Unique Mural Painting Program for Socially Engaged Art

Conformity is by CCSU student artist Katie Roche, who says it “symbolizes going past illusions of conformity that limit our growing and changing and allowing our own light to shine in a new vision.”

Murals—whether painted on a wall, ceiling, or other permanent surface—record what is important in people’s lives. They resonate with history, stretching back to cave art in southern France.

Today, following in this long tradition, CCSU art students wield their brushes and express their ideas through the Art Department’s Mural Painting program, described by its director, Associate Professor of Art Mike Alewitz, as unique in the nation. “Our students learn the history and techniques of mural art while painting on campus and in the working-class neighborhoods of central Connecticut,” he explains. “CCSU students have created a remarkable breadth of art. We have works about string theory, microbiology, and Greek mythology. Murals are decorative, humorous, abstract, or personal. Of course, since murals are part of public discourse, many have tackled social issues like 9/11, war, the occupation of Iraq, feminism, immigrant workers, sexual abuse, popular culture, and similar subjects.”

CCSU students are learning an assortment of painting techniques used during the Renaissance, as well as those employed by scenic artists and billboard and sign painters. “These are professional methods used by craftspeople,” notes Alewitz.

The skills of a mural painter, including the
Mural Painting Program

ability to work on a large scale, are in demand in the workplace, Alewitz maintains. There is employment for artists creating sets for movies, television, and theatre; making backdrops at amusement parks; designing and painting exhibits at trade shows and museums; and producing graphics for vehicles and boats. The curriculum also includes faux finishing techniques, such as marbleizing and wood-graining, airbrushing, hand lettering, and trompe l’oeil.

Excellence and Rigor

Techniques are the underpinning of an important distinction of the program: excellence in producing art. “Mural painting excels because of the strong foundation and superior art education provided by the entire Art Department,” says Alewitz. The collection of some 100 murals painted by beginning to advanced CCSU art students is outstanding. “We don’t do fluff here,” declares Alewitz. “The entire process of creating high-quality art is rigorous. Students develop ideas and then research, defend, and revise them repeatedly before the actual painting begins.”

On campus, student artists have created a series of murals in Barnard Hall, the Elihu Burritt Library, Copernicus Hall, Memorial Hall, Maloney Hall, and Welte Garage. They have also collaborated with a number of schools and departments. Because public art often deals with disturbing subjects—war, injustice, violence, social inequality—some of the murals have been controversial. “The University has been very supportive in expediting these projects, helping to ensure that academic and artistic freedom prevails,” states Alewitz.

Ken Mitchell ’09, a fine arts/illustration major who worked on the Education Mural in Barnard Hall’s ground-floor entry way, recalls the process of creating the mural, which rises three stories along a stairwell. The mural treats major changes in the American educational system. For his 52-foot section, Mitchell made dozens of drawings illustrating the fate of Noyes Academy in Canaan, New Hampshire.

In March 1835, 28 white students and 14 black students commenced classes at the newly established academy. Mitchell states, “On August 10, 1835, anti-abolitionists from New Hampshire gathered in an angry mob. They tied a team of 90 oxen to the school building and dragged it into a swamp where it was set on fire and burned to the ground. Students fled, but the school was lost.”

Many students are attracted to the Mural Painting program by Alewitz’s international reputation. He has created scores of murals in the US, Iraq, Mexico, Ukraine, and Nicaragua. Named a Millennium Artist, Alewitz executed, in 1999, a highly publicized series of murals in Maryland about Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad.

Alewitz taught labor history at Rutgers University where he was Artist-in-Residence for the New Jersey Industrial Union Council. He has spoken and written extensively on political and cultural topics and is the co-author,

Through the Mural Painting program Alewitz strives to create an organic connection to the community. “We believe in wider community engagement,” he says, “whether our students paint a mural on the back wall of the First Lutheran Church on Glen Street in New Britain or travel to Siracusa, Sicily, to create one.”

Similarly, annual Mural Slams—one-day, friendly competitions open to the community—are held on the top floor of Welte Garage where, in a festive atmosphere, local graffiti artists and others from the surrounding area work side-by-side with noted muralists and CCSU students and faculty. Such events further an important goal of the Mural Painting program. Alewitz says, “Our aim is to expand the boundaries of public art so that people are encouraged to express their own voices.”

Senior Marissa Blaszko, an art major and active muralist on campus, describes the social engagement: “We not only interact with the public, we also get their input on our pieces.”

“Through their long hours and hard work, our students have given an enormous gift to the campus community,” says Alewitz. The Mural Painting program furthers public art by engaging students in the social process of building relationships and encouraging them to use their diverse styles and unique ideas to create thought-provoking art.

To view murals by Alewitz and his CCSU students, please visit: http://picasaweb.google.com/Alewitz.

— Geri Radacsi

**CCSU Students Get a Taste of International Journalism**

Associate Professor of English Vivian Martin took a group of 10 students “across the pond” to the University of Hertfordshire in the United Kingdom. As part of the trip, Martin and her students—(below, left to right) Nicholas Poch, Martin, Chris Boulay, Sarah Bogue, Michael Walsh, Rachael Bentley, Kim Scroggins, Brittany Burke, Jazmine Carrillo, Jessica English, and Nicole Diaz—visited the offices of the *Daily Telegraph* in London. Participating students each received scholarships from the Robert C. Vance Endowed Chair in Journalism and Mass Communication. Their visit was featured in the April issue of the University of Hertfordshire’s newsletter.

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**Exhibition of Faculty Art Work and Installation Piece**

The S.T. Chen Fine Arts Center located in Maloney Hall will host several exhibitions this fall. The semester began with a CCSU Art Faculty Exhibition, which featured works in a variety of media. The next exhibit, “Izzy the Frog,” is an installation by Joy Wulke which includes music, glass structures, water tanks, and images. The installation will be on display through November 19. Regular gallery hours are 1–4 pm, Monday–Friday. Admission is free to the general public, and free parking is available in the garage adjacent to Maloney Hall.
Focus on Scholarship: Briann Greenfield Celebrating Public History and Antiques

Bemused, CCSU Associate Professor of History Briann Greenfield laughs: “Imagine, my graduate fellowship at Brown University was funded by a single desk. It sold for $12.1 million, a record for a piece of American furniture at auction.”

The elaborately carved, pre-American Revolution desk, made by John Goddard, was sold in 1989 at Christie’s in New York City. Money from the jaw-dropping sale went to restore a family house, endow a research center, and fund fellowships at Brown University.

Not only did that antique, block-front style desk launch Greenfield along a path where she’s been recognized as a distinguished historian (she was recently honored with an award by the Connecticut State University System for her promising research), but it also served as the spark for her new book, Out of the Attic: Inventing Antiques in Twentieth-Century New England (University of Massachusetts Press, 2009).

The book traces the rise of the modern market for antique goods. Greenfield looks at how, in the first half of the 20th century, antiques were transformed from family keepsakes and recast as aesthetic objects serving as tangible evidence of an American national culture.

Furthermore, Greenfield examines the development of a retail structure that facilitated the buying and selling of old wares. She shows how, with the popularization of antiques, their economic value skyrocketed—and how that value was constructed by dealers, collectors, scholars, and museums.

“My hope is that the book makes a key contribution to the historic record by demonstrating how market forces shape our perception and understanding of historic objects,” says Greenfield.

Public memory and public history, which are both discussed in the book, are hallmarks of her research interests. Greenfield has presented conference papers and lectures and published book reviews, articles, book chapters, and encyclopedia entries.

Greenfield has been CCSU’s Public History Program Coordinator since 2002, the year after she joined the faculty. As the first director of the master’s program, she placed some 30 students in internships with more than 15 museums, archives, and preservation agencies. Greenfield focuses on the museum portion of the program, while Assistant Professor of History Leah Glauser handles the preservation aspects.

In 2004 Greenfield had a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship and spent time at the Winterthur Museum in Delaware exploring American decorative arts. Her interest was piqued by the story of Israel Sack of Boston, a legendary antiques dealer in the early 20th century who had emigrated from Lithuania. That study inspired her to look at how immigrants helped shape the meaning of antiques. “Typically we think of antiques as being symbols of the rich and powerful people who owned them,” she says. “But in the early 20th century, recent immigrants, particularly from Eastern Europe, played a crucial role in finding, restoring, and bringing antiques to market.”

Public History Goes Live

As State Humanities Scholar for the “Smithsonian Institution Museum on Main Street” initiative from 2003 to 2005, Greenfield worked with local organizers to build ancillary exhibitions and educational programs on Connecticut farm history to coordinate with the Smithsonian’s traveling exhibition “Barn Again!” She offered a slide lecture presentation, “Postcards from the Farm, 1900–1920,” at several Connecticut venues.

Guest editor of the Connecticut Jewish History Journal since 2006, Greenfield has been collaborating with the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford and the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism to create a

Associate Professor of History Briann Greenfield, whose recent book focuses on public history and antiques, shows off an 18th-century pewter teapot.
book, based on oral history interviews, on the subject of Jewish farming in Connecticut. Publication of the book by the Society is expected by the end of this year.

Greenfield’s exploration of Jewish immigration drew the attention of the staff of PBS’s *History Detectives* program. She was invited to share her expertise and tackle the question: Why did so many Jewish immigrants end up in a particular Connecticut farmhouse in East Haddam and what accounted for the high turnover of residents in the house? As part of an exploration of the Jewish American relief societies’ support of the Jewish agricultural community as it took root in a new land, Elyse Luray, host of *History Detectives*, and Greenfield visited the Connecticut State Library in search of answers.

While on sabbatical last year, Greenfield completed *Out of the Attic* and set her sights on a new book focused on the construction of public memory through the popularity of genealogy in the late 19th century.

As a publically engaged scholar, Greenfield serves as vice president of the Connecticut Humanities Council where she has helped set up an online encyclopedia of Connecticut history and an online Heritage Resource Center to support museum professionals. She also serves on the Collections Steering Committee of the Connecticut Historical Society, advising the museum on acquisitions for its collections.

“I like to look at how public history gets made,” she says. “You don’t have to be an academic to create, collect, and celebrate history.”

— Geri Radaci

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### CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

~ Arts Schedule - Fall 2010 ~

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MUSIC</th>
<th>November 2 12:30 pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Recital—Karin Fagerburg, violin</td>
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<td>Founders Hall, Davidson</td>
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<tr>
<th>MUSIC</th>
<th>November 9 7:30 pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>Connecticut Trio Scholarship Concert</td>
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<td>Founders Hall, Davidson</td>
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<tr>
<th>THEATRE</th>
<th>November 13 1:00 &amp; 6:00 pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>Early Stages</td>
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<tr>
<th>MUSIC</th>
<th>November 14 4:00 pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>University Singers &amp; VOCE Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immanuel Congr. Church, Hartford</td>
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<tr>
<th>MUSIC</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chamber Music Recital—Daniel D’Addio, trumpet; Scott Bean, trombone; Kathleen Bartkowski, piano</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Recital</td>
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<td>Torp Theatre, Davidson</td>
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<tr>
<th>ART</th>
<th>November 21 4–7 pm</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>Izzy the Frog</em>—Opening Reception</td>
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<td>S.T. Chen Gallery, Maloney</td>
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<th>MUSIC</th>
<th>November 23 12:40 pm</th>
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<td>Student Recital</td>
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<td>Torp Theatre, Davidson</td>
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<tr>
<th>THEATRE</th>
<th>November 30–December 4 7:30 pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Box Theatre, Maloney</td>
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<td>Student Recital</td>
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<td>Founders Hall, Davidson</td>
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<tr>
<th>MUSIC</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jazz Combo Concert</td>
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<td>Torp Theatre, Davidson</td>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chorale &amp; University Singers</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Church, New Britain, CT</td>
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<tr>
<th>ART</th>
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<tr>
<td>Art Educators 2010: Opening Reception</td>
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<td>S.T. Chen Gallery, Maloney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sinfonietta Concert</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Concert</td>
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<td>Founders Hall, Davidson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wind Symphony Concert</td>
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<td>Welte Auditorium</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percussion Concert</td>
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<td>Welte, Room 019</td>
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<th>MUSIC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jazz Band Concert</td>
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<td>Torp Theatre, Davidson</td>
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Top-level Administrative Positions Filled

Carl Antonucci (right) has been appointed as the new director of the Elihu Burritt Library. Antonucci has been employed in library services in higher education since 1993, most recently as director of library services at Capital Community College since 2002. He is currently completing a PhD in American history at Providence College.

James Estrada (left) has accepted the position of Chief Information Officer at CCSU. Estrada has a broad background in information technology services. He served as vice president for information services and university librarian at Fairfield University and has also held positions with the University of Connecticut, the UConn Health Center, and Yale University. He earned his BA, MA, and MLIS at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Nancy Hoffman (right) will serve as interim director of the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment during the search for a permanent director. She is a professor of teacher education at Central and a member of the CCSU Assessment Committee. Hoffman looks to continue promoting an evidence-based culture and further institutionalizing assessment at Central.

Colleen Kruger (left) has recently accepted the position of director of Continuing Education and Community Engagement. Formerly the director of Continuing Education at the University of Hartford, where she has worked since 1998, Kruger oversaw the Professional Education for Construction Institute and the IT Community Support Project. She earned her master’s degree from Endicott College.

Roderick (Rod) Waterman (right) has recently been appointed as the new director of Grants and Funded Research. Waterman comes to CCSU from the University of Virginia where he served as both the associate and assistant director for grants and policy in the office of sponsored programs. He received his PhD in English from the University of Virginia.

— Luke Albertson

notable programs

In August, Neal Pease, chair of the Department of History, University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, gave a lecture on “The Battle of Warsaw: Poland’s Greatest Victory?” Pease told the audience that this important battle, that currently receives little attention, helped Poland win its independence from the Bolsheviks and had a remarkable impact on world affairs, stating that, if the Russians had won, they would have continued to try to spread their communist revolution westward in hopes of taking over Europe.

In June CCSU’s ITBD held a two-day seminar to promote environmental awareness and accountability to manufacturers and businesses. The seminar was centered around the Environmental Management Systems ISO 14001, an international set of standards to help companies become more responsible for their waste. Participants designed a system to cut waste and increase production.

CCSU Website Hosts Blogs and Photos of Students Abroad

To support Central’s distinction as Connecticut’s Center for Excellence in International Education, the CCSU website is regularly hosting blogs and photo galleries of Central students abroad. Trips to China, France, and Ireland were featured recently. To read first-hand accounts of students’ international travels, visit www.ccsu.edu.
President Opens Academic Year Noting “Exceptional Progress” at CCSU

An upbeat retrospective of CCSU’s past five years and a cautious, but promising, forecast for the future were the focus of President Jack Miller’s remarks at the University’s annual Open Meeting for faculty and staff on August 25.

In starting his sixth year at CCSU, President Miller told the assembly that he’d spent “a good amount of time looking over the numbers,” as he prepared his speaking points. He noted that “exceptional progress” has been made in a number of critical areas, including student support and accomplishment, sustainability, fiscal planning, and the campus climate.

“Changes in the campus climate—a change in civility on this campus—is clear,” he said. “You can just feel the difference.”

He then shared data to support his observation. Topping his list was the 2008 Final Team Report from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Along with many other positive findings, the team reported that the campus climate is “collaborative, open, optimistic, and eager to move forward with the new strategic plans.” Additional evidence comes from the most recent employee survey, which indicates faculty and staff are increasingly satisfied with nearly every item they were asked to evaluate.

Student satisfaction has increased as well. The 2009 National Survey of Student Engagement cited 86% of freshmen and 83% of seniors as rating their educational experience at CCSU as “excellent” or “good.”

Miller also described the University’s leadership as “consistent and stable” after years of administrative changes and interim appointments.

Focusing next on student accomplishment and the University’s ability to support students, the President noted that, while the enrollment rate has grown by six percent, even more satisfying is the 10 percent rise in the graduation rate due to “more students persisting, staying, being retained, and graduating. That is a sustainable model of growth,” Miller said. Campus life is growing, too. More students than ever before are participating in the First Year Experience course, as well as in clubs, organizations, civic engagement activities, and open recreation.

Resources for student financial aid services have improved and been increased by $29 million. Although tuition has increased, Miller said, a larger percentage of those dollars are going directly back into financial aid.

Helping to drive this increase in student support, total annual gifts have more than doubled—thanks to the efforts of Institutional Advancement—and the endowment value has also more than doubled—even during the economic decline, the President pointed out.

Miller then spoke about sustainability and the greening of the campus. In April, the Princeton Review selected CCSU as one of 286 Green Colleges making significant advances in sustainability. Both energy and water consumption have been reduced, and 37% of trash is now recycled, but the President reminded the audience that “We’ve got a long way to go.”

He then noted that the planning and managing of University resources has changed “almost completely. We now have a fully functioning, transparent process,” he said. All requests for new funds are now publicly vetted, and schools and programs have more autonomy than ever before in managing those funds. “People can manage their budgets,” said Miller, who then stressed, “There is incentive to manage them.”

He cautioned that there will be more financial issues and state budget cuts to contend with in the future: “Everyone has pulled together. We’ve done, in my estimation, a good job preparing for the difficult times we’re facing.”

Looking ahead to 2015, Miller was clear there would be challenges in keeping the momentum going at CCSU, but he feels that the University is “well-positioned to survive and thrive.” If “proper funding” is available, he expects a student enrollment of about 15,000. He also foresees continued improvement of collegial and mutual support, additional financial support available to students, expanded programming and civic engagement with New Britain, an increase in the graduation rate, construction of new buildings, and general campus improvements.

The President concluded his remarks by focusing on the University’s initiative to increase community outreach. It is his hope that state residents will come to believe that “Their life is better because of CCSU. That we are an institution which has become the mid-size, public, comprehensive, residential, and commuter university of choice in New England.”

— Janice Palmer
Drew Harris: Mixing Entrepreneurship and Creativity

How do you create an idea? Does it have a business opportunity? Can you make money with your idea? The questions hang before students in Professor of Management and Organization Drew Harris’ introductory entrepreneurship class. Then, because Harris has owned and started up several businesses and knows creativity means inventing, experimenting, taking risks, making mistakes, and having fun, he distributes Oreo cookies to each student.

How to turn the popular waist-widening treat into an innovative business venture? Soon ideas pop up—an Oreo-themed amusement park; a look-alike Oreo SUV, sporting white-tread, black-walled tires; an Oreo building constructed with a layered architectural design; Oreo toys with interlocking parts.

The exercise dubbed “Sweet Inspiration” is designed to raise students’ confidence in their creativity and introduce questions about commercializing ideas, intellectual property rights, and brand development. Harris has presented this, and his other pedagogical strategies, at national organizational behavior teaching conferences.

Harris devised an ingenious “Bubble Factory” exercise for use in an undergraduate Human Resource Management course and published an article in the *Organization Management Journal* based on the teaching technique. Two groups of students vie to see which team is more productive at blowing bubbles. But the competition does not take place on a level playing field, because one batch of liquid has been doctored for poor bubble output.

“Students learn an employee’s performance can be affected by numerous factors, for example, a terrible sales territory or a malfunctioning machine,” explains Harris.

A Coach for Competitions

For the past two years, in order to create a spirit of genuine competition, Harris has spearheaded the Student Elevator Pitch and Business Plan Competition on campus. And he’s raised $4,000 for prizes.

He takes pride in Samantha Magri, a marketing major who won the Personal Venture Division of the Connecticut Collegiate Business Plan Competition (and a check for $1,000) last April. “And,” he boasts, “she won the state-wide Elevator Pitch Competition (a one-minute summary of a business plan designed to persuade a listener to want to learn more).” This is the third consecutive semester that CCSU students have won the Personal Venture Division in the state-wide competition.

“It’s been a privilege to mentor our students through these competitions and to help guide them as they launch their own businesses after they’ve graduated,” says Harris.

Brian Waddell, who graduated this past May with a double major in international business and management with a concentration in entrepreneurship, applauds the entrepreneurship concentration requirement that students complete a business plan for a capstone project. “With brainstorming and guidance from Dr. Harris, I settled on a business plan specializing in Nuevo Latino cuisine, specifically *empanadas*. Dr. Harris helped me with the
pitch, the sales strategy, and pro forma cash flow statements and ratios.”

Then, as part of his capstone, Waddell presented his business plan to a panel of investors, loan officers, and other entrepreneurs in an effort to seek funding. The result? Waddell has established a business relationship with investor John Seiffer. “I still communicate and receive advice from Dr. Harris as the business develops,” says Waddell.

While encouraging his students to achieve practical skills, Harris bolsters his own business knowledge by pursuing theoretical and research activities. He holds the PhD and MBA in business from New York University and is co-author, with Randall Schuler, of Managing Quality: A Primer for Middle Managers (Addison-Wesley, 1992).

Among the areas he is currently exploring is sustainable systems. He’s written a number of conference and journal articles that look at the models that businesses use to sustain themselves and how they deal with raw materials, energy, and by-products. “I examine sustainability (and performance) at multiple systems levels—teams, organizations, societies, and the physical environment,” he explains. Harris has written an article, based on a proceedings paper from a 2009 Eastern Academy of Management presentation, to be published in Competitiveness Review.

Privilege and its role in organizations and society have also claimed Harris’ attention. His empirical research explores links between privilege and such contemporary issues as executive corruption, corporate malfeasance, persistent discrimination in the workplace, structural causes of above-average economic returns, shifts in competitive dynamics, entrepreneurial opportunities, and economic stability. He has presented several theoretical papers on the subject at conferences and published articles in Competitiveness Review and Competiton Forum.

Last year when Harris was appointed to the board of directors of Connecticut Innovations, Inc., a venture capital firm specializing in investments in high tech industries, he was lauded for his entrepreneurship expertise and commitment to his students.

Harris says entrepreneurship is a “path for students to take responsibility for themselves doing what’s right in the world by exercising good choices. Part of my dream is that my students can go out and create value for themselves and others based on what is morally correct.”

— Geri Radacsi

**extra credit**

Head Coach of Men’s and Women’s Cross Country and Track Eric Blake was featured in The Hartford Courant for his second-place finish in this year’s 50th running of the Mount Washington Road Race. He completed the 7.6-mile uphill race in one hour, forty seconds. He’d won the event in 2006 and 2008 and was runner-up last year. Blake, who led the men’s cross country team to a first-place finish in last year’s conference championship, is also serving as head coach for the women’s team this fall.

CCSU student Jessica Cameron was awarded the Tourism Cares National Tour Association Connecticut Scholarship. The scholarship is given to an undergraduate student studying tourism and hospitality who displays excellence in the field.

Central’s Coordinator for the Ruthie Boyea Women’s Center Jacqueline Cobbina-Boivin was a member of the planning committee for the 14th Annual Melanie Ilene Rieger Memorial Conference, hosted by CCSU in May. The two-day event, focusing on the theme “Cause & Effect: The Link Between Domestic Violence and the Incarceration of Female Victims,” featured panels and speakers on topics related to domestic violence. Connecticut author Wally Lamb (She’s Come Undone, The Hour I First Believed) was the keynote speaker. The event was featured on the Connecticut Television Network and in The Hartford Courant.

Assistant Professor of English Mary Collins’ book, American Idle: A Journey Through Our Sedentary Culture, won an Honorable Mention in the national book award category from the American Society of Journalists and Authors (ASJA).

Scott Wolpert, professor of mathematics at the University of Maryland, has authored a companion book to accompany the 10 lectures he presented on Central’s campus at last July’s Conference Board of Mathematical Sciences (CBMS) lecture series. The book, titled Families of Riemann Surfaces and Weil-Petersson Geometry, is designed for self-study by graduate and post-graduate students who wish to explore deformations of hyperbolic surfaces and the geometry of the Weil-Petersson metric.

Professor of Anthropology Kenneth Feder appeared on the Discovery Channel program Weird or What?

The CCSU Alumni Association is hosting “Classics Fridays at CCSU: The Fourth Estate in Film Series” in Torp Theatre. The series, which began in September, combines the screening

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Partnership with Rock Cats Scores a Home Run!

New Britain Stadium ‘rocked’ for three nights in mid-August as more than 600 children, from Connecticut and several towns in Massachusetts, attended a Rock Cats baseball game for free. It was their reward for completing the Reading Books In Summer (RBIS) program sponsored by CCSU, the Rock Cats, and the Connecticut Library Consortium.

The Rock Cats summer reading program is a “perfect fit with CCSU’s mission to be an engaged, supportive member of its community,” says Director of Institutional Advancement Cynthia Cayer.

“Fostering a love for reading is an investment that pays off for the student, our community, and CCSU,” she adds. “We know from research that children who read during the summer months are in better shape academically when they begin fall classes.”

The game on August 18, which was “CCSU Night” (see story below), was a night young Robert Stabert (left) of Newington, a fan of adventure stories, will not soon forget. For reading five books, including his top pick Middleworld, the All Star Little Leaguer earned a free seat on the very day of his ninth birthday, and, if that wasn’t enough, the Rock Cats won the game.

Madison Heck and her family traveled from Brookfield to commemorate her accomplishment. The six year old received a ticket for reading five books about her favorite topics, “mermaids and fairytales,” and was excited about meeting Rocky, the baseball team’s mascot, and his furry friends.

For the Wilkins of Hamden (above), it was a family affair. Six-year-old Donovan read seven books, including Green Eggs and Ham—his new favorite in the Dr. Seuss series. For nine-year-old D’Andre, his eight books, including Cat and Mouse in a Haunted House, focused on adventure. His elder brother, 12-year-old Derrick, enjoyed reading about the escapades of Flat Stanley and read five books in the popular series.

Bethel’s Gabby Kohn proudly announced she’d read 10 books all by herself. The six year old loves “funny” books, she said, listing The Lemonade War among her favorites.

The staff of more than 100 libraries in Connecticut and several bordering Massachusetts towns worked with the children to set parameters and help in book selection.

“It takes a team of talented, dedicated players to make a program successful, says Amy Helbling, director of Community Relations for the Rock Cats, “and we are extremely appreciative of CCSU’s support in helping us provide an exciting incentive to keep kids across the state reading this summer.”

RBIS has been part of the Rock Cats community outreach efforts for 11 years; this was CCSU’s first year as a co-sponsor.

— Janice Palmer

Rock Cats Go to Bat for CCSU Vets

“CCSU Night” also brought together CCSU faculty, staff, students, student-athletes, and alumni in support of the University’s student veterans. The CCSU Alumni Association greeted fans with tee shirts and other promotional items. Coordinator of Veterans Affairs Chris Gutierrez worked the welcome table, along with Associate Director of Alumni Affairs Catherine Jost and her daughter, Katie. For every ticket purchased by a CCSU fan that night, the Rock Cats Foundation donated $2 to the University’s Veterans Scholarship Fund.
Improv Olympiiix Offers Competition and Creative Entertainment

CCSU student Kim Reagan (second from right), president of CCSU’s improv troupe Schlock Therapy, presented the 2010 Improv Olympiiix cup to the team from Wethersfield High School in June. Pictured at right with Principal Thomas Moore are team members (from left to right) Sarina Lungarini, Ben Urciuoli, George Quach, Lea Forastiere, Jared Clarke, Moore, Josh DeLaFerra (back), Shane Bromberg, Kurt Venezuela, Sarah Santhouse (back), and Marlena Oliveri. The Improv Olympiiix, a combination of competition and creative entertainment, is a series of improv games for teams of Connecticut high school students. CCSU students helped to organize and run the event. All proceeds benefitted New Britain Mayor Timothy Stewart’s Plan to End Homelessness. The Wethersfield team earned a slot to perform at the Laugh with a Purpose Comedy Festival alongside professional comedians and improv artists.

programs in the community

Since 2008, a dedicated cohort of CCSU faculty and staff has participated in the national “Civic Agency Initiative.” This initiative—a partnership of 16 public universities, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), and the Center for Democracy and Citizenship at the University of Minnesota—seeks to discover ways for universities “to produce graduates who can be agents and architects of positive change in local and regional communities,” as well as the most effective means of creating a community-focused mindset in students. The Central community has already witnessed much success, such as working with students at the Naylor Middle School on an anti-truancy project, revising policies in the West Hartford school system, and involving students in a project to raise awareness of homelessness in New Britain. In the 2011 academic year, the Central community looks to build on this successful past, working with fellow citizens to solve shared problems.

CCSU’s Department of Mathematical Sciences hosted the “12th Annual CAMPY on Campus” event in May. The daylong workshop, which was sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Mathematically Precocious Youth (CAMPY), gave 182 students from 14 schools across the state the opportunity to sharpen their math skills and learn about the lesser-known applicability of mathematics to various aspects of life, in sessions such as “How to Use Math to Become a Magician” and “Getting Smarter by Connecting Math and Music.” This is the fifth year the event has been hosted on campus. The program, which included Montville students, received a positive review in The Norwich Bulletin.

Central played host to over 1,000 fourth- and fifth-grade students from seven New Britain elementary schools in May for “Make a Wave: Be the Change.” The multimedia event used art, dance, music, and role-playing to promote environmental awareness and encourage participants to take steps to save dolphins and other endangered species. Activist Ric O’ Barry, whose efforts to expose the tragedy of dolphin hunting were featured in the documentary The Cove, sent a letter to the children, and the “Save the Dolphins” international campaign provided each school’s library with resources to promote environmental awareness. Assistant Professors of Teacher Education Barbara Clark and James French were the faculty behind the event, but they credit their elementary education teacher candidates for the day’s success. The event received a feature article in the New Britain Herald.

An article in the New Britain Herald promoted the Multicultural Arts Summer Program for students in New Britain, Plainville, and Farmington. The inter-district program, in collaboration with Central Connecticut State University, offers instruction in arts and creative writing.

CCSU’s ITBD conducted training and certification courses for the public in July. Based on ISO standards and Lean Enterprise processes, the courses focused on auditing, management responsibility, resource management, and manufacturing productivity.
ITBD Acquires Funds to Develop Connecticut Businesses

Central’s Institute of Technology and Business Development (ITBD) has been awarded funds from several avenues as a result of continued efforts to seek financial support to assist Connecticut businesses. This financing will allow ITBD to provide training in technology assistance, conferencing services, and other aspects of business incubation.

Connecticut Light & Power and The United Illuminating Company have provided funds—obtained from the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund—to ITBD to support Lean training and Kaizen events. Qualified businesses will receive training to reduce costs and improve operations as part of the Process Reengineering for Increased Manufacturing Efficiency Program (PRIME).

In addition, ITBD is working with businesses to obtain aid from the US Department of Labor’s “21st Century Training Fund” to prepare workers in fast-growing industries. These grants match recipient businesses’ contributions for workplace development, and the funding is used by ITBD to cover costs for materials and workshops.

Funds awarded by both Capital Workforce Partners, a Central Connecticut business promoter, and the US Small Business Administration are also available in a similar match-funding format. The funds can be used for training in manufacturing, healthcare, retail, and financial organizations. The Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, which sponsors the “ADVANCE Training Grant Program,” has agreed to provide up to $20,000 in matching training funds to aerospace manufacturing companies.

ITBD also works with the New England Trade Adjustment Assistance Center (NETAAC) to aid organizations which have lost business to foreign competition. NETAAC helps direct federal funds to companies in order to assist in training costs. For individuals who have lost jobs, the State of Connecticut, through the Workforce Investment Act and the Trade Assistance Act, provides limited funding to pay for courses that will help them return to the workforce.

This abundance of funding for the new fiscal year will help businesses to emerge and flourish in Connecticut. As always, ITBD is persistently searching for and uncovering funding opportunities for the local businesses it serves.

— Tom Lorenzetti
New Talk Show Debuts on TV and Internet

Connecticut residents have a new option for staying plugged-in to the world around them. CCSU’s Digital Media Technology Department is producing THE HOUR with Jim Pellegrino, a monthly television program that airs on CCSU TV and Nutmeg TV and is available to AT&T U-Verse customers and anyone with a computer.

Each episode offers in-depth conversation with a variety of guests, according to CCSU’s Coordinator of Digital Media Production Chad E. Valk, the show’s executive producer. “In addition to tapping the knowledge and expertise at CCSU,” says Valk, “we bring in business and community leaders, elected officials, or anyone who has something interesting to add to a current topic.”

“THE HOUR is mix of people and topics that go beyond the usual 90-second stories presented on local newscasts,” he says.

In creating the show, Valk turned to former colleague, Jim Pellegrino, who Valk describes as “experienced in leading lively, informative, and entertaining discussions.” The pair worked together on a cable program Pellegrino hosted for 12 years called Eye on Business, which aired in Rhode Island and Connecticut.

As host and producer of THE HOUR, Pellegrino engages his guests in extended conversations about timely topics related to business, education, health, and politics, as well as human interest and entrepreneurial success stories.

Pellegrino’s own career has spanned the fields of business, education, and government, in addition to the career management consulting industry. He also has been successful outside of corporate life as an entrepreneur and management consultant.

Since debuting in June, four HOURS have aired. Among the first guests were Richard Blumenthal, Connecticut Attorney General; CCSU’s new Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Paul Schlickmann; Tom Gaffey, Connecticut State Senator and chair of the Education Committee; CCSU alumna Jessica Schweitzer ’09, a young, successful entrepreneur; and Ann Baldwin, president of Baldwin Media Marketing.

THE HOUR airs on Friday evenings at 7 p.m. and is broadcast on Nutmeg TV—Channel 95 on Comcast (available to Avon, Berlin, Burlington, Canton, Farmington, Plainville, and New Britain); Channel 99 on AT&T U-Verse (available to customers throughout Connecticut) and on CCSU TV 23, as well as online at www.ccsu.edu/thehour.

—Janice Palmer

Correction:
The International Festival held last spring was hosted by the International Relations Club and co-sponsored by the George R. Muirhead Center for International Education and the Student Government Association.
One of Central Connecticut State University’s highest honors, the Distinguished Service Award, was recently presented to Professor of English Gilbert Gigliotti for providing exemplary service to CCSU and the local community.

During the University’s opening meeting on August 25, President Jack Miller announced the selection of Gigliotti and presented him with a commemorative plaque.

“In the last 18 years, Gil Gigliotti has significantly contributed to both CCSU and the New Britain community,” said Miller, who then described some of the professor’s many activities and achievements. The President lauded Gigliotti for just completing a seven-year term as chair of the Department of English and, prior to that, a five-year stint as assistant chair. “English is the largest department on campus, and Gil managed to quickly master the technical and bureaucratic challenges of running such a large and diverse department,” Miller pointed out.

After receiving a standing ovation, Gigliotti thanked his colleagues for their part in helping him achieve the honor and then noted the contributions of his wife. “I thank my lovely wife, Martha. Without her support, I couldn’t be involved in all these activities or do the scholarly and academic work I do. Thanks everybody for this recognition. I couldn’t ask for anything more.”

In addition to the challenging administrative responsibilities, Gigliotti teaches courses on 17th- and 18th-century literature, Greek and Roman literature, and freshman composition.

For over 15 years, Gigliotti, a New Britain resident, has been a faculty advisor to the campus radio station and the Student Union Board of Governors. He has served as faculty liaison to three residence halls, as well as on numerous departmental and administrative committees.

Gigliotti has established a reputation on campus as one of the most spirited and high-profile faculty members. If he is not leading the CCSU contingent in New Britain’s Memorial Day Parade, he can be heard on his weekly WFCS radio talk show, Frank, Gil & Friends, or seen on his CCSU cable TV program, Central Authors, that features books written by CCSU faculty.

His extensive publishing record includes three books, *A Storied Singer: Frank Sinatra as Literary Conceit*, *Sinatra: But Buddy I’m a Kind of Poem*, and *Ava Gardner: Touches of Venus*.

In addition to organizing a film series that is open to the public, Gigliotti has volunteered many hours to his community. He initiated and continues to organize CCSU’s participation in the New Britain Memorial Day Parade. He has been a member of the New Britain Symphony Orchestra Board of Trustees, the Holmes School Booster Club, and the Citizens for Action in New Britain.

— Janice Palmer

### CCSU Alumni Making Waves in the World of Education

Several CCSU alumni have been honored recently for their work in the field of education. **Hope Bellantuono** ’03 was named Bristol Eastern High School’s Teacher of the Year, and **John Girard** ’06 was honored as Teacher of the Year at Plainville High School. **James J. Flynn** ’01, a teacher at O.H. Platt High School in Meriden, was awarded $25,000 and the Milken Family Foundation National Education Award. **Dr. Ellen Garber Stokoe** ’79, principal of the Edward Morley Elementary School in West Hartford, was named Connecticut’s 2010 National Distinguished Principal by the Connecticut Association of Schools.
Angelica Karlsson: Taking CCSU-Instilled Confidence to International Journalism

In 2007, Angelica Karlsson came to Central from Sweden’s Växjö University to study journalism for a semester—she ended up staying for the year. As a foreign exchange student whose only other time in the US was a brief visit to Florida’s Disney World at the age of 11, Karlsson was thrust into a world of the unfamiliar and unknown.

“I was scared to death at least once a week,” she jests. She remembers being hesitant to take journalism courses at Central, because English was her second language, and she was initially frightened at having to interview native speakers. Yet she found the faculty at Central consistently supportive and encouraging, pushing her to take more advanced, upper-level courses. Karlsson cites this support as a major confidence-booster, noting, “I was definitely more self-confident when I returned to Sweden.” She says that Central pushed her out of her usual comfort zone. “Without the experience of coming to Central, I would never be where I am today—because I wouldn’t have the knowledge, but also because I wouldn’t have the courage to put myself in those situations,” she notes, referring to the audaciousness often required in the journalism field. She remarks that, since returning home, “Everyone in Sweden says I’m Americanized, because I’m not afraid to walk up to people and start talking.”

In her second semester at Central, Karlsson obtained an internship with WFSB Eyewitness News in Rocky Hill, CT. She notes, “At the time I didn’t really have any experience; I learned everything about television here at CCSU.” She valued the opportunities to interview politicians and other local authorities, which, while initially intimidating, became easier with practice.

One of Karlsson’s fondest memories of Central is a talk she gave as part of an International Women’s Day forum held on campus. She spoke about her cultural experiences, working in Europe, and what it meant to be a global citizen. But that wasn’t the only highlight; Karlsson explains, “Exchanging experiences with other women, empowering each other, and supporting each other in doing what we want to do—these are the memories I carry.”

While still in the US, Karlsson sent her resume to Aftonbladet (The Evening Sheet), Sweden’s largest newspaper. With the hands-on experience that Central provided her in newscasting, she obtained an interview and eventually a job working as a reporter for the company’s online TV channel when she returned to her home country. She credits her employment in large part to a videography course taken at Central. The class increased her marketability—she could now film and photograph as well as report. The job at Aftonbladet allowed her ample experience in the field, and she covered numerous stories. This coverage got her noticed by the Swedish news agency Tidningararnas Telegrambyra (TT), which contacted and eventually hired Karlsson after a year at Aftonbladet.

“I really believe in the whole ‘American dream,’ where anything can come true,” she says. “Honestly, if I look back, three years ago I never would have thought I’d have the job I have now.” Karlsson currently covers Scandinavia, crafting news packages for the world news hub Reuters.

CCSU’s Center for International Education presented Karlsson with the Outstanding International Student award for her intellectual and cultural contributions. “I was really flattered,” she recalls. During her stay, Karlsson participated in many international events, ranging from Arabic dancing and a talk on women in the Middle East to discussions comparing European and American journalism. While she gleaned much from the students and faculty at Central, she was also lauded for sharing her knowledge and bringing a worldly influence to the campus.

Karlsson is presently studying Arabic, an endeavor fully supported by TT. “Lots of news is coming in from the Middle East,” she says. “I want to be able to communicate with the people from there.” She recalls one instance when she was awakened in the night by a phone call from TT asking her to cover a fire that was raging in one of the local, Arabic-speaking suburbs. When she arrived on the scene, she was continued on bottom of page 17
You can’t get that in a classroom,” says Horace Hamilton, a CCSU senior from Kingston, Jamaica.

He’s referring to the feeling that came over him when he stood on the very same motel balcony in Memphis, TN, where civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated in 1968.

Another CCSU senior, Joseph LaLanne from Bridgeport, says he felt the same way when he walked into the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL—the site where four girls were killed when Ku Klux Klan members set off a bomb. “I could feel chills go up my spine as I walked through the doors of the church,” LaLanne said.

LaLanne and Hamilton were two of 18 CCSU students taking part in the Civil Rights Project developed by Adjunct Lecturer of Philosophy Stephen Balkaran. In July, Balkaran and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs Joseph Paige escorted students on a weeklong educational trip through three southern states to trace the history of the civil rights movement in the early 1960s.

Balkaran designed the course, he said, so his students “walked the same steps, breathed the same air, and stood at the same sites where many prominent civil rights activists made their marks several decades ago.” He sought grants from the Wal-Mart Foundation and Hartford-area law firms to cover the students’ costs.

Though some students thought they had a basic understanding of the civil rights struggle before taking the class, it wasn’t until they toured the Lorraine Motel or strolled through the Civil Rights District that they developed a deeper understanding of the movement and the era.

“I feel like I’ve learned more about civil rights in a week than in all the other civil rights classes I’ve taken,” said Karyn Cormier, a senior from New Britain.

Among the landmarks the group visited in Birmingham were Kelly Ingram Park, considered the focal point for grass roots demonstrations. In Montgomery, they toured the Rosa Parks Museum and the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. They visited Morehouse College in Atlanta, as well as the President Jimmy Carter Center. In Memphis, they toured historic Beale Street, a business district with ties to early civil rights efforts.

Though the CCSU students weren’t able to observe a 60s protest or experience a sermon at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, they talked to some who had. The students interviewed several well-known activists, including Reverend Samuel Billy Kyles, and recorded testimonials from people on the street.

One of the many people Balkaran arranged for students to meet was Martin Luther King III, who was 10 years old when his father was assassinated. He too has become a civil rights organizer.

“It was kind of like talking to Dr. King himself,” Hamilton said of the experience.

“As I talked to people who witnessed and felt the brutality of the civil rights movement, they all shared a common ideology — forgiveness,” LaLanne said. “If these individuals were able to look past this era of hate, despair, and loss, why then can’t the world adopt this philosophy,” he asked.

From the stories describing Dr. King, Hamilton said he learned about patience. “Dr. King was never in a hurry. He was peaceful, even during protests, and, more importantly, he never gave up,” he said.

— Connie Yan
Travelers Gift Supports Civil War Commemoration led by CCSU

A gift of $50,000 to Central Connecticut State University from The Travelers Companies, Inc., will help fund a living history event to mark the American Civil War’s sesquicentennial.

CCSU is the primary partner of the Connecticut Civil War Commemoration Committee which represents 50 state and local government agencies, museums, media, and historical and cultural groups (see sidebar at right). Professor of History Matthew Warshauer is chair of the committee that is coordinating a variety of activities — many of which will be held on April 15–17, 2011, the 150th anniversary of the war’s first days.

“There still is much to be learned from that pivotal time in our country’s early years,” says Warshauer. With that in mind, the Commemoration Committee is planning several educational activities focusing on Connecticut’s involvement in the war, the institution of slavery, and how that legacy continues to impact society.

“We are very appreciative of the Travelers grant, and, through its support, we hope to engage Connecticut residents, of all ages, in learning about one of the most trying times in our nation’s history,” Warshauer says.

“Travelers is pleased to support the Connecticut Civil War Commemoration Committee’s living history event,” says Travelers’ Director of Community Relations Tara Spain. “We’re committed to increasing access to educational opportunities for Connecticut residents.”

Warshauer, editor of the journal Connecticut History, and Associate Professor of History

John Tully, coordinator of the Social Studies Education program, are developing Civil War curriculum units, and those lessons will be shared with Connecticut middle and high school teachers for use during the next four years — the span of the War Between the States.

For the past two years, Warshauer worked with a team of CCSU students to research and write a new book, Connecticut in the American Civil War: Slavery, Sacrifice & Survival, to be published in conjunction with the activities planned for spring.

History professionals and educators will be invited to attend a conference to be held at CCSU on Friday, April 15, 2011. The conference will feature some of the latest work by Civil War historians, including information on the state’s arms industry, soldiers’ experiences, naval contributions, and the politics surrounding the war. The keynote speaker will be one of the nation’s leading experts on the war, David Blight, professor of American history at Yale University and director of the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance & Abolition.

From April 16–17, a soldier encampment and battle by reenactors, as well as exhibits by dozens of the state’s historical groups and museums, will take place at Stanley Quarter Park in New Britain.

Connecticut’s Civil War Commemoration is still in the planning stages. Additional information will be available in the coming months at www.ccsu.edu/civilwar.

Angelica Karlsson continued from page 15

not only the sole person doing interviews, but she was also the only person able to translate the cries of the displaced homeowners for responding police and fire marshals.

Karlsson returned to America in April to visit with friends and returned to campus for a talk with Professor of Communication Karen Ritzenhoff’s class. One of Ritzenhoff’s “top students of all time,” Karlsson continues to give back to the University that instilled in her the confidence needed for a successful career in international journalism.

— Luke Albertson

Organizational Partners

More than 50 groups—such as the African-American Affairs Commission, the Barnes Museum, the City of New Britain, the Old State House, Travelers Insurance, the Fireside Patriots Reenactors, and the Wadsworth Atheneum—are participating to ensure a broad-based and diverse presentation of ideas and activities during the sesquicentennial commemoration. The complete list of Organizational Partners is available online at www.ccsu.edu/civilwar.

— Janice Palmer
Student Athlete: Liz Montemurro
Improving Her Game by Coaching

Senior pitcher for the CCSU Blue Devil softball team Elizabeth Montemurro spent her summer in California, but instead of relaxing on the beach, she was working doggedly to hone her skills as a coach.

“I came into my voice this summer,” the Sayreville, New Jersey, native says. Montemurro helped coach her former team, the New Jersey Breakers, as the fastpitch softball program traveled to the west coast in search of fiercer competition, larger tournaments, and more recruiting possibilities for the high school girls looking to carry their passion for the game into intercollegiate athletics.

The level of competition, says Montemurro, allowed players to preview the pressures and demands they would face at the college level.

Speaking of her experience as a pitcher, she notes that “It was nice to see it from a different perspective. Calling the pitches helped me later when I was on the mound myself. I was able to look at it from a different view and gained a new perspective on what my coaches do.”

Montemurro notes that what she likes best about her position as pitcher is the pressure she must confront on the mound: “I love it. I play so much better under pressure, and I don’t mind putting the team’s burden on my shoulders.” She notes that her experience with coaching has taught her to “never let your team see you sweat,” and she now applies this leadership trait, and others, to her own playing.

As a secondary education major with a concentration in English, Montemurro has her sights set on both teaching and coaching. “I want to coach,” she says, “starting at the high school level, or maybe as a graduate assistant, but I eventually want to take over a team on my own.”

Joe Salvatore, coach and manager for the New Jersey Breakers, has worked with Montemurro since she threw her first underhand ball at the age of eight. As his former star pitcher—and now co-coach—taught the girls the same things that she herself was struggling with, Salvatore notes, “A light bulb turned on for her.” “She became a better player through coaching; it was remarkable,” he says.

The combined demands of coaching and playing, says Montemurro, “force you to face adversity head on.” Through working with others in a team-oriented environment she has learned valuable lessons which, she notes, easily carry over into other aspects of life, such as the workplace. “I now know how to approach people, how to form bonds,” she says, “and that not everyone responds in the same way.”

She further notes that her experiences with softball have bolstered her confidence: “I’ve always been an outgoing person, but pitching has helped me become more confident. You have to carry confidence in school and in life. You have a team behind you on the field, and people in your life will back you in the same way.” She tells her athletes to “Take the same mentality on the field that you take in life.”

Over the summer Montemurro periodically talked to her athletes about her collegiate experiences, drawing from the personal lessons she has gleaned during her first three years at Central. “Athletics helped me to grow up a lot sooner than most other freshmen,” she says. “I learned that you do the practice—put in the work—now, because you know the rewards are going to come later.”

In coaching high school-age girls, Montemurro, now 21 years old, has never been much older than her mentees. Due to this closeness in age, says Salvatore, “Liz at first had trouble.” Yet, he notes, this past summer “was completely different. Liz rose to the challenge and gained the players’ respect by demonstrating her knowledge of the game and understanding the players’ personalities. I could walk off the field and Liz would take control. She did it professionally and gently, cogently pushing people beyond their own expectations for themselves. Something clicked in her. She started believing in her abilities and her knowledge.”

Salvatore, who has 30 years of coaching experience and was recently named to the USA Softball National Team as a coach, says of Montemurro, “I’m proud to be her coach and even more honored to have her as a peer.” Salvatore looks to increase the coaching respon-
Montemurro looks to bring this her newfound coaching skills to the CCSU playing field this spring. She, along with her teammates, hope to improve on the Blue Devil’s 14 wins last season, a notable advance over the previous year. Speaking of the team’s unity during the spring season, Montemurro says, “The bond we shared was one of my favorite things about the team. It blew my mind. Everybody had the same goal in mind...it was all for the common good—the greater good—of the team. It pushed me to practice harder and to get through the tough spots.”

This cohesiveness—combined with Montemurro’s confidence and coaching skills—promises to benefit the upswinging Blue Devil softball squad as it heads into the new year’s preseason of tryouts and practices.

— Luke Albertson

New Textbook Program Designed to Cut Costs for Students

CCSU launched a new textbook rental program as students arrived for classes this fall. This rental program provides a savings of over 50 percent when compared with the cost of purchasing a new book. The program is operated by Barnes & Noble College Booksellers, which runs the bookstore at CCSU. Students are now able to rent books that are identified as part of the program from the University bookstore or online at the bookstore website.

As part of the program, students can highlight and take notes in their books. Rentals last for the duration of the semester and books must be returned in person or mailed to the bookstore no later than 10 days after the last day of finals. If students decide they would like to keep their rentals, they can purchase them within the first two weeks of class. The bookstore will email reminders to students when books are due to be returned. Students can use any form of payment accepted by the bookstore, but they must provide a credit card number at the time of rental to cover possible damage to books.

More information regarding the textbook rental program is available at the bookstore or at www.ccsubookstore.com.

— Jack O’Leary
Students Keen for ‘14

CCSU’s newest freshman class lined up during orientation to show off their new favorite year.