Opening Meeting Takes Stock for the New Academic Year

At the Opening Meeting of the 2009 academic year, held in Alumni Hall, CCSU President Jack Miller welcomed faculty, staff, and students to a new year at Central.

Miller began with the presentation of the 2009 Distinguished Service Award to Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement Nick Pettinico. Pettinico was praised for his “fierce loyalty and significant contributions to CCSU for more than 25 years” and for “leading the most high-profile public occasions of the University.” (See related story, page 12.)

Miller used the first half of his presentation to “take stock” of what CCSU has accomplished in its recent past and set to “focusing on the positive.” He recalled that when he first came to CCSU, he saw “an institution with numerous strengths and great potential. The University was nearing the end of a significant campus renewal program. Central’s first doctoral degree program, the EdD in Educational Leadership, had been approved. Elihu Burritt Library was evolving from a print-oriented facility to one heavily invested in electronic resources and processes. The list of positives goes on and on.”

But, Miller noted, there were significant challenges, too, and, after outlining the problems (for example, the frequent changes...
in leadership positions and the lack of budget transparency), he turned to detailing the many ways the University has improved over the past few years. Among other items, Miller noted that “student satisfaction increased on 45 out of 55 [satisfaction survey] items last year, of which 30 were at higher than statistically significant levels.” He stated that financial aid awards are now announced earlier in order to be more helpful for college planning, registration procedures are more convenient, and “tuition paid is [viewed as] a worthwhile investment.” Employee satisfaction was also higher, increasing on 53 out of 55 items surveyed.

Miller was also proud of the increase in international education and study-abroad programs offered to students. He noted that participation in these programs has increased from 220 to 524 students in the past four years. With hopes of reaching 1,000 students per year, Miller said that at that point, “We will be one of the top international institutions in the country.”

Miller went on to say that graduation rates have risen, as have the total amount of financial aid awarded, the amount of annual gifts, and the external funding received through grants and contracts. He commented on the relatively small but steady gains in the diversity of students, faculty, and staff and described this as “an area where we need to redouble our efforts,” stating that “We’ve improved, but not by as much as I’d like.” He called for continued improvement and encouraged all present to review the 47 institutional goals, available online at www.ccsu.edu/strategicplan.

Miller then changed his focus to CCSU’s engagement with the New Britain community. He invited six individuals from the community to speak, including Mayor of New Britain Timothy Stewart and Superintendent of New Britain Schools Doris Kurtz.

Stewart discussed how relationships between CCSU and the City of New Britain have “improved dramatically.” He called Central “the largest family in our city” and thanked the University for working with the city to end homelessness in New Britain. Kurtz also cited improved relations, remarking “all of our 15 schools now have partnerships with CCSU.”

Maura O’Shea, curator for the New Britain Museum of American Art, thanked Miller and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Carl Lovitt for securing free admission to the museum for all CCSU students, faculty, and staff. She noted that the University Museum Collaborative (UMC) “truly captures community spirit” and that at a recent UMC event over 1,000 participants, including members of the community and CCSU students and faculty, discussed artistic pieces at an open forum.

Miller concluded the meeting with high hopes: “If someone asked what would make me most proud as president, it would be if every citizen of New Britain had an answer to the question: ‘Why is your life better because there is a Central Connecticut State University?’” He closed by wishing the crowd of faculty and staff a fun and exciting year “because we are doing a joyous thing.”

— Luke Albertson
Nicholas Pettinico Honored with CCSU’s 2009 Distinguished Service Award

At the Opening Meeting of the academic year, President Jack Miller announced that Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement Nicholas Pettinico would be honored with the Distinguished Service Award (DSA) for 2009. The DSA recognizes outstanding contributions to the University, to its students, to academic achievement, and to the community. This year the award was presented in absentia, because Pettinico—true to his unflagging adherence to service—was driving to the airport to pick up a student.

Later, Pettinico said: “I am so very grateful to CCSU, to President Miller, and to the Distinguished Service Award Committee for selecting me to receive this award. Having served as a member of the DSA selection committee for many years, I am keenly aware of the rigors of the selection process and I am truly humbled beyond words.”

Pettinico is credited with developing the leading endowment in the Connecticut State University System and for his role in helping to bring about the University’s largest-ever individual donor award, the Anthony and Helen Bichum gift to support scholarships for students in the School of Engineering and Technology, according to Associate Vice President of Marketing and Communications Mark McLaughlin.

Pettinico noted that “In June, Professor of Economics Ki Hoon Kim, who nurtured CCSU’s relationship with Hyundai Motors over several decades, and I had the opportunity to visit with Hyundai Chairman Mong Koo Chung at a dinner in New York City where he was being honored by The Korea Society. In our conversation, and in a follow-up letter, we reported on all the student scholarships and faculty scholarly activities that were supported by the Dr. Mong Koo Chung/Hyundai Motor Company Endowment Fund. Dr. Chung was inspired by our effective use of this fund and graciously authorized the payment of the remaining installment ($1.5 million on the $3 million) pledge which the company had deferred due to the global economic downturn.”

Lauded for his organizational talents, Pettinico has orchestrated, modestly behind the scenes and with a keen sense of protocol, major public events, such as Commencement and the high-profile Vance Lecture Series, featuring statespersons, noted journalists, and dignitaries.

“Nick Pettinico is the consummate professional and a valuable resource for all of Institutional Advancement, as well as the University,” said Vice President for Institutional Advancement Christopher J. Galligan. “Nick’s commitment to CCSU is unwavering, and his wealth of knowledge and willingness to assist whenever called upon is greatly appreciated.”

Pettinico joined CCSU in 1982 as assistant to the executive dean and executive director of alumni affairs and subsequently was named director of development and vice president for institutional advancement. He had served as director of development at Niagara University from which he holds the bachelor’s and master’s degrees. Over the years as CCSU’s advancement officer, Pettinico has had executive responsibility for fundraising, alumni affairs, community and economic development, government affairs, and university relations. Overseeing advancement services, he maintains new and existing fund reports, gift records, data infrastructure, reporting, donor relations, and stewardship.

“His dedication to public service has clearly informed his work in administration,” declared CCSU President Emeritus Richard L. Judd. “He is selfless in his work, loyal to Central, and disciplined. And esprit de corps always marked the many complicated operations he coordinated.”

Pettinico’s proficiency in his role as liaison to the Board of Directors of the CCSU Foundation was praised by William McCue, who, as a Foundation member, observed, “Nick has overseen the administration and growth of the Foundation. During the current financial turmoil, he continued on page 13
Charles Button: The World Is His Classroom

The world is Charles Button’s classroom. The associate professor of geography moves students outside the classroom to dig up soils in Stanley Quarter Park near campus or scramble over precipitous terrains in far-off Iceland to later lecture on its tremendous icecap, glaciers, and spouting geysers.

“My belief is that field and laboratory experiences serve as some of the finest reinforcements in helping students learn the principles of environmental science, ecology, earth systems, and natural phenomena,” he asserts. Accordingly, he incorporates field work into his courses, whether he is teaching climatology, climate change, soils and vegetation, water resources and management, energy resources, or global warming.

Personalized Education
Wayne Embacher, BA geography ’07, who has been a public school teacher in New York City and is now in Fairlawn, Ohio, comments, “In a soils class we went to Stanley Quarter Park with augers and field books. We got down and dirty, held soils in our hands, understood and knew what sandy loam or silt loam or clay feels like.” Embacher recalls his independent research project with Button: “We were actually floating down rivers and streams to develop an index as a tool for the measurement of their physical health. This was the high point of my time at Central. It was personalized education. Dr. Button facilitated my ability to gather and analyze data and put it into a coherent presentation, which we made together at a professional conference in Vermont.”

The highpoint, literally, for Karen Pohl, BA geography ’05, who is now a CCSU graduate student specializing in environmental studies, came as she stood atop Vatnajokull, the largest glacier in Iceland, during a field study last year. “Dr. Button, his wife, Beth, and kids, Sky and River, along with our group of students, walked on this magnificent glacier. It was beautiful but also sad because we saw evidence of global warming where the glacier had melted over a mile into the Atlantic.”

Button acknowledges that field work has a practical side: valuable experience for a job search. He cites for example CCSU alum Michael Cosker, geography ’06, who had been one of a group of Button’s students who worked on a Rapid Bioassessment of Willow Brook in New Britain. Button happily explains: “The students wrote up a report and presented it to DEP, and the state used the data in its final report on Connecticut water quality sent to the EPA. The names of our CCSU students were listed. When Mike Cosker graduated and was looking for a job in the St. John’s Water District in South Florida, he was the very last candidate to be interviewed. Mike pointed out his name on the report, and the interviewers were so impressed, they hired him on the spot as a water quality manager.”

From the Susquehanna to a PhD
Button recalls the journey of his own career. Growing up in North Bend on the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania, he says
the railroad town offered natural attractions, such as hunting, fishing, and hiking. As an undergraduate at Mansfield University of Pennsylvania, he discovered that the study of geography united his love of nature with his intellectual curiosity. “I saw myself getting a job as an urban planner, watershed manager, or wetlands scientist,” he recalls.

Although he held various professional planning posts while earning a master’s in geo-environmental studies from Shippensburg University, he concluded that “being in the private sector or government wasn’t a good fit for me.”

He adds, “When I applied for a job as a recycling coordinator in Asheville, North Carolina, the prospective supervisor told me, ‘You didn’t get the job. You sounded like a professor.’ I thought, ‘she’s right’ and started working on my PhD at the University of Cincinnati.”

**Tackling Global Issues**

Since joining CCSU in 2004, Button has been on the Excellence in Teaching Honor Roll several times. He is noted for his good-humored, lively, and rigorous teaching in which he bolsters lectures with new technology.

He has energetically contributed to environmental outreach activities. In 2007, Button was selected by Al Gore’s non-profit organization, The Climate Project, to serve as a national climate change educator. For creating a new course on energy resources and climate change, which he taught this past spring, and for helping to develop a University-wide sustainability plan and action coalition, Button received the 2007 Governor’s Connecticut Climate Change Leadership Award.

A member of the CCSU Environmental Sustainability Council, Button is founder and faculty chair of the CCSU Global Environmental Sustainability Action Coalition. In 2008, Button organized a major event—the CCSU Inaugural Global Environmental Sustainability Symposium. “We had nearly 2,000 attendees at this three-day event,” he comments. “It was part of a national teach-in event regarding global warming that took place simultaneously at 1,800 venues throughout the US. CCSU’s symposium was the largest in the nation.”

Button has spread his expertise by organizing a dozen conferences/seminars, and he has supervised internships and independent study projects, published steadily in professional journals, presented papers at academic conferences, and been the recipient of six grants to continue work in environmental studies.

Recently returned from teaching in Iceland, Button is ebullient: “Students were awed. Iceland is a physical geographer’s dream with its volcanoes and glaciers, two tectonic plates literally visible, and a new island, Surtsey, being formed off the coast. Plus, students interested in environmental science can appreciate how Iceland produces electricity from geothermal resources and has been converting to hydrogen energy to run vehicles and to power buildings. Iceland is a real live laboratory for my teaching.”

Back in his Connecticut classroom, Button urges his students to apply what they will learn during the semester to their lives, to value sustainability, and to live in a way today that will not sacrifice the quality of life for future generations.

— Geri Radacsi

**notable programs**

Assistant Professor of Technology and Engineering Education David Sianez headed the “Young Engineers Program,” held in late June and July.

The two-week program teaches New Britain middle school students engineering design in an exciting atmosphere. This summer the seventh- and eighth-graders constructed freestanding slingshots and calculated the weights of water balloons and their corresponding vector angles. At the conclusion of the program, Sianez sounded the command to “Launch!” and the balloons were rocketed toward a distant tub.
Students, Alumnus Put New Britain on Path to Sustainability

Four students from the School of Business have been hard at work helping to put New Britain municipal buildings on an energy sustainable track. Management and organization majors Michael Camarco, Eric Francis, and Kerry Keltos and international business major Brian Waddell undertook the five-week independent study course MGT 390 Management Topics: Community Engagement, Project Management, and Sustainability last spring. Under the advisement of Associate Professor of Management and Organization Drew Harris, the group designed a plan that would accurately measure the energy output and corresponding efficiency of local municipalities.

“Generally, public buildings in Connecticut are not very efficient,” says alumnus Bill Leahy BS ’70, MS ’76, chief operating officer of the Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University, and who, according to Camarco, “pioneered the project” for the students. The group turned to Leahy for guidance, and he responded by leading them through a full day of training on how to calculate energy output and efficiency for municipal buildings. He explained how to use the Energy Star computer application, which, backed by the US government and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), provides an international standard for energy efficiency.

Leahy also took the students on a walking tour of two New Britain municipal buildings so they could see first hand what caused a structure to be either efficient or wasteful in its energy consumption. They first looked at the police station, an older building constructed in 1967, where they found asbestos and inefficient energy use. The second facility was New Britain’s city hall, a much newer building. As expected, its energy output was much more efficient.

These two buildings were consistent with much of the group’s findings. Both Leahy and the students remarked that buildings from the ’50s and ’60s, due to their inefficiency and the cost to update, are often better knocked down than fixed. “Older buildings are more likely to have asbestos, and buildings built in the ’50s have large windows that let heat out,” noted Camarco. “Those from the ’80s are often poorly constructed,” continued Waddell. “Sadly, what often happens is that a school or other business will switch buildings and their previous unsustainable building will be reinhabited instead of torn down,” said Leahy. “Many of Connecticut’s municipal buildings were built between the ’50s and ’80s, a time of great economic growth. Energy was cheap, and no one thought about sustainability or thermal efficiency. Now we are faced with these ‘energy guzzlers’ that sap money from cities and taxpayers. To heat and cool a building costs a tremendous amount of money for these older buildings.”

After the initial training session and tour, Camarco, Francis, Keltos, and Waddell began the arduous process of entering data into the Energy Star program. “We had boxes of files,” recalls Francis. The numerous utility bills had to be sorted through, and relevant data entered into the program. The kilowatt usage per month, the delivery and supply costs of the electricity and oil (if used), occupied area, number of workers, and construction year all had to be recorded. Yet many facilities had missing bills, so estimates had to be made. Another problem was that the program database was designed for standard school buildings, and so certain buildings, such as
residential properties that had been retrofitted into office space, were difficult to benchmark. Since some structures could not be classified in the categories offered by the program, many potential case studies—about one third of those for which the students had gathered data—had to be discarded. After the demographics were collected and two years of energy bills entered, the Energy Star program calculated the relative efficiency of the buildings.

The students gave their findings to a performance contractor, who works to make businesses more sustainable, taking a percentage of the profits yielded by the higher level of energy efficiency. Those buildings that achieve a high level of efficiency receive an Energy Star plaque noting the accomplishment. The group’s final report will be presented to Mayor of New Britain Timothy Stewart.

Does sustainability pay off? Leahy says yes: “Energy inefficiency impacts education. Schools must often cut other programs in order to allocate money for rising energy costs. In the long run, it saves taxpayers money if buildings are more efficient. Connecticut has the second highest electrical rates in the US and oil prices are rising tremendously.”

The energy audit was not the first taste of leadership for these students; all have expansive resumes. Francis, Kelto, and Camarco all hold officer positions in the newly formed entrepreneurship club. Kelto notes that the club is planning a series of networking seminars for the coming year that will bring together students from all departments. “We’re encouraging anybody and everybody to start a business,” says Francis. Francis recently authored a winning business plan for the 2009 Connecticut Collegiate Business Plan Competition, collecting a joint-prize of $10,500 to facilitate the start up. Waddell has taught English in Colombia and is looking to join the others in the entrepreneurship club.

The students had much praise for those involved in the project. They thanked Drew Harris, for relinquishing the reigns of the project and allowing them to seek assistance when needed, and Bill Leahy for providing assistance. They also thanked the Department of Finance and the New Britain mayor’s office.

What did the four students take away from this experience? “We learned to be truly self sufficient,” says Waddell. “The course was everything claimed in its name: community engagement, project management, sustainability, and, most importantly, teamwork.”

— Luke Albertson

extra credit

Associate Registrar Matthew Bielawa discussed the use of civil and church records at the 2009 Polish Genealogical Conference held at CCSU in August. He was joined for his presentation by Professor of Modern Languages John Shea. In addition, Professor of History Mieczyslaw B. Biskupski, holder of the Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies, delivered a lecture on the history of Polonia. The conference was sponsored by the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast, Inc., and CCSU’s Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies.

CCSU Professor of Physical Education and Human Performance/Theatre Catherine Fellows has received the Connecticut Dance Alliance’s Distinguished Achievement Award. The award honors notable members of the dance community for their achievements in the world of dance. Fellows accepted the award at the Mort and Irma Handel Performing Arts Center at the University of Hartford on September 19.

In celebration of the 40th anniversary of the lunar landing, CCSU Assistant Professor of Physics and Earth Sciences Jennifer Piatek gave a lecture at the Copernican Planetarium on the past, present, and future of moon exploration.

The CCSU Police Department, in partnership with the New Britain Police Department and the CCSU Town and Gown Taskforce, was recently recognized by Governor M. Jodi Rell’s Prevention Partnership program. CCSU Chief of Police Jason Powell and Director of CCSU’s Counseling and Wellness Center Timothy Corbitt, who serves as co-chair of the Town and Gown task force, were both honored for the Innovative Police-Community Partnership in Preventing Underage Drinking, which has resulted in a 74 percent reduction in alcohol-related hospitalizations of students.

Interim Vice President for Student Affairs Laura Tordenti was lauded as a “special honoree” during the 13th annual New Britain YWCA “Women in Leadership” luncheon. The event honored women who have achieved success in careers throughout central Connecticut.

new book

Professor of Teacher Education, Emeritus, Carole Shmurak’s new book, Death at Hilliard High, is the third in a series following professor Susan Lombardi, who helps solve several mysteries at Hilliard High. Dr. Shmurak taught at private schools in New York and Connecticut prior to teaching at CCSU.
Focus on Scholarship: Beth Merenstein—Analyzing the Reproduction of Modern Racism

Beth Merenstein remembers being shaken by reading *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* as an English major at Clark University. Malcolm X observed that “the first word immigrants learn when they get off the boat was the N-word,” says Merenstein. “Malcolm X was referring to waves of past immigration, and that book was published in 1965. After my graduation in 1993, I was teaching English as a Second Language in San Francisco and when I heard immigrants uttering the same offensive and derogatory slurs, I became troubled, but also curious about the origins/sources of such views.”

Now associate professor of sociology at CCSU, Merenstein says that experience shaped her decision to pursue a master’s and doctorate in sociology at the University of Connecticut. Issues of immigration, race and ethnicity, and political sociology have been the focus of her teaching and research, culminating in her first book, *Immigrants and Modern Racism: Reproducing Inequality* (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2008).

"Modern Racism"

Merenstein’s book explores how immigrants come to learn about race and racism and in so doing are actually helping to reproduce it. She contends that immigrants learn, absorb, and incorporate into their identity a dominant racial ideology referred to as “modern racism.” She explains, “This ideology holds that everyone is treated equally, that policies ensuring equal treatment are unnecessary, that hard work will provide success, and that any lack of success comes from natural or cultural deficiencies.” Racial hierarchy—that is, white Americans on top, black Americans on the bottom, and all others in between—is an essential piece of this ideology.

Immigrants, Merenstein states, learn this ideology not only from the racial social structure surrounding them but also from their own racial “habitus” — the experiences and beliefs of those around them combined with their own experiences and beliefs. The book explores how immigrants come to see the racial structure, how that affects their own identities and interactions with others, and how they themselves affect this racial structure by accepting, altering, or challenging the dominant ideologies in a process Merenstein calls “racial reproduction.”

**Extensive Interviews**

The book’s research is based on extensive interviews conducted with immigrants, a majority of whom had come from Latin America and the Caribbean during the last 20 years to an unnamed city in the northeastern US. Merenstein reveals areas of common views: negative attitudes towards African Americans and the belief that the US is a meritocracy based on the notion that those who are not successful are simply not working hard enough and have only themselves to blame. One of her conclusions is that immigrants develop attitudes about races that reinforce the dominant ideology. “We must recognize the fact that these new immigrants are following in the footsteps of their immigrant predecessors—not in wanting to achieve a white racial identity but in believing that native-born black Americans are on the lower end of the racial hierarchy due to their own failures and lack of hard work. This adoption of modern racism means that the new immigrants are helping to re-create the very system they are learning.”

However entrenched these attitudes were, Merenstein points out, the immigrants she interviewed expressed some limited challenges to the racial system. She writes, “Many refused to accept the strict white-black binary constructions of race, retaining a nationality or ethnic identity separate and unrelated to race. It is possible that the rejection of strict racial categories can eventually lead to a challenge of racial categories altogether.”

Some researchers are now seeing that children of immigrants are not buying into the idea of the American Dream of their parents, because they see parents working hard, but schools and
neighborhoods where they live are inferior. “It remains to be seen what ideas these children will formulate on race,” says Merenstein. “We’re not seeing racial minorities uniting their resources to challenge the dominant structure, nothing large enough to make a major impact.”

**Looking at Local Immigration Policies**

Merenstein’s current research has branched out to local immigration policies and enforcement practices. Focusing on Danbury and New Haven, Merenstein is studying whether the immigration policies of these cities are restrictive or open. “Preliminarily, I’ve found that Danbury has a law that deputizes police to check immigration status and enables police enforcement of its immigration policies. New Haven issued Elm City Resident cards, allowing any resident of the city to use them as legitimate identification cards,” she states. Merenstein hopes to determine what factors contribute to creation of restrictive or open immigration laws in these cities.

Merenstein has made presentations based on her current research at annual meetings of professional sociology societies. She has also shared the conclusions made in her book on the reproduction of racism through professional presentations and has contributed articles to various noted sociology journals.

She initiated a new course on immigration, which she has taught for three consecutive years. Merenstein conducted a pilot study in 2008, funded by a CCSU summer curriculum grant, which has resulted in a new across-the-curriculum, diversity-designated course that includes mathematics, economics, and teacher education. This course was approved as part of the general education curriculum this past semester by the Curriculum Committee and Faculty Senate.

**Unique Scholarship**

What are the theoretical implications of Merenstein’s research? Certainly it adds to the general literature on structural racism, racial formation, whiteness studies, immigrant racial identity theory, and, especially, social reproduction theory. “While numerous authors have examined the class implications of social reproduction theory, few have specifically explored the ways in which race, racial inequality, and racism are socially reproduced,” explains Merenstein. “By linking racial identity to the larger racial social structure, I was able to examine race reproduction—the process of reproducing racism and racial inequality.”

—Geri Radacsi

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**Congressman Murphy Tours CCSU Worksites**

Connecticut’s US Representative for the Fifth District Christopher Murphy shown below, talking with, from left, student workers Carlos Bauza and Matthew Rodriguez and Manager of the Barnes and Noble campus bookstore Jack O’Leary) visited four worksites on Central’s campus in August in a tour of the Financial Healthcare Information Technology Engineering Careers (FHITEC) program. The six-week program combines focused career exploration with classroom instruction and provides high school students a paid opportunity to learn job seeking and employment skills, as well as the chance to gain meaningful work experience. Murphy discussed with the students and their advisors the valuable learning experiences gained through this program.

The FHITEC program employed 60 students from New Britain High School and E.C. Goodwin Technical High School in 22 locations, nine of which were on CCSU’s campus. Students work 16 hours per week and receive four hours of career instruction at CCSU’s Institute of Technology and Business Development, learning from industry professionals in one of four career clusters: finance/entrepreneurialism, healthcare, information technology, and engineering/manufacturing.

The program is funded by Capital Workforce Partners (CWP). The Consolidated School District of New Britain (CSDNB) received the funding and hired ITBD to run the Tier III Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program. ITBD has worked with CSDNB on this type of summer work program for seven years. Spokesperson for CWP Sandra Rodriguez remarked, “The CCSU sites are really ‘three for the price of one’ worksites—giving youths 1) meaningful work experience, 2) exposure to a college environment, and 3) connectivity to the high school system in New Britain.”

CCSU President Jack Miller, New Britain Schools Superintendent Doris Kurtz, CWP Chief Operating Officer Alex Johnson, and Future Workforce Program Manager Dennis Mink also attended the tour.
The University will be partnering with the Cromwell Public Schools and 11 other Connecticut school districts on a three-year grant of $965,000 from the US Department of Education. The “American Voices” grant will enable faculty in CCSU’s history department to work with area teachers, who will engage in intensive professional development in content and teaching strategies, to reinvigorate the study of American history in elementary and middle school classrooms.

This news comes after the conclusion of a similar four-year grant. In announcing the award, President Jack Miller said, “We are very pleased to be awarded another sizable grant in teacher education. This follows on the heels of a grant, held over the last four years, that also enabled us to work with area school teachers. As an institution, we are proud of the role we play in enhancing the quality of education in our state’s schools. This is a further demonstration of CCSU’s commitment to making a positive difference in our community and state.”

Miller expressed gratitude to Congressmen John Larson and Christopher Murphy for their strong support of the grant. Larson noted, “I am proud to support CCSU’s application for the Teaching American History grant program. As a former history teacher, I believe the quality of teaching depends upon the tools provided to educators. This program, through the partnership with the University and community historical societies, will provide local teachers the means to passionately educate our students and lead them to gain a greater interest in our nation’s history.”

The Teaching American History grant program funds projects for up to five years. Grantees must partner with one or more organizations that have extensive knowledge of American history, such as libraries, museums, nonprofit history or humanities organizations, and higher education institutions. Central’s History Department has chosen to work with the Connecticut Historical Society Museum, along with the CCSU Department of Reading and Language Arts. Participating school districts include Bristol, Cromwell, East Hampton, Ellington, Marlborough, Meriden, Newington, Regional School District #4 and #10, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, and Wethersfield. Bristol Superintendent of Schools Philip Streifer said the program is “very curricular related and set up to assist our efforts. It’s great for the university and for us.”

Assistant Professor of History John Tully, who worked with regional superintendents to develop the grant proposal, lauded the community engagement aspect of the project: “We are happy to be working again with local teachers in support of their efforts to provide Connecticut’s children with high quality primary resources for the American history classroom. This effort builds on the University’s mission to engage the community and on our long tradition of excellence in working with education professionals.”

The program seeks to integrate history with literacy and improve reading comprehension and writing skills. History-related texts, ranging from primary sources to trade books and novels of historical fiction, will be utilized in the classroom. Writing activities will also be implemented to strengthen student writing abilities while addressing key topics in US history. Speaking on behalf of the History Department, Tully noted that he is “especially excited that we will be working with colleagues in the Department of Reading and Language Arts.”

Numerous programs are being implemented as part of the grant program. During the academic year, teachers of the participating middle and high schools will enroll in reading/study groups which deal with a particular historical theme, such as the Revolution. A workshop offered by CCSU’s Reading and Language Arts Department on integrating history content into reading and writing instruction will offer strategies for work-
ing effectively with history-related material, and teams of teachers will work to develop integrated lesson plans and then observe each other’s classroom implementation.

A summer institute, headed by historians and museum educators, will explore topics raised in the study groups. In addition, participants will visit museum exhibitions and work with hands-on artifact kits developed by the Connecticut Historical Society and online “Historical Scene Investigation” modules, learning to utilize these assets for classroom use. Teachers can also apply for mini-grants to design additional projects to enhance history teaching at their school.

Connecticut is one of 38 states awarded a total of $116 million for improving the teaching of American history. According to US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, “These grants give school districts an ideal opportunity to partner with other organizations that possess content expertise to embark on a journey to enhance American history education and student academic achievement. We should seize the moment, and make history by improving the quality of teaching in US history classes, as we prepare students for future careers.”

– Luke Albertson

**in memoriam**

Associate Professor of Modern Language Gloria Marie Caliendo died unexpectedly July 30, 2009. Caliendo spent time in Ecuador and El Salvador where she founded teaching education centers and also served on the executive board of the International Desuggestology. During her time at CCSU, she served as the director of professional studies in the Modern Language Department and as the associate director of the Center for Caribbean and Latin American Studies. In addition, Caliendo was an active member of the Faculty Senate Diversity Committee and several other committees.

**in the news**

CCSU Men’s Head Basketball Coach Howie Dickenman was mentioned in a New Britain Herald article on the day camp he created for children interested in playing basketball. The camp, which took place in Detrick Gymnasium in early July, involved participants in every aspect of the game, from practicing free throws to team games. CCSU Men’s Assistant Basketball Coach Steve Curran assisted with the camp.

CCSU Professor of Anthropology Kenneth Feder led a group of students and volunteers to an old Barkhamsted village in People’s State Forest as part of a CCSU archaeology field study this summer. The Republican-American reported that during the four-week program volunteer Lacy Benson discovered pieces of plates and saucers estimated to be from the 18th or 19th century. An article about Feder’s archaeological field school can also be found in the August 2009 issue of Connecticut Magazine.

Dean of Arts and Sciences Susan Pease was quoted in a column on decriminalizing drugs in The Hartford Courant for her work at the Naylor-CCSU Professional Development School (PDS). As a PDS university facilitator, Riem assists Naylor teachers with curriculum development, in addition to helping CCSU students, in her words, “develop a deep connection to a local urban school, learning and applying their content in an authentic setting.”

CCSU Associate Professor of English Ravi Shankar’s account of his wrongful arrest in New York City this summer was published by multiple news agencies, including the Herald Tribune and The Hartford Courant. His phone interview with NPR’s Michel Martin was featured in a story titled “Poet Says He Was Arrested for ‘Driving While Brown.’”

Adjunct Lecturer of Music Susan Spaulding was the focus of a New Britain Herald article in July. Spaulding spoke about living with multiple sclerosis and her love of music, specifically her love for the French horn.

Professor of Biology David Spector wrote a piece for The Daily Hampshire Gazette about the Mississippi Kite, a medium-sized hawk that breeds primarily in the southeastern United States. The article, which appeared in late July, concerned the discovery of several breeding sites for the birds in New England last summer.

Scott Van Verdegem, a mechanical engineering major at CCSU, was mentioned in an article in The Day in June. Van Verdegem was promoted to Eagle Scout after completing a community service project with the Alliance for the Living in New London. Van Verdegem held a can drive to raise funds to help purchase materials and pay for the construction of five storage shelves for the organization.

**CCSU Theatre: 16 Weeks = 16 Shows**

Excitement is plentiful at the Fine Arts Center (Maloney Hall), where the department of theatre is embarking on its fall theatre season, called “Mr. Toad’s Wild Ride.” The season is focused on expanding the department’s work to the larger campus and surrounding communities. It explores wildly new possibilities in style and with location, from a production of Anton Chekhov’s classic play “The Seagull” performing in the black box theater to Open Mike Free Style Poetry on the radio; from a classic commedia dell’arte performance of “The Servant of Two Masters” in Davidson Hall’s Torp Theatre to a “cell phone play” entitled “Continued Spaces” that takes place all over campus; from simulcast television cabarets to an original piece about playwright/political activist Federico Garcia Lorca, “Lorca” in Welte Auditorium; from acclaimed Charles Mee play “Under Construction” to one acts directed by five of CCSU’s most promising young directors. Visit www.theatre.ccsu.edu/season.html for the most up-to-date information.
CCSU Student in the Spotlight: Luke Albertson

When CCSU junior and secondary education major Luke Albertson began to think about the topic for his Honors Program’s thesis, he didn’t need to look far to find it. As a vegetarian living on campus, Luke decided to focus on the difficulties students with dietary restrictions can face, giving particular emphasis to students who have cultural restrictions on what they can eat.

Albertson decided to become a vegetarian when he started college. He says, “I came up with the idea for my thesis by looking introspectively at what was important in my life. When I came to college, I started practicing vegetarianism, and so I decided to explore food restrictions in different cultures. I had many questions: ‘Why did Jews stop eating pork? Why don’t Hindus eat beef?’ I wanted to find answers, going back in history as far as I could.”

When he began his education at CCSU in the fall of 2007, Luke joined the Honor’s Program. While appreciating the tuition assistance offered by the program to students with high GPAs, he says that he mainly wanted to join the program because it offers more challenges than most college courses.

“Perhaps the greatest strength of the CCSU Honors Program is its interdisciplinary aspect,” Luke says. “The Honors courses supplement general education with exciting, insightful classes that encourage a more worldly citizen. The professors push students not only to read and write critically but also to emphasize the importance of being insightful and broad-minded in approaching a variety of issues.”

Assistant Professor of English Aimee Pozorski, who co-taught Luke in an Honors course with Assistant Professor of Sociology A. Fiona Pearson, believes that Luke’s success in the program is due to his strong work ethic and genuine talent. “Luke was a driving force in class discussion and an exemplary writer,” Pozorski states, “and I believe this is true because his insistence on perpetual inquiry was matched only by his talent for written and verbal communication.”

That drive for answers and knowledge will certainly be useful when he begins working on his community engagement project during his senior year at CCSU. For the project, Luke plans to focus on area schools and students. He hopes to poll students on food restrictions and then analyze the school menus to see whether those needs are being properly addressed.

“I’ll turn my focus back to the United States, looking at public schools and the choices that are offered for children with food restrictions,” Luke says. “I’ll look at how well their needs are being met and also what happens when the food they require is not made readily available. I will also plan to propose new legislation that would make certain food options mandatory for schools. Finally, I’ll present my research and findings at scholarly conferences.”

When looking at colleges, Albertson knew that CCSU was the right school for him. “I came to Central because I wanted a quality, affordable college where the teachers were more focused on teaching and student advancement than on publishing and self-advancement,” he stated.

Despite a busy schedule, Albertson also knew that he wanted to continue to participate in cross country while at Central. Running as part of the CCSU team for the past two years, he explains, “I know college is about education, but if all you do is take classes and do homework, you’re missing out on another level of experience. While sports take a tremendous commitment, they also keep you sane. They give you a break from mental exercises and push you into physical ones.”

With his intense interest in schools, it’s perhaps no surprise that Luke hopes to teach high school English after completing his degree. “I want to pass on the knowledge and skills I’ve gleaned from my teachers and professors,” says Albertson. “I’ve had great experiences during my schooling, and so I want to stay in the field of education.” He hopes to return to his high school alma mater, as both a teacher and coach, and to “keep the flow of knowledge going for generations.”

— Heather Lusebrink
Nicholas Pettinico Honored with CCSU’s 2009 Distinguished Service Award

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led the planning and decision-making that has placed Foundation’s assets in the best possible position to achieve challenging goals.”

Students have directly benefited from Pettinico’s multi-faceted advancement efforts. “Through his continuing efforts to secure external funding and facilitate the award of scholarships to high-achieving and financially disadvantaged students, Nick contributes greatly to the diverse community that comprises CCSU,” commented Associate Director of the Center for International Education Lisa Marie Bigelow.

Illustrating Pettinico’s fundraising accomplishments, former Director of Intercollegiate Athletics C. J. Jones, Jr., said, “Over some 20 years, the Athletic Endowment Fund has grown from thousands of dollars to millions. The Educational Opportunity Fund has grown from $25,000 to nearly half a million.”

A vibrant and energetic contributor to the wider community, Pettinico was lauded by New Britain Chamber of Commerce President William Millerick for his leadership in the Chamber on behalf of the University. Millerick said, “The University has been fortunate to have had Nick’s talents for all these years, and, just as importantly, the city has benefited.”

As a member of the Community Mental Health Affiliates’ (CMHA) Board of Directors, Pettinico exhibited managerial acumen as CMHA wound its way through several mergers and acquisitions of other nonprofit behavioral health providers. “Nick’s guidance and stewardship as chairman of the finance committee has helped restore the organization to financial stability during trying economic times,” stated CMHA President & CEO Raymond Gorman. Appointed vice chair of the CMHA board last November, Pettinico will be involved in strategic planning and system development of CMHA.

Around the CCSU campus, from athletic fields to academic buildings, there is evidence of Pettinico’s efforts to advance the University’s mission and goals. His sophistication in finance, empathy in human relations, and commitment to keeping CCSU in the vanguard of higher education have made him worthy of this year’s Distinguished Service Award.

Members of the 2009 DSA Committee were Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies Paulette Lemma, Executive Director of the Center for Public Policy and Social Research Steven Kliger, Assistant Professor of Sociology A. Fiona Pearson, Professor of Music Pamela Perry, and Director of the Center for Advising & Career Exploration Kenneth Poppe.

— Geri Radacsi

Fine Mezzotints Donated by CCSU Alumnus

Five prints rendered in the centuries-old mezzotint technique by a master of this method are now part of the Art Department’s collection at CCSU thanks to the generosity of alumnus Robert Forauer and his wife, Barbara.

The signed, limited edition, numbered original mezzotints are by artist G. H. Rothe, who excelled in the mezzotint method—rarely used today—of engraving a copper or steel plate by scraping and burnishing areas to produce effects of light and shadow.

President Jack Miller accepted the artworks on behalf of the University, and Vice President for Institutional Advancement Christopher Galligan stated, “Through this great show of generosity by one of our alumni, we are able to let a wide audience of viewers on the CCSU campus and beyond enjoy these unique pieces.”

The artworks are to be housed in the University’s Art Department. Arts & Sciences Dean Susan Pease declared, “I think this is a wonderful gift. The mezzotints are spectacular, absolutely beautiful, and add distinction to our Art Department’s collection. I’d love us to have a public showing of them in the future, perhaps as soon as the next academic year.”

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Alumni Association Welcomes New Leadership

An election was held during the annual meeting of the CCSU Alumni Association to fill seven seats on the Board of Directors. Post President of the Alumni Association Christine Sullivan ’74 MS ’81 presided over the meeting. Elected to serve three-year terms were Elaine Brachman ’97 EdD ’05, Paula Chapla ’78, John “Corky” Mazurek ’83 MS ’91, and Richard Sullivan ’75, Curtis Wiggins ’93, Jaclyn Piscitelli ’07, and Kim Wachtelhausen ’81 were elected to serve one-year terms. The new slate of officers will be headed by President of the Alumni Association Frederick Agee III ’80, First Vice President Fernando Rosa ’75, Second Vice President Andrew Felder ’02 MBA ’08, Treasurer L. Edward Vescovi ’84, Secretary Kelley Hedley ’97, and Christine Sullivan.

CCSU offers a growing online social network to enable alumni, students, faculty, staff, and prospective students to get connected and stay connected to the CCSU online community. To learn more about CCSU, exchange information, contact friends, search for jobs, enhance a career, or follow the Blue Devils, check out our online gateway to CCSU’s Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter sites at www.ccsu.edu/connect. The Alumni Office also encourages alumni to visit www.ccsu.edu/alumnipdate to update their contact information so they can receive CCSU e-News and other valuable University information.
President Obama has honored Jane Callery, an outstanding Central alumna, with the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. A veteran educator and leader skilled in shaping science curriculum in Connecticut schools, Callery is currently magnet schools science curriculum and instruction specialist at the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC).

One of 89 national recipients, Callery will receive the award in the fall at a White House ceremony. A “true-blue” graduate, Callery earned the BS ’92 in elementary education, MS ’97 in general science, and Certificate of Advanced Study (6th year) in educational leadership ’01—all from CCSU. In 2004 she received the CCSU Alumni Association and the School of Education and Professional Studies Outstanding Teacher awards. Her husband, Tom Callery, is an associate professor of theatre at CCSU.

Her noteworthy achievement was aired on NBC 30 network news. “I was overjoyed when I was informed about receiving the award,” exclaimed Callery. “I was so honored, because it has been my privilege to help bring about change enabling students to think critically and to discuss their ideas among themselves to spur their own learning in science.”

She harkens back to a time when for six years, prior to her CREC position, she was a science teacher and science curriculum facilitator for grades 6–7 at Two Rivers Magnet Middle School in East Hartford. She said: “That was an exciting time. I was able to build a science program from the ground up; and I had the best of both worlds in the classroom and as a leader out in the science education community.”

Callery embraces the challenge of building educational bonds among magnet school students from different backgrounds—at Two Rivers (with five districts) and at CREC (where she oversees PK–12 science teachers at 12 schools). “Students who attend magnet schools are risk takers, often brave and unwavering,” she notes. “It’s a great environment for getting people together to be empowered to learn science and has been instrumental in closing the achievement gap in Connecticut.”

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is awarded annually to the best pre-college-level science and math teachers from across the country. The winners are selected by a panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators following an initial selection process done at the state level. Each year the award alternates, going either to science and math teachers in grades K through 6 (as it is this year) or to those teaching in grades 7 through 12.

Winners of the Presidential Teaching Award receive $10,000 awards from the National Science Foundation to be used at their discretion. Callery indicated she plans to use the award to pursue her doctorate in science and science education. They also receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, DC, for a White House awards ceremony and several days of educational and celebratory events, including visits with members of Congress and science agency leaders.

“There is no higher calling than furthering the educational advancement of our nation’s young people and encouraging and inspiring our next generation of leaders,” President Obama said. “These awards represent a heartfelt salute of appreciation to a remarkable group of individuals who have devoted their lives and careers to helping others and in doing so have helped us all.”

Callery’s next adventure? She is one of 18 outstanding pre-college teachers selected to participate in a workshop for master pre-college teachers of atmospheric science topics presented by the American Meteorological Society (AMS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) at the National Weather Service (NWS) Training Center in Kansas City, MO, titled Project Atmosphere: Sensing, Analyzing, and Forecasting. This experience will include a day trip to the NWS forecast office in Topeka, KS.

She explained, “The purpose of this AMS/NOAA initiative is to promote minority participation in science through enhancing teachers’ abilities to generate interest in and understanding of science, technology, and mathematics. Program goals include training teachers who will, upon return to their districts, peer train teachers and/or pre-college minority students on various atmospheric science topics.”

— Geri Radacsi
Asburn Pinnock, one of 16 children born in a thatched hut with a dirt floor in Clarendon Parish, Jamaica, believes in the power of a good education to transform lives.

“Education pulled me up and many others too,” says Dr. Pinnock, who holds the master’s in international area studies ’96 and the EdD in educational leadership ’06 from CCSU. Now Pinnock, 43, is in a position to galvanize his philosophy to put a high-quality education in reach of all Jamaicans. He’s been appointed principal (comparable to president) of Sam Sharpe Teachers’ College in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

For more than a decade Dr. Pinnock has been the on-site coordinator of the CCSU-Sam Sharpe Teachers’ College master’s programs in educational leadership and in reading and language arts. “Since 1997 more than 500 Jamaican educators have completed degrees (in these areas) and Dr. Pinnock has been the point person for this effort,” comments Professor of Educational Leadership Anthony Rigazio-DiGilio, who was Pinnock’s graduate professor and is now his colleague. “He’s an outstanding educator who is recognized throughout the island for his abilities in technology, social studies, and organizational leadership.” CCSU has a contractual arrangement with Sam Sharpe in Jamaica to offer master’s degree programs to educators wishing to update their educational credentials.

Sam Sharpe is a government-owned and -operated teachers’ college for 600 day and evening students, located on a 16-acre mountainous campus with three residence halls. About 5,000 students have graduated since the institution’s inception in 1975. Pinnock graduated from Sam Sharpe in 1987, receiving a teacher’s diploma (equivalent to an associate’s degree) in social studies and history, before earning a bachelor’s degree in history, economics, and politics from the University of West Indies in 1991.

In 1994 Pinnock came to CCSU on a two-week exchange program underwritten by a USAID grant. “I was inspired to study at CCSU for a master’s degree and talked to Dr. Tony Rigazio-DiGilio and Dr. Karen Beyard [also a professor of educational leadership] about working part-time in teacher education while I pursued my master’s,” explains Pinnock. Before he completed his degree in 1996, Pinnock was contacted by Dr. Cecile Walden, then principal of Sam Sharpe, to explore ways that CCSU could help strengthen faculty credentials there. “Tony thought a master’s in educational leadership would be the best way to go,” remembers Pinnock. “Thereafter, the partnership between CCSU and Sam Sharpe was created, and I was the site coordinator in Jamaica.”

Now that Dr. Walden has retired, Pinnock, as the principal designee, envisions a key goal for his institution: “In the next five years, I would like Sam Sharpe to offer a four-year baccalaureate full-time program. Currently, students with a diploma [associate’s degree] can upgrade to a bachelor’s degree offered through a consortium of nine teachers’ colleges in Jamaica. I’d like to see the phasing out of the diploma program and to replace it with a baccalaureate degree. This would be in keeping with the Jamaican government’s mandate that in the next five years teachers hold a bachelor of education degree.”

Pinnock credits CCSU with helping to shape hundreds of educators in Jamaica. He explains that during the 1980s Professor of Mathematical Sciences George Miller (now deceased) was resident tutor at Sam Sharpe through the Caribbean Math/Science Summer Institute, which was directed by Professor of Mathematical Sciences, Emeritus, William Driscoll. “In 1984 our first computer lab was set up through the math/science program thanks to the shipment of hundreds of computers to Sam Sharpe,” according to Pinnock. “Students could transfer up to 15 credits to CCSU, and many took the opportunity to study there. Many Jamaicans, CCSU graduates, are now in key positions, such as reading specialists, principals, and education admin-
EdD Alum Asburn Pinnock Named Principal of Sam Sharpe Teachers' College

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administrators or officers,” he states. “I am so proud to hold two degrees from CCSU, this center of excellence in international education.”

He recalls the day he collected his own EdD. “Having the degree was a gift to my mother and grandmother who encouraged me to pursue my education in my early years. It was a milestone in my self-actualization,” he recalls. “One of the largest lessons I learned was that education can break down any barriers, once it is used appropriately and not for personal gain. The more you share education, the more you get from it.” While his wife, Michele, and children, Bethany and Angelique, were thrilled at his doctoral achievement, Pinnock laughs, “My father was the happiest. He hugged me and almost lifted me off the ground.”

— Geri Radacsi

Fine Mezzotints Donated by CCSU Alumnus

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Robert Forauer, who graduated from Central in 1968 as a biology/general science major, said, “As someone with a scientific mind, I can appreciate the intricacies that go into the complicated technique of making mezzotints and the discipline of anatomy exhibited in these works. The engraving involved reminds me of the precision work engaged in by my father and brothers who were machinists in New Britain.” Forauer learned machinist skills although he had a long career in teaching and went on to earn a master’s in elementary education at Castleton State College, VT. He taught since 1972 in the Wallingford Elementary School, located south of Rutland, Vermont, until he retired after 30 years.

Forauer reminisced, “My education at Central was great and came inexpensively. In the 60s, science and math were being promulgated because of the US-Russian rivalry, and state colleges had a program that provided for tuition refund for science majors. I lived with my grandmother in New Britain, kept up my grades, and received my tuition refund as a science major. All I had to pay for was my books. So, I wanted, through this art gift, to give something back to CCSU for the great value of my education.”

He added, “G. H. Rothe is an artist of high caliber and her prints deserve to be brought before a large audience. I was pleased with the enthusiasm with which the donation was greeted.”

Rothe, who passed away last year, was the daughter of a master goldsmith and grew up in Wiedenbruck, West Germany, during the 1940s. She studied painting and art history throughout Europe before settling in New York and later Carmel, California. Her expression of artistic choice was the mezzotint technique, and her prints expanded beyond traditional black and white through the infusion of a full spectrum of colors. In a retrospective exhibition of her work in 2007, the Riedel Art Gallery, which represented her work, offered this description: “In all the works of G.H. Rothe pictorial presentations are thrillingly connected with surrealistic elements which cause the viewer to have an inward dialogue as if looking through a window into mythic spheres.”

— Geri Radacsi
Fall 2009 Concert Series

Mon., September 14
Faculty Recital
7:30 pm
Larry Gareau, trumpet
Torp Theatre in Davidson

Wed., September 16
“A Little Night Music” Concert Series
7:30 pm
Coast Guard Band Ensemble
Torp Auditorium

Thurs., September 24
Senior Recital
7:30 pm
Lindsey Dexter, clarinet
Torp Theatre in Davidson

Mon., October 19
Marching Band/Jazz Band Concert
7:30 pm
Welte Auditorium

Tues., October 20
Chamber Players Concert
7:30 pm
Torp Theatre in Davidson

Wed., October 21
“A Little Night Music” Concert Series
7:30 pm
“Tres Vidas” A chamber music theatre work conceived & performed by The Core Ensemble
Torp Theatre in Davidson

Tues., November 3
Faculty Recital
12:30 pm
Thomas Seddon, trumpet
Torp Theatre in Davidson

Thurs., November 5
Student Recital
12:40 pm
Torp Theatre in Davidson

Sun., November 8
Graduate Recital
2:00 pm
Kenneth Garrison, euphonium
Torp Theatre in Davidson

Wed., November 18
“A Little Night Music” Concert Series
7:30 pm
“Double Exposure”
Music for double reeds
Brian Kershner, bassoon; Oliver Homann, oboe; Annette Shapiro, piano
Welte Auditorium

Tues., November 24
Student Recital
12:40 pm
Torp Theatre in Davidson

Thurs., December 3
Student Recital
12:40 pm
Torp Theatre in Davidson

Thurs., December 10
Percussion Concert
12:40 pm
Welte Room 019

Fri., December 4
Chorale & University Singers Concert
7:30 pm
South Church, New Britain, CT

Mon., December 7
Sinfonietta Concert
7:30 pm
Torp Theatre in Davidson

Tues., December 8
Jazz Combo Concert
7:30 pm
Torp Theatre in Davidson

Wed., December 9
Wind Symphony Concert
7:30 pm
Welte Auditorium

Thurs., December 10
Chamber Players Concert
7:30 pm
Torp Theatre in Davidson

Fri., December 4
Chorale & University Singers Concert
7:30 pm
South Church, New Britain, CT

Mon., December 7
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7:30 pm
Welte Auditorium

Thurs., December 10
Percussion Concert
12:40 pm
Welte Room 019

Thurs., December 10
Jazz Band Concert
7:30 pm
Torp Theatre in Davidson

Free parking is available in the garage adjacent to Maloney Hall.
Free admission unless otherwise noted.

For more information:
www.music.ccsu.edu/concert.html
or 860-832-2912.

All concerts are free unless noted otherwise.
All concerts are on the CCSU campus unless otherwise indicated. Founders Hall and Torp Theatre are located in Davidson Hall.
For more information, please contact the Music Department at 832-2912.
*NBMAA: Admission $9; Sunday Museum Hours 12-5
*NBMAA Student and Senior Citizen discounts
Cross Country: Men and Women Look to Fast Future

With many new faces eager for a shot at the conference championships, the rising men’s cross country team looks to build on past results. Returning runners Samuel Alexander and Kevin Tiernan were the top freshmen on last year’s quad, led by captain Ry Sanderson. With a relatively young, but accomplished, team and the recent appointment of CCSU alum Eric Blake ’02 to head coach, the Blue Devils are looking to craft a fruitful future.

On the women’s side, Head Coach for Cross Country and Track Brenda Webb also hopes to lead her runners to a top finish. The team looks for Katherine Bossardet, along with a solid pack of runners, to lead the team during this year’s season.

Men’s Cross Country: New Team, Fresh Focus

The men’s team has had much success in the past under the leadership of current senior Sanderson, who ran to a third-place finish at the Northeast Conference Championships, where Alexander captured 21st and Tiernan came in 32nd — bringing the team to a seventh place overall finish. Instead of being complacent about this result, the team continued to strive toward faster times and an improved conference standing in the future.

At the NEC outdoor track conference meet, Alexander finished fourth in the 10,000 meter run with a time of 32:02, and Tiernan came in ninth, 34 seconds back. Sanderson took second place in both the 5K and 10K races. Says Blake, “Sam has entered the season in top shape; he has made tremendous strides in 16 months. Kevin is as fit as anyone on the team. We look for both of them, and Ry Sanderson, to lead the team to a successful season.”

Team member Ben Joyce is proud of Blake’s efforts to recruit and work with local runners: “Sam and Kevin are great examples of how CCSU is taking Connecticut athletes and turning them from good to great.” Tiernan also has utmost confidence in the new head coach, remarking that “Blake is interested in getting us as far as we can go. I have complete faith in him.” Alexander agrees: “He’s the best man for the job, by far.”

“The program has been elevated,” comments Sanderson. “We have a remarkable young squad, new recruits, and a top-level coaching staff.”

In response to the preseason conference ranking of seventh place, Alexander remarks, “They’re underestimating us. They don’t know about the recruits we have and how hard we’ve been working over the summer. This year we’re definitely going to be a contender for top four at the NEC conference meet — and for first place next year.” Tiernan continues, “The coaches in the poll are judging us based on past years, but we’re not looking to the past — we’re looking to the future. This year we have a profoundly deep squad, and I know we’ll beat that ranking.” Last year, the Blue Devil indoor and outdoor track and field teams surpassed both preseason rankings at their conference meets.

Alexander has much confidence in the team’s aspirations: “I am certain the team can be top four at this year’s conference meet, and I know we’ll be in contention to win in 2010.” He remarks that the Blue Devils’ interpersonal relationships are stronger than those found on most teams, and he attributes this to the team’s strength and its depth of talent: “We know each other very well and we do everything together, both in and out of practice. Cross country is usually thought of as an individual sport, but when you train with your teammates everyday, doing workouts and two-hour runs, nothing is individual — you help each other become better.”
On the Women’s Side, Bossardet Leads the Pack

Returning junior Katherine Bossardet has already had much success while at Central. She earned All-NEC Honors for her 14th place finish at last year’s NEC Championships, running through Monmouth University’s course in a time of 19 minutes and 32 seconds.

“Our returning runners are key to leading our team to a successful season. We have great captains this year (Kim Savino, Ashlynn Haywood, and Alyssa Cole), who are not only seasoned racers, but also effective leaders,” notes Bossardet. “Coach Webb is always there to guide us as well, and, with the addition of assistant coach Bob Farrell, we’re certainly on the road to a great season.”

Also returning for the Blue Devils is Nicole Coiteux, who finished 23rd during last season’s NEC meet. Cole finished 22nd.

“I have been excited about this group of athletes; they work very well together as a team and therein lies their success. Pack running is important in the sport of cross country, and every athlete plays a role in the team’s outcome,” remarks returning fourth-year Head Coach Webb. “We have great leadership in our front runner, Katherine Bossardet, and consistent performances by our other four pack runners—Alyssa Cole, Nicole Coiteux, Amanda Asaro, and Kim Savino.”

Asaro finished 56th while Savino ran to a 62nd finish at the NEC Championships.

The women have their sites set on a future NEC win, which would be the first since back-to-back titles in 1998 and 1999. Webb notes that the “team placed fifth at the NEC Conference Championships last year. And with all five athletes having already improved their times from last year, they are proving they are determined to move up in the rankings at this NEC Championship.”

“Our main team goal for this season is to be a strong contender in the Conference meet. I think we surprised a lot of schools last year with how well we finished, and we want to do that again this year,” says Bossardet, who also has an individual goal of finishing in the top seven spots.

Both Blue Devil teams will race at the Northeast Conference Championships on Saturday, October 31. The meet will be hosted by Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT.

—Luke Albertson

athletic news

CCSU’s Head Football Coach Jeff McInerney is one of 11 coaches selected from the NCAA Expert Coaches Academy to take part in the NCAA Champions Forum. In conjunction with the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics Convention, the forum hopes to determine the best ways to educate sports personnel about improving the hiring process for underrepresented minority coaches. McInerney notes that the forum will provide him with an even better understanding of the hiring process and allow him to teach his assistant coaches and student-athletes in a more comprehensive manner.

Professor of Manufacturing and Construction Management Paul Resetarits has agreed to serve as the director of intercollegiate athletics until the position is filled permanently. Resetarits was the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) to the NCAA for the past five years. In that position, he was responsible for student-athlete welfare, ensuring a balance between academics and athletics for student-athletes, and NCAA rules compliance.

The 8th annual CCSU Baseball Alumni Golf Outing took place on July 17, 2009, at Stanley Golf Course in New Britain. This event, organized by CCSU Alumni Association Board of Director Ed Vescovi ’84, was a resounding success and generated $12,000 for the Blue Devil Baseball Team.
The CCSU Courier is published during the academic year to present a variety of news stories of interest to faculty, staff, friends of the University, leaders of Connecticut higher education, state school districts, and the University's other diverse constituencies.

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As part of the campus’ sustainability effort, the Courier is now printed on paper certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), an international, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world’s forests.

Central Connecticut State University is an AA/EO institution and a university in the Connecticut State University System, and has been recognized nationally as a Leadership Institution by the Association of American Colleges & Universities.