diversity and Equity recently presented a workshop on “Multicultural Competence: Awareness, Knowledge, and Skills.” Professor of Counseling and Family Therapy Jane Fried, who led the workshop, focused on understanding cultural differences and creating effective ways to incorporate those differences into teaching and learning situations. Fried, who has over 30 years of experience, teaches regularly on the issue of diversity.

A presentation on “The Real Cost of the War on Drugs” was given by Chris Thornton in Memorial Hall. Thornton is the founder of Efficacy, a Connecticut organization dedicated to drug policy reform. The presentation was sponsored by the Governor William A. O’Neill Endowed Chair in Public Policy & Practical Politics, as well as the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy.

The 20th annual School of Engineering and Technology Student Recognition Reception was held in May. Outstanding students from the School of Engineering and Technology were honored for their work during the academic year. A total of 32 scholarships and awards were presented to nearly 50 students. Paula Chapla ’78 was named the School of Engineering and Technology’s 2009 Outstanding Alumna/US. Chapla is currently pursuing a second master’s degree at CCSU while working as manager of operations/transformation for Aerostructures, a leading manufacturer of military and commercial helicopters.
Mezvinsky’s Last Lecture

CSU Professor of History Norton Mezvinsky presented “The Last Lecture: Forty-Two Years at CCSU” in Davidson Hall’s Torp Theatre in late April. Mezvinsky, after 42 years of service to the Connecticut State University System, announced his retirement in April. His final speech at Central described his career at CCSU as well as the lessons he has learned throughout his endeavors in academia.

The CCSU History Department described Mezvinsky as “thoroughly knowledgeable, demanding and dynamic, inspiringly intense, enthusiastic, and entertaining.” A prolific writer and lecturer across the world, Mezvinsky is widely known for his ardent research, speeches, and articles on the Israeli-Palestinian situation.

Mezvinsky noted that his greatest motivation comes from his students, remarking, “I am most gratified by former and present students telling me how I influenced them positively.” Students have often approached this passionate professor with remarks of how life-changing his lectures and classes have been. He commends his students for being ambitious to learn, and the University for not taking up a “publish or perish” philosophy, but rather encouraging teachers to focus on educating students.

Mezvinsky, now 76, has a positive outlook on the future. He is excited to continue his studies and is leaving the teaching profession to direct the Institute for Middle East Studies at Georgetown University. He has promised to maintain connections with the University and its faculty, staff, and students. In a campus-wide email following his talk, Mezvinsky offered “a sincere thank you” and assured the campus that his “last lecture” will, in reality, not be his last talk or discussion at CCSU, an institution that he considers his “true campus home.”

Mezvinsky first joined the institution in 1968 and was awarded the title of Connecticut State University Professor in 2002 by the CSU Board of Trustees. Upon receiving this honor, Mezvinsky remarked, “I feel a great responsibility to contribute in the future.”

Associate Professor of History Katherine Hermes comments, “Norton Mezvinsky is everything that a CSU Professor stands for. He is a renowned scholar whose work challenges readers to confront uncomfortable truths, and thus it acts as a catalyst for change in the real world. He demands of his students open minds and generates a love of learning.”

Mezvinsky has established a scholarship in his name for future CCSU students.

—Luke Albertson

MFT Department Expands Job Opportunities for Grads

Furthering CCSU’s mission, the students, graduates, and faculty of CCSU’s Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) Department have been hard at work to expand career opportunities for degree holders. Adjunct Lecturer of MFT Kathleen Laundy has founded a Youth Service Bureau in Westbrook, as well as a Family Therapy Room in Hartford’s Naylor School. Run by Central MFT graduates and interns, these facilities serve as a training ground for students seeking to become certified as school marriage and family therapists.

Two years ago, Laundy and Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy Ralph Cohen worked to get a law passed that established a specialized certification for marriage and family therapists to be hired by school districts. Laundy was later asked to write a feature article by the American Association for Marriage and Family Counseling, in which she praised CCSU’s leadership in this emerging field. According to Cohen, many of the MFT faculty “have been meeting with school superintendents across the state to explain the school MFT certificate, and this new certification is being positively received. This effort is expanding career and workforce opportunities for our graduates and graduates of our sister institutions across the state.”
Community Engagement on Display

Community engagement was the focus of this year’s Student Learning Colloquium, sponsored by Academic Affairs and the Center for Teaching Excellence and Leadership Development (CTLD). Faculty members and students presented community engagement activities that took place during the 2008–09 academic year. Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies Paulette Lemma remarked that the event furthers the goals of the University. Community engagement is a distinctive element of Central’s Strategic Plan, specifically the sharing and presenting of student and faculty research and accomplishments is a primary objective of the CTLD. The colloquium was separated into three themes that, as Lemma noted, the University has embraced.

Consultancy/Technical Assistance
The theme of providing consultancy and technical assistance to the community was taken up by Professor of Psychology Marc Goldstein and Associate Professor of Psychology Joanne DiPlacido in their collaboration with the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health, Inc. (CADH). The team addressed Connecticut health inequities, which—according to Goldstein and DiPlacido—represent “discrepancies in health outcomes among racial and socioeconomic groups and reflects the inequitable distribution of society’s financial and social resources.” The project required the assistance of graduate students in PSY 550 and 551, who worked to identify additional social indicators that can be used, in conjunction with the Connecticut Health Equity Index, to identify policy areas that appear most amenable to local change. Students in PSY 542 conducted focus groups to assess how well a video—Unnatural Causes: Is Inequity Making Us Sick?—can stimulate discussion and action within a community.

Mutual Benefit
Engagement for mutual benefit was another theme explored by a wide variety of student and faculty activities.

Assistant Professor of Psychology Carrie Andreoletti and Professor of Physics and Earth Sciences Kristine Larsen developed a community-engaging component for their FYE learning community of elementary education majors. The FYE students collaborated with elementary science teachers at Smalley Academy in New Britain to design and teach lesson plans to 5th graders.

Associate Professor of Sociology Catherine Baratta, assisted by CCSU students, worked to enhance the quality of life and social functioning of individuals living on New Britain’s Malikowski Circle. Baratta and CCSU students started a Tuesday night tutoring program and a Saturday youth recreation program and attempted to revive an inactive Tenants’ Council.

Associate Professor of Art Cassandra Broadus-Garcia and Director of Education and Curatorial Services at the Hill-Stead Museum Cynthia Cormier worked together to display artwork by CCSU undergraduate and graduate students in the museum. This exhibit of interpretations of the museum’s landscape marks the first time that art from outside of the collection has been displayed in the museum. Other CCSU faculty participants included Professors of Art Vicente Garcia, Rachel Siporin, and Ronald Todd.

Assistant Professor of Geography Charles Button taught a Geography Field Methods course in fall 2008 in conjunction with a project for the town of Manchester, which owns a parcel of land adjacent to the Hockanum River that utilizes shallow aquifer wells. The town must abide by the state of Connecticut aquifer protection requirements in order to continue using the wells. CCSU students gathered information on state regulations, identified land uses not in compliance with these regulations, and performed environmental assessments to provide information for further action.

Professor of Biomolecular Sciences Thomas R. King and Associate Professors of Biomolecular Sciences James P. Mulrooney and Michael A. Davis worked with Greater New Britain Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Inc., to mentor high school students from “Pathways/Senderos,” a youth development program that nurtures poverty-stricken youth from New Britain’s Arch Street neighborhood and encourages a pathway to careers rather than early parenthood. Two advanced courses in biomolecular science—BMS 492 and 592 Mentorship in Biomolecular Sciences—were created to provide mentors for these younger students.

Professor of Physics and Earth Sciences Kristine Larsen and Director of the Copernican Planetarium and Observatory Craig Robinson worked with students in ESCI 278 and 490 to create posters describing students’ community engagement capstone activities in commemoration of the International Year of Astronomy. The professors stated that the purpose for this community engagement was to support
expansion of their field, noting that they strove to “kindle that spark of interest which will lead to the next generation of astronomers and astronomy educators.”

Professor of Music Julie Ribchinsky collaborated with the New Britain Symphony Orchestra and Connecticut Trio ensemble to engage CCSU music majors and New Britain string students in sharing music, fostering connections in the community, and addressing the challenges facing new music teachers. Ribchinsky and Central music education majors taught weekly lessons to students at HALS Academy, Pulaski Middle School, and New Britain High School. As part of the initiative, students played alongside members of the symphony during a rehearsal led by the late Jesse Levine, maestro of the orchestra. In addition, Professor of Music Dan D’Addio, in partnership with members of the Connecticut Trio, led chamber music coaching and performance workshops for students in New Britain and other area schools.

**Expanding Education**

A third theme of expanding education into the community was explored by Professor of Psychology Carol Austad, Professor of Management Information Systems Michael Gendron, and psychology graduate assistant William Jay Davis, who worked together as a stress management team for the Interdisciplinary Biofeedback and Psychophysiology Center Lab at CCSU. The team composed an educational slide show on stress and its effects on the mind and body to be shown to the public. Currently, the team is developing, and will later administer, a six- to eight-week psychoeducational stress learning program.

Professor of Biomolecular Sciences Kathy Martin-Troy, Associate Professor of Biomolecular Sciences Michael A. Davis, and Associate Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry Neil M. Glagovich joined with the UCONN Health Center to provide after-school laboratory experiences for students at three Hartford middle schools and for high school students from the Sports and Medical Sciences magnet school. These programs prepare students for college-level science courses, help to increase students' consideration of CCSU as a college of choice, and target an audience that can aid in diversifying the student population at Central.

Associate Professor of Communication Karen Ritzenhoff engaged CCSU students, faculty, and staff, as well as community members, at the second “CCSU Night at the Museum” event, “When Art Meets Nature.”

This event was coordinated by the University Museum Community (UMC) New Britain Collaborative and displayed the work of approximately 200 students who explored connections among the environment, the community, and the museum. In addition, a University-community collaboration took place at Jefferson Elementary School in New Britain where a natural “naturescape” playground, butterfly garden, and sensory garden were created. CCSU also involved Jefferson Elementary School students in workshops at the Eli Whitney Museum in Hamden.

Associate Professor of Art Elizabeth Langhorne helped curate two exhibits — “Aviary” and “SUSTAINABLE?” — addressing the UMC theme of nature and the environment. In coordinating the art exhibits, the CCSU Department of Teacher Education and community public schools worked together to bring over 160 elementary, middle, and high school students to the gallery. Langhorne notes that the success of the exhibits “shows the impact such programs can have as they allow teacher candidates to experiment with using art to become more aware of issues that concern us all.”

— Luke Albertson

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**2009 President’s Citation Awards**

This year President’s Citation Awards were presented by President Jack Miller to nine graduating seniors. Kenneth Barone, Alexander Estrom, Sarah Horrax, Lesley Hubbard, Sajel Lala, Alice Lee, Joel Patrick Leger, Andrew Russo, and Evan Tuttle were bestowed with this prestigious honor in CCSU’s Founder’s Hall on May 12. The President’s Citation is awarded annually to seniors who have shown outstanding achievement while at CCSU, displaying successful fulfillment of leadership roles, significant volunteer contributions, and academic prowess.
The second annual Global Environmental Sustainability Symposium, hosted by CCSU’s Global Environmental Sustainability Action Coalition (GESAC), was held at CCSU in mid-April in conjunction with Focus the Nation, a national organization that educates and engages citizens and leaders to help work toward a more clean energy future. Some 1,000 people attended the various presentations, events, and workshops over the symposium’s two day run. Members of several universities throughout the Northeast participated in this year’s events, including the University of Connecticut and Yale University.

Assistant Professor of Geography Charles Button, who is the founder and faculty chair of GESAC, stated that, “The goal of the GESAC is to support university and civic leaders, governmental officials, those in business and industry, and all citizens in the implementation of policies and programs that promote a healthy environment, a strong economy, and a just society for present and future generations.”

A short welcoming address by Button and CCSU President Jack Miller, an honorary chair of GESAC, opened the first day of the symposium. “We seek to educate, empower, and motivate the CCSU community; civic, business, and political leaders; and Connecticut residents to embrace our ethical responsibility as global citizens to adopt a sustainable lifestyle,” Button stated.

Following the opening address given by Paul Farrell of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, members of the non-profit theatre group ArtFarm performed A Circus for a Fragile Planet in Welte Auditorium. Members of the cast used juggling, acrobatics, and clowning to help the audience think about situations facing the planet today and what can be done to solve them. Marcella Trowbridge, co-founder and director of ArtFarm, presented “N.O.W. (Neutralize Our Waste): Environmental Sustainability, Education, and Action through Theatre,” on the second day of the symposium. The presentation was an interactive workshop, using theatre techniques, focused on raising awareness about environmental sustainability.

Button stated, “The theatrical productions provided by Dic Wheeler and Marcella Trowbridge of ArtFarm engaged attendees of all ages. Their interactive programs raised awareness and inspired change on personal, community, and policy levels.”

In another event, US Senator Chris Dodd spoke at a town hall-style meeting with attendees of the symposium. The meeting allowed audience members to raise concerns, ask questions, and hold a general discussion with the senator regarding sustainability.
Middle East Lecture Series

After Gaza
In February, Mark Perry (top right), a leading authority on Hamas and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, continued CCSU’s Middle East Lecture Series in Founders Hall with a lecture titled “After Gaza: The Catastrophic Status of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.” Perry is a foreign policy analyst, as well as an author with seven published books; his most recent work is Partners in Command: George Marshall and Dwight Eisenhower in War and Peace.

Perry served for seventeen years as senior advisor to former Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and as a senior foreign policy analyst for the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation. Perry was also a Washington correspondent for The Palestine Report, an online magazine focused on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and currently serves as the co-director of the Conflicts Forum, an international organization with a mission to create discussions among leaders of Islam and the West.

This lecture was sponsored by the Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences, the Middle East Studies Committee of CCSU’s George R. Muirhead Center for International Education, the Peace Studies Program, and the History Department.

Iraq Today
Dr. Tareq Y. Ismael (bottom right), professor of political science, University of Calgary, Canada, discussed the current situation in Iraq as part of the 2008–2009 CCSU Middle East Lecture Series. Among other achievements, Ismael is the author and editor of several publications on Iraq and the Middle East and is president of the International Centre for Contemporary Middle Eastern Studies. The lecture series is underwritten by the CCSU Dean of Arts and Sciences and is sponsored by the CCSU Middle East Studies Committee of CIE, the Peace Studies Program, and the History Department.

Pappte to Head New Advising Center
Associate Director of Career Services Ken Pappte has been appointed as the director of CCSU’s new Center for Advising and Career Exploration (CACE). The center will be responsible for ensuring consistent advising and career exploration experiences for all incoming undergraduate students. As director, Pappte will be responsible for coordinating communication and relations between academic schools, departments, and other student services.

policies. Dodd was quoted in an April New Britain Herald article as saying, “Our ability to embrace these ideas is critically important to our nation’s competitiveness, our independence, and our security as a people.” He went on to say that the nation is at a transformative moment in history and that he believes it is possible that clean energy is within reach.

In his closing speech, Buttons stated, “It is important to engage people from all walks of life in discussions about environmental sustainability. Although the focus is on the ‘environment’, it’s really about sustaining a comfortable human existence on Earth. Unless we as a species chose to understand that we need to live in harmony with all other creatures of the Earth, then at some point the Earth will remind us of such.”

According to Button, the most pressing example of why sustainability is so important for the planet is human-caused global warming. “Experts have concluded that current human habits of consumption and production are depleting the planet’s finite resources and damaging life-supporting ecosystems,” said Button. “Scientists have concluded that changes in weather patterns, melting glaciers, and rising sea levels caused by climate change will cause economic chaos and affect the health of millions of people.”

Paul Winter, one of the symposium’s sponsors, performed a solo concert after a closing reception for volunteers and presenters. Winter is a Grammy Award-winning saxophonist, bandleader, composer, and explorer of the world’s musical customs.

Additional sponsors of the symposium include the Hartford Consortium of Higher Education, the Solar Energy Association of Connecticut, Urban Miners LLC, the CCSU Office of Continuing Education and Community Engagement, and the University Museum Community Collaborative of New Britain.

— Heather Lusebrink
CSU’s 2009 Undergraduate Commencement ceremony took place in May at Hartford’s XL Center, where the hockey arena had been transformed into a stage for the 2200 graduates. CCSU President Jack Miller noted the achievements of a few individuals in particular, including Brittany Becker, who was getting married later that day.

Carol Ammon ’73 (below) gave the Commencement Address, offering students the lessons she had learned throughout her life. Then it was time for President Miller to award the diplomas. In an eruption of cheers, tears, and air horns, the graduates came up to the stage. When the last recipient was seated, Miller called for a photo opportunity, and hundreds of blue and white balloons were released, falling from the ceiling to shower the Class of 2009 in the University’s colors.

Four days later, the Graduate Commencement took place in CCSU’s Welte Auditorium. Miller remarked that CCSU values the pursuit of academic excellence and that the 750 graduate students receiving their advanced degrees “personify what we at CCSU hold in high esteem.”

The Commencement Speaker for that ceremony was Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. (right), who urged the assembled graduates to uphold Constitutional values, attributing the nation’s overall success to the “ground-breaking philosophies and structures as set forth in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.” He concluded his talk by noting that “Each of us, graduate, professor, family, is the United States of America … Luck and courage to each of you.” Weicker has spent over 30 years representing Connecticut on the political field. He gained national notice as a member of the Watergate Committee, and his advocacy for the rights of the disabled has earned him much praise. In 1991, he was sworn in as Governor of Connecticut, the state’s first independent governor since the Civil War.

— Luke Albertson
alumni news

CCSU alumnus David Bosso ’08 was honored recently in his classroom at Berlin High School with a surprise ceremony by the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies. Bosso, who graduated from CCSU with a MA in history, was awarded the council’s 2009 Social Studies Teacher of the Year award, which honors a teacher who exhibits excellence in teaching social studies to Connecticut students.

A panel of five alumni discussed work and life after CCSU at a “Careers of Sociology Graduates” program in late April. The attending alumni included Lauren Howe, Krystle Kaczynski ’08, Arthur Heltgott ’74, Ann Bova ’74, and Debbie Rossel ’04. The program was sponsored by the Advising Center, Career Services, Alumni Affairs, and the Sociology Department.

The advancement of Central alumna Stacey Uccello has been noted in The New Britain Herald. Uccello recently left TD Bank for a position on Farmington Savings Bank’s management team for the corporation’s new central branch. Uccello was hired as vice president of the Cash Management Services Department. At TD Bank, Uccello managed Connecticut’s cash services.

The Educational Leadership Department at CCSU held a Networking Reception in April to recognize the honors that have been bestowed upon CCSU alumni for their achievements in educational leadership. Amanda Robustelli-Price ’09 (above, left), French teacher at Bristol Central High School in Bristol, CT, was named 2008 Teacher of the Year in Bristol by the Bristol School District. Paula Eshoo ’02 (center left), principal of Smith Elementary School in New Britain, was named 2008 Elementary School Principal of the Year by the New Britain School District. Vera Buckley ’04 (center right), principal of St. Richard’s School in Kingston, Jamaica, has been awarded the 2008 National Order of Distinction for Service to Education by the Government of Jamaica, West Indies. Diane Clare-Kearney ’98 (right), K–12 Supervisor of Equity Programming for the Manchester Public School System, was named the 2008 Multicultural Educator of the Year (P–12) by the New England Conference for Multicultural Education. Marsha Jorgensen ’09 (not pictured), science teacher at Canton Middle School in Canton, CT, was named the 2008–09 Teacher of the Year in Canton by the Canton School District.

Michael Beaumier ’08 (above, right), vice president of Suffolk Construction, received the Dr. Stuart R. Bennett Alumni Award from Professor of Manufacturing and Construction Management Stuart Bennett (left) at the CCSU Construction Management Alumni Dinner held in April. Proceeds from the dinner benefitted the Matthew W. Schall Construction Management Scholarship.

Italian American Legislative Caucus Donates to CCSU

In a ceremony held on March 25, the Italian American Legislative Caucus made a $10,000 donation to Central Connecticut State University. Pictured here, from left to right, are Senator Don DeFronzo, Representative Joe Serra, Representative Joe Micoli, member of the Italian-American Legislative Caucus, and former Senator Lou DeLuca, and Counsel to the Senate Republicans George Krivda.

Due to a production error, an incorrect photo appeared with this caption in the April Courier. We regret the error.
CSU’s Department of Intercollegiate Athletics announced the Frederick Gladstone and Gail Rutz award winners at its Senior Awards Ceremony in May. Yan Klukowski of the men’s soccer team collected the coveted Gladstone Award, while Erin Crowley, a swimmer, was awarded the esteemed Gail Rutz Award. The awards are given to the top male and female student-athletes in the senior class.

Achieving excellence both in their sport and in their education, Klukowski and Crowley have helped lead CCSU men’s soccer and women’s swimming and diving programs to the top of the Northeast Conference over the past two years. The Blue Devil men’s soccer team won its first-ever NEC crown and made a run to the NCAA Sweet 16 during Klukowski’s junior season, while Crowley guided the Blue Devil swimmers and divers to back-to-back NEC titles in 2008 and 2009. She was also a member of the program’s first ECAC Champion team in 2008.

“It is always an honor to recognize two outstanding student-athletes with these awards,” said Director of Intercollegiate Athletics C.J. Jones, Jr. “Yan and Erin have excelled in the classroom, on the field and in the pool, and in the community. They are exemplary ambassadors for the University and its athletic department.”

Klukowski impressed in his first season at Central, accumulating seven goals and three assists on his way to being named Northeast Conference Rookie of the Year. The Wiltshire, England, native went on to collect All-NEC honors during each of his four years in New Britain. Klukowski also achieved NSCAA/adidas All-North Atlantic Region accolades during his final three campaigns. He was named to the MAC Hermann Trophy Watch List prior to the 2008 season.

During his sophomore season, Klukowski led the nation in assists per game (0.73 apg). He led the Blue Devils to their first NEC Championship and NCAA tournament berth the following year. CCSU defeated Harvard and Tulsa, both top-20 teams, on its way to a Sweet 16 finish. Klukowski led the Blue Devils in scoring with eight goals and five assists this past season. He was twice named the NEC Player of the Week and was selected to the College Soccer News National Team of the Week after his first career hat trick against St. Bonaventure. Klukowski finished his career with 24 goals and 27 assists in 71 games.

“Yan is a very special student-athlete,” said Blue Devil Head Coach Shaun Green. “He is a player who instantly made an impact on the quality of the men’s soccer program. I am very proud of all of his achievements in the classroom and on the field, and I wish him the very best of success in the future.”

Klukowski’s accomplishments also extend into the classroom. A physical education major with a 3.51 GPA, Klukowski earned two ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District I accolades. He was also an ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America third team honoree this past season.

After leading CCSU swimming and diving to its first NEC Championships since 2001 as a junior, Crowley guided the Blue Devils to a second straight NEC crown during her senior season. The two-time captain produced gold medal performances in the 50, 100, and 200 freestyle events on both occasions. The Plainville, CT, native was also a member of the first CCSU team ever to win the ECAC Swimming and Diving Championships. Crowley has also excelled out of the pool. She carried a 3.66 GPA as an elementary education major.

“Erin is proof that Central athletics can achieve success through the development of in-state talent,” CCSU Head Coach Bill Ball said. “I couldn’t be happier with Erin’s leadership and hard work throughout her career. Both are reasons why she has achieved such high distinction in the classroom and in the pool.”

Crowley has improved greatly during her four years at CCSU. She has competed at the USA Short Course Swimming Nationals for the past two seasons and was named NEC Swimmer of the Week four times as a senior. During the final regular season meet of her career, Crowley broke the Jack Suydam Natatorium record for the 200 freestyle, timing in at 1:52.96.

Crowley leaves CCSU holding four school relay records, three Jack Suydam Natatorium relay records, and one Northeast Conference relay record. She ended her career with six individual titles and nine relay titles in Northeast Conference Championship action.

—Jason Stronz and Daniel Forcella
CCSU Receives NEASC Reaccreditation

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Commission on Institutions of Higher Education has notified CCSU that the University is officially “substantially in compliance with the Standards for Accreditation.” The NEASC is responsible for establishing educational standards and accrediting all post-secondary institutions in the New England region. This notice comes after an NEASC team came to the campus for a three-day site visit in October 2008 as part of a yearlong review of the University. The accreditation is reviewed every 10 years.

The report also notes that CCSU has “pursued institutional integrity in all areas of the university” and lauds CCSU’s “culture of evidence-based decision making.” The report also praises President Jack Miller’s leadership: “The president—along with his team of campus leaders—has succeeded in protecting and advancing the quality and range of academic programs, fostering engagement with the community and strengthening oversight of the campus.” The faculty and staff are also credited with Central’s success; the report remarks that they are fully qualified and focused on meeting the needs of students, as well as bettering the overall experience of the campus.

Associate Professor of English and President of the Faculty Senate Candace Barrington was pleased with the report’s commendation of the faculty’s emphasis on teaching: “Research is good, but as faculty members, our primary job is teaching.”

The report portrays CCSU as a successfully interconnected university, noting that “faculty leaders and others praise the current administration for its support of new, campus-approved initiatives.” The declaration further lists that the climate of CCSU is “collaborative, open, optimistic, and eager.”

President Miller was pleased with the report, stating that “the reaccreditation and its very favorable report affirms our approach to keeping the University a vital resource for Connecticut and an excellent educational opportunity for Connecticut students.”

Along with the faculty, administration, and staff, areas receiving special praise were CCSU’s student support programs, campus safety, well-maintained facilities, environmentally friendly efforts, and the numerous student services offered by CCSU. The visiting NEASC team also noted that the University is “financially healthy,” with “planned investments in renovations and new construction [that] will further improve facilities for the educational mission.” In the past five years, CCSU’s endowment had grown from $15 million to $26 million.

CCSU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Carl Lovitt led an institutional self-report prior to the NEASC’s review. Areas recommended for attention in the review were the quantity and quality of student-advisor meetings, consistency of academic program reviews, and implementation of a system of student learning assessment. The NEASC report acknowledges that improvements in these areas are either in the planning stages or are beginning to be implemented. One of CCSU’s responses to the need to improve advising is the establishment of a new center for academic and career advising, to be open in the fall.

Lovitt, on behalf of CCSU’s office of Academic Affairs, issued a formal notice of CCSU’s accomplishment, thanking all associates of the University for assisting in the self-examination that took place prior to the NEASC team’s visit to campus. He specifically commended the efforts of Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies Paulette Lemma for managing the self-study; chairpersons of the Standards Committees Steven Adair, Anne Alling, Richard Bachoo, Tom Burkholder, Bob Cernock, Stephen Cox, Tim Craine, Glynis Fitzgerald, Jennifer Hedlund, Jerry Jarrett, Drina Lynch, Carolynn Magnan, Cindy Pope, Nick Pettinico, Brad Waite, and Larry Wilder for producing the study; Director of Institutional Research & Assessment Braden Hosch for providing supporting data to back the University’s claims; Associate Vice President of Marketing and Communications Mark McLaughlin for assisting with publicity and marketing, and Katie Kollar for her administrative support.

—Luke Albertson

TechTalk Now Online

Information Technology’s monthly TechTalks can now be viewed online. The talks contain information about current technology topics and are presented in short sessions. More information and links to archived sessions can be found at www.ccsu.edu/its/TechTalk.htm
Art Work Donated to CCSU’s Polish Collection

The Polish Collection at Central’s Elihu Burritt Library has expanded thanks to a donation by Alexander Koproski. Koproski, a veteran, real estate agent, and vice president of the Polish National Youth Baseball Foundation, donated marble busts of three renowned Poles—Frédéric Chopin, a pianist and composer of Romantic music; Marie Curie, a pioneer in the fields of physics, chemistry, and radioactivity and the first individual to be awarded two Nobel Prizes; and Adam Mickiewicz, a Romantic poet and one of the Three Bards of Polish Literature. These pieces of art were sculpted by Jan Stepkowski.

Koproski has been an active force in the preservation of Polish culture. With the help of his wife, Patricia, he founded the Koproski Family Foundation to sustain Polish culture and history in the United States. The Koproski family was a strong advocate in the establishment of the National Polish Center in Washington, DC. Koproski is listed in Who’s Who in America and has been awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor for his immigrant experiences and accomplishments.

Koproski has been especially involved in CCSU’s Polish Studies Program for years. He is a member of the CCSU Polish Studies Advisory Committee and, in 2000, established an endowment for a series of lectures on Polish business and economics to be given on the campus. Koproski has helped the Elihu Burritt Library obtain a large donation of books and periodicals for its Polish Heritage Collection and has supplied the library with vast collections of papers for the Polish American Archives. He continues to advocate for CCSU’s expansion of Polish scholarship.

—Luke Albertson