CCSU Helps Busy Students Earn Degrees

Must dreams of realizing educational goals be deferred, because of potent distractions from jobs, families, mortgages, and personal, social, and professional obligations? Hundreds of busy students at CCSU have been able to achieve their degrees, because the University offers creative options by designing and supporting courses and programs that meet their often hectic schedules.

“CCSU students whether attending full or part time, as undergraduates or graduate students, can find ways to complete their degrees despite significant time constraints due to outside commitments,” states Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences Susan Pease, “because so many courses are offered in the evenings and on weekends.”

Concurring, Director of the Enrollment Center and Continuing Education, Emeritus, Peggy Schuberth, adds, “For close to three decades, Central has offered Saturday classes—for example, the Bachelor’s of Social Work Weekend Program—to make it more convenient for those students who work full time.” (This program will be featured in an upcoming Courier.)

She points out, “Beyond the traditional semester, classroom, and campus-based model, for our existing degrees, CCSU also offers accelerated, condensed, and non-traditional formats, such as the intensive Winter and Summer sessions, as well as off-site, online, and hybrid courses.”

Undergraduates close to graduation took a Management Systems course offered this past summer session. Interviewing each other to answer a list of questions, students continually looked at patterns of behavior within organizations to better understand where intervening in the management system might produce either improved performance or a different outcome overall. Left to right are Santo Lombardo and Jenifer Chesky (foreground) and Sarah O’Sullivan and Sonia Gomes (center background).
Evening Classes to the Rescue
“If it weren’t for evening courses, I wouldn’t have been able to work on my BSN,” declares Jeanette Kurtz, who, as an assistant nurse manager at Yale New Haven Hospital, has 24-hour accountability for two in-patient medical units with 70 employees reporting to her. Evening classes are core to the RN-to-Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. Geared toward registered nurses who have associate degrees or diplomas in nursing, it is designed to prepare a liberally educated person to function as a professional nurse in a variety of roles and health care settings. “I want to earn a BSN as a gateway to a master’s in health care management,” explains Kurtz, the mother of two small children.

At the graduate level consider the experience of James Dempsey, who is working on a master’s in the Civil Engineering Technology program. A marine superintendent/engineer for a company providing engineered construction services, he wants “to open doors to higher pay with a more sustainable career,” and was attracted by “the flexibility in classes at CCSU.” He explains, “Because of balancing work, 40 to 70 hours per week, with spending time with my wife and two daughters, I needed to be able to work during the day and to take classes part-time in the evenings, and, if need be, on weekends. Dr. Clifford Anderson and Dr. Swamy Basim are sensitive to the fact that many students enrolled in Engineering Department classes work part- or full-time, and they realize that many are struggling to meet assorted demands. Without sacrificing standards, homework deadlines fit a variety of schedules and—my favorite—classes only run once a week to keep travel time to a minimum. The School of Engineering & Technology has done a good job of scheduling classes so that students can earn their degrees by taking almost all of their classes at night and on the weekends.”

Condensed Courses
This past spring, a condensed technical seminar was presented by Associate Professor of Technology and Engineering Education David Sianez in response to requests by students for an option to satisfy their remaining degree requirements. Sianez agreed to teach the seminar on computer numerical control machining 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the first five Saturdays of the semester. “Because of Dr. Sianez’ flexibility and willingness to take time from his own family, I was able to complete my last course and finish my master’s, so I graduated in May,” says Roberto Yanes, a technology education major. “Since Saturday is quiet, we were able to use both the manufacturing engineering and the technical engineering labs. My classmates and I were in awe at how much we accomplished in an eight-hour stretch.”

In the School of Business, a condensed offering is the undergraduate senior-level course for business majors. Students in the Strategic Management class examine the role of a company’s executive team in defining its long-term competitive direction. The class meets during Winter Session for three intensive weeks, and in Summer Session for five weeks, during the day or evening. This popular option is convenient to both full- and part-time students and those seeking to advance to master’s degrees. Christine Rojeck, who entered the management program four years ago and graduated this past May, availed herself of...
the evening and Summer options. A full-time employee, wife, and mother of three boys, she states, “I’ve enjoyed learning from the faculty, who, it has been my experience, went above and beyond to help those who sought special guidance.”

An Accelerated Program: MAT
Connecticut has faced persistent teacher shortages in secondary mathematics, sciences, Spanish, technology education, and, in some years, English. The CCSU Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program was designed to help career changers make a successful transition into teaching with one academic year of full-time study.

“A candidate who holds a degree in a shortage area has the opportunity to earn a master’s degree and teaching certification in 13 months,” states Professor of Teacher Education Nancy Hoffman, MAT coordinator. “Several students who began the program last summer have already accepted teaching jobs for next year.”

Job opportunities have already opened up for Kim Coyle, a mother of two elementary school boys who is hoping to make a career change after 14 years in information technology. She says, “Because the MAT is condensed, we were forced to learn the material really well and to prove our knowledge on a constant basis. I can write a 20-page paper quicker than I even imagined. Every class, every subject, all 20 of us in the cohort challenged ourselves and each other to do our very best.”

Accommodating the needs of working professionals, the School of Education & Professional Studies offers master’s degrees in educational leadership and educational technology, as well as a 6th Year Certificate and a doctoral program (EdD) in educational leadership.

Taking Learning Off Site
Off-site graduate courses in reading and educational leadership are offered by the School of Education and Professional Studies to various school systems, including Bristol, Windsor Locks, Hartford, East Hartford, New Britain, and Southington. Responding to invitations by school systems, CCSU now provides courses to groups of teachers and principals at their sites.

The RN-to-BSN program offers off-site courses in conjunction with Lawrence and Memorial Hospital in New London. Roberta Buriak, a supervisor of clinical service for a homecare agency, benefited from the off-site arrangement. She states: “The nursing classes were all offered at Lawrence and Memorial, at 4 p.m. which was a very convenient time since I was able to work all day. Some of the classes were a combination of classroom and online which helped make it easier to complete assignments at my own pace. Since the class was only one day a week and the travel was minimal, I still had time to see my son playing sports and my daughter acting or dancing while pursing my degree.”

Online Learning
CCSU offers online educational formats attractive to students who opt to attend classes in the cyber world for reasons of accessibility, flexibility, or convenience. Scores of people have enrolled in CCSU’s online courses since 2002, mostly during Winter and Summer sessions.

In fact, the University holds a singular distinction in online learning: “CCSU is the first and only university in the world to offer the master of science in data mining completely online,” declares Professor of Mathematical Sciences Daniel Larose, who serves as director of the data mining program. CCSU also offers a graduate certificate in data mining online.

The program primarily serves full-time employees of corporations seeking to enhance their information technology expertise. “Since most of the students work full time, most matriculated students in the data mining programs (currently about 70) are taking courses part-time. We reach students in most of the 50 states, as well as several foreign countries,” says Larose.

Recent graduate Donald Wedding, PhD, an Ohio resident and sales engineer for the SAS Institute, says he liked the asynchronous format. “I could attend class 24-7, log in when my four kids had gone to sleep or when I was in an airplane or airport since I travel all over the country in my job,” he comments. He enjoyed collegial involvement with other professionals in online discussions via chats. The data mining program faculty have published several books in the field, and, Wedding said, “I was inspired by Dr. Larose’s book to start putting together a book of my own on clustering methods.”

Whether students choose to study online or on campus, CCSU is reaching out to modern learners and strives to offer them a quality education that is accessible, convenient, and supportive.

— Geri Radacsi
Enfield High School students were riveted by Assistant Professor of Mathematical Sciences Shelly Jones’ lesson on the connections between music and mathematics. They were excited and amazed that they were understanding fractions by studying recording artist Miley Cyrus’ pop song “Party in the U.S.A.”

Jones had been invited, along with musician/producer Dunn Pearson, Jr., to conduct the class by alumna Rachel Klein, who graduated from CCSU in 2007 with a bachelor in science and has taught secondary mathematics the past two years in Enfield.

As students grooved to the synthesizer-dance-rock rhythm, Pearson confided, “Music was one thing that helped me finally to understand fractions.” Students learned that the value of notes (whole, half, quarter, eighth) is calculated in fractions; thus a 4/4 time musical bar must equal 4 quarter notes.

Once students grasped the concept, they wrote their own songs and then delighted to hear them played by Pearson, a video/music producer who has arranged music for top artists, including Mary J. Blige and Stevie Wonder. Klein declared, “The presentation was invigorating to watch. What a great way to show students how math is part of their lives, even if they don’t realize it. I remember the CCSU Mathematical Sciences Department faculty urging education students to incorporate real-world examples and hands-on learning into teaching.”

This past May, Jones and Pearson teamed to conduct a Math and Music session at the annual Connecticut Association of Mathematically Precocious Youth (CAMPY) camp held at CCSU for some 182 middle school students across the state. CCSU faculty, classroom teachers, business professionals, and scientists volunteered to instruct students with a high math aptitude in order to inspire them to continue in mathematical studies.

The Math and Music session led by Jones and Pearson was videotaped for use as a teacher resource for their upcoming textbook and DVD on teaching fractions, geometry, and algebra.

Jones, who holds a master’s from the University of Bridgeport and the PhD from Illinois State University in mathematics education, believes in tapping into each child’s own body of knowledge. She urges CCSU undergraduates and graduates aspiring to be mathematics teachers to provide their own students with experiences that are relevant and authentic. For the past two years, she has made presentations on using pop culture, music, and other resources to teach mathematics at Associated Teachers of Mathematics in Connecticut (ATOMIC) conferences.

**Impressive Professional Experience**

Prior to joining CCSU in 2006, Jones was a mathematics supervisor for the Middletown
Public Schools. She coordinated mathematics programs for grades 6–12 and supervised classroom teachers of mathematics. She was also the assistant director for mathematics from 2000–04 for the Project to Increase Mastery of Mathematics and Science (PIMMS), Wesleyan University. She planned and provided professional development programs in mathematics and served as a mathematics resource person for schools and school districts throughout Connecticut.

Based on her professional experience, Jones has become passionate about ingraining future educators with “conceptual understanding.” She says often teacher candidates know the operational procedures associated with adding, subtracting, multiplying, and so forth, and they teach their pupils mathematical formulas. But formulas can be forgotten or mixed up with each other. “Conceptual understanding is more profound,” explains Jones. “Teachers must understand why the formula makes sense so in turn they can instruct their students, who therefore will be less likely to forget it.”

**Research Focused on Concepts**

One of Jones’ research interests is looking at best practices in teacher professional development to promote the conceptual understanding of math in classroom instruction. She finds it troubling, she says, that American students are performing below international counterparts as reported in the 2007 Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) of fourth and eighth graders. She contends, “For a deeper understanding, I think American kids should learn math conceptually, not only the operational procedures.” Jones described the pedagogy applicable to enhancing such teaching in a presentation on making data analysis and probability accessible to all students at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Annual Meeting, held in Salt Lake City in 2008.

Senior Adriana Gentile, an elementary education major in the Honors Program, states: “The last chapter of my thesis compared math education in the US with that in other countries. For this comparison, I focused mainly on Japan and Singapore, since those countries were two of the top performers on the TIMSS Test. Dr. Jones, my advisor, knew so much about this worldwide test and about the teaching methods used in various countries. I would not have been able to write that chapter without her knowledge and guidance.”

**Role of Culture in Learning Math**

Jones also believes in using cultural aspects of math to increase the motivation and learning of minority students. Piloting a D-designated course in mathematics methods, in line with the University’s initiative to foster more diverse learning, Jones helps students become aware of the role that culture plays in mathematics and aims to connect ancient cultures to the ancestors of African American and Hispanic children. She talks about the contributions made to math by ancient Egyptian and Mayan cultures, ideas which are still used in modern mathematics practice today. In addition, Jones uses literature connections from other cultures and a variety of learning styles used in the many cultures present in Connecticut classrooms.

She muses that an ideal classroom would take into account students with a wide diversity of learning styles and teachers would be equipped with creative instructional strategies to help children learn according to their individual strengths.

She reflects, “Imagine walking into a classroom where your needs are met. You feel at home. You feel safe and motivated to learn at your own pace and in your own way. If we could accomplish this, we would have done a great thing.”

— Geri Radacsi

**Geopolitics of the Middle East**

In April, Hassan Abbas (above), Quaid-i-Azam Professor at Columbia University’s South Asia Institute, gave a lecture on “Geopolitics, Militancy and Crisis in Pakistan and Afghanistan” as part of CCSU’s Middle East Studies Lecture Series. Abbas, who served in the administrations of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and President Pervez Musharraf, is a senior advisor at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government. He has appeared as a political analyst on CNN, MSNBC, C-Span, Al-Jazeera, and PBS and served as a commentator on the VOA and BBC.
Focus on Scholarship: Parker English
What We Say, Who We Are

They must have been grisly sights: televised executions of political prisoners following the 1983 military coup in Nigeria.

Seated in a comfortable faculty club, a young Parker English, newly appointed to his first post teaching philosophy at Nigeria’s University of Calabar, listened with rapt attention to his colleagues describing previous broadcasts. Uneasy, English was nonetheless fascinated by reports that some of the prisoners began dancing and singing when ushered into a soccer stadium or onto a beach front for execution.

What sprang to English’s mind? Philosopher Jean Paul Sartre’s discussions of existentialism—especially the idea that expressing an emotion repeatedly makes it feel real regardless of whether it even existed before being expressed. He mused aloud, “Perhaps the prisoners were singing to enhance an emotion of patriotism, which would be the most satisfying experience they could have under such horrible circumstances.”

Several colleagues agreed. They suggested English read about Leopold Senghor’s discussions of Negritude—especially the idea that expressing an emotion repeatedly makes it feel real regardless of whether it even existed before being expressed. He mused aloud, “Perhaps the prisoners were singing to enhance an emotion of patriotism, which would be the most satisfying experience they could have under such horrible circumstances.”

Several colleagues agreed. They suggested English read about Leopold Senghor’s discussions of Negritude—the literary and artistic expression of African experiences. His colleagues encouraged English to look particularly at Sartre’s explication of Negritude in his introduction to Senghor’s 1948 anthology of Negritude poetry.

From Senghor and Sartre to Latest Book
Today, English is a professor of philosophy at CCSU, having joined the faculty in 1995 shortly before publishing his first book. African Philosophy: A Classical Approach (Upper Saddle River, NY: Prentice Hall, 1996), an anthology with extensive introductory essays and endnote discussions, was co-edited with Kibujo M. Kalumba. Recently, English published his second book, What We Say, Who We Are: Leopold Senghor, Zora Neale Huston, and the Philosophy of Language (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2009), which is grounded on his two earlier articles about Negritude. “The idea for this book springs from Senghor’s and Sartre’s notion that to some extent the meaning of all our feelings is determined by how we express them,” said English.

It is a notion shared by Hurston in her view of what she called “Negro expression,” which she defined as speaking dramatically with metaphors, similes, double-negatives, onomatopoeias, and other tropes so as to entertain oneself as well as listeners. Hurston’s view is that a speaker’s conscious use of these devices magnifies whatever feelings are thereby expressed. “While Hurston provides many details without an explicit big picture for this view, Senghor provides a big picture without many explicit details,” says English. “The bulk of this book then uses some of the philosophical debate about J.L. Austin’s much-discussed analysis of what he called ‘illocutionary speech-acts’ to explicate a race-neutral view of speech shared by Senghor and Hurston.”

In the last chapter, English proposes that this view serves as a possible explanation for why and how the Nigerian political prisoners facing imminent execution sang for their last minutes of life.
Professor and chair of philosophy at Morehouse College Barry Halley lauds English’s book: “A groundbreaking exercise that demonstrates how the philosophy of language, often criticized as a purely ivory tower enterprise, may be applied in a positive manner to everyday life. Parker English helps us to interpolate the maxim, ‘I am what I say,’ with regard to such diverse areas as race, ethnicity, literature, music, acting, ritual, and friendship and in a manner that enriches our appreciation of human understanding.”

New Scholarship on Religiously Based Political Authoritarianism

Expanding his research on issues in African philosophy while on sabbatical during the past year, English has addressed an argument advanced by Kwasi Wiredu, a Ghanaian and one of the two most prominent living African philosophers. “Wiredu thinks that Western, especially Christian, assumptions about spiritual entities have influenced contemporary Ghanaians so that they accept more political authoritarianism than did traditional Ghanaians,” says English.

Since traditional Ghanaians were preliterate, they used works of art as official state symbols to embody their assumptions about spiritual entities and political authority. Examining Wiredu’s argument thus depends on the work of art historians. Thus English is working in collaboration with Dr. Nancy Steele Hamme, art historian and art department chair at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, TX, to develop a book that extends their two previous articles about Wiredu and includes his response to their writing.

Because he thinks they will be informatively similar, Wiredu recommends that any comparison between the traditional past and the present for an African nation should be combined with a similar comparison about a Western nation. English and Steele Hamme follow this recommendation with a related comparison regarding the United States. English explains “both Ghana and the US emerged from British colonization; both had a long history of slavery and witchcraft accusations; both were traditional in Wiredu’s sense of being pre-industrial; both now use English as their lingua franca.”

Admitting it is difficult to measure the extent to which any group of people accepts political authoritarianism, English nonetheless contends, “There is a definite sense in which Wiredu’s argument is wrong. Namely, the official symbols of state in traditional Ghana embody assumptions about spiritual entities a great deal more than the official state symbols in contemporary Ghana. On the other hand, Wiredu is definitely helpful in suggesting that a great many American symbols of state, from 1607 to the present, embody assumptions about a spiritual entity, a monotheistic god.”

English’s contemplative scholarship is fueled by an adventurous spirit. Before teaching in Nigeria during a turbulent political period, he served in the US Marine Corps from 1966–1969 with combat duty controlling close air support bombing strikes. He’s also bicycled across the United States three times and built a 600-square foot log cabin. After receiving his PhD from the University of Western Ontario in 1974, English worked as a lumberjack in northern Ontario for two years. He has pursued philosophy with “non-verbal as well as verbal action,” and with physical and intellectual self-discipline.

—Geri Radacsi

Mural Slam at CCSU

The CCSU Mural Program and the Art Club hosted the annual Mural Slam in April. Featured in The Hartford Courant and The New Britain Herald, the Mural Slam drew a crowd of over 40 artists. Each participant was assigned a four-by-twelve foot section of wall on top of Welte Garage to paint. The Mural Slam gives artists a legal and affordable place to paint.
Katherine Bossardet knows a thing or two about pressure. Maintaining a 3.94 GPA, working part-time, and participating in three sports at CCSU would be a challenge for anyone, but the junior from Ledyard takes it all in stride.

“There are times during the season when it’s tough to do everything,” Bossardet admitted, “but I think it’s helped because it makes me focus.”

She went on to explain that keeping a schedule helps to keep her on track. “I’ve found that when I’m in season and my time is kind of restricted, I do my homework at the same time every day because that’s the only time I have to do it,” she said.

A large percentage of college students change majors at some point during their studies, and Bossardet is no different. She started as an elementary education major but realized teaching wasn’t for her. “After one of my classes during which we actually went into an elementary school, I decided I wasn’t sure enough about wanting to be a teacher to commit to completing the program,” she said.

That decision led Bossardet to change her major to English—with a double minor in marketing and management information systems. Since she has always been interested in business, marketing was an easy choice. She chose management information systems because of the field’s focus on computers. “Everybody jokes about what to do with an English degree, so I figured I’d try to make myself a little more marketable,” she noted. “Any type of computer knowledge will probably helpful.”

Having instructors like Professor of English Candace Barrington has enhanced her experience at CCSU. Bossardet stated that one way in which Barrington helps her students is by holding individual mid-semester conferences to discuss grades and how they can be improved. “She cares,” Bossardet said. “She loves her subject and she loves teaching it to us.”

While focusing on academics is important to Bossardet, so is competing in athletics for CCSU. Starting the academic year with cross country in the fall, she also competes in indoor track during the winter and in outdoor track in the spring.

“When I was little, maybe about five years old, I was entered into a fun run in our town. I did a couple of those every year through elementary school,” she said. “In middle school we had a cross country team. In high school I was able to do cross country and outdoor track, but I didn’t start indoor track until I came to Central.”

Bossardet decided to attend CCSU partly because of its location and also because of athletics. “I wanted to stay in-state. I’m a bit of a homebody, so I didn’t want to go too far away,” she said. “Athletically, I wanted to do a Division One school. I wanted to be on a team where I’d be scoring points, where I would matter.”

She and her teammates have certainly found success. Bossardet placed 12th and earned all-conference honors for the second straight season at the Northeast Conference Women’s Cross Country Championships in the fall of 2009. The success of her team at that conference helped CCSU earn sixth place out of twelve teams.

Bossardet plans to graduate in May 2011.

—Heather Lusebrink

Steve Forbes Speaks at CCSU

Steve Forbes, chairman and CEO of Forbes, Inc., and editor-in-chief of Forbes magazine, delivered the 2010 Robert C. Vance Distinguished Lecture at CCSU in April. Forbes met with students in the afternoon before speaking about America’s economy and monetary policy during his lecture in Welte Auditorium. The lecture series is supported by a grant from the Robert C. Vance Charitable Foundation. Proceeds from the evening’s reception and banquet benefitted the Robert C. Vance Endowed Chair in Journalism and Mass Communication.
Senior Earns Top Theater Award from Kennedy Center

Brava to senior Gabbi Mendelsohn! The English major from Vernon won a top award for directing at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) in Washington, DC. This marks the second consecutive year that a CCSU student has won this prestigious competition.

Mendelsohn, who has a minor in theatre, received the National SDC Directing Fellowship Award in April. The distinguished honor comes with $1,000 for a full membership in the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers and a summer residency at the Eugene O’Neill Theater in Waterford, CT.

The Kennedy Center’s festival is a national theater program that showcases student artists and theater departments and serves as a catalyst for improving college theater in the US. Approximately 18,000 students, representing 600 colleges and universities, compete at the regional level for the opportunity to perform at the Kennedy Center. Mendelsohn won the KCACTF Regional 1 competition to earn one of eight spots at the national event.

“We are very proud of Gabbi’s achievement. She competed against the best in the country to earn this impressive honor,” says Assistant Professor of Theatre Sheila Siragusa, who teaches acting and directing classes.

Siragusa also worked with Douglas Oliphant, who earned the same Kennedy Center award at last year’s festival, while he was a student at CCSU.

“The experience and award are wonderful for Gabbi’s resume, and she had the opportunity to work with and learn from some of the greatest talents in theater-making,” Siragusa points out.

As part of the national competition, regional winners in each category spend one week at the Kennedy Center immersed in workshops with noted experts in all aspects of production, including playwrights, directors, stage managers, and set designers.

Mendelsohn, a non-traditional student, is a single mom who returned to higher education to earn a diploma. She describes her experience at the Kennedy Center as an “incredible opportunity.”

“The week was amazing and intense, and it also required a lot of preparation,” says Mendelsohn. “We worked with incredible people like Libby Appel [director of the celebrated Oregon Shakespeare Festival] who gave us insights on how to look at a script and Kate Snodgrass [an award-winning playwright] who gave us tips on how to work on a new play.”

— Janice Palmer

“Being 20”

CCSU’s Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program celebrated its 20th anniversary this year with a revamping of the annual June Baker Higgins Gender Studies Conference held at the beginning of May. The three-day conference, titled “Being 20,” featured discussions and presentations on topics affecting young women. Gail Collins (left), New York Times columnist and the first woman to be appointed editor of the Times’ editorial page, gave the keynote address and signed copies of her latest book, When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present.

The final day of the conference featured a luncheon lecture by Rachel Lloyd (right), executive director and founder of Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS). GEMS seeks to empower young women who have been victims of sexual trafficking by providing support, mentoring, and opportunities for positive advancement. David Schisgall’s documentary Very Young Girls, which was based on the work done by Lloyd, was shown on the first day of the conference. This exposé on the human trafficking industry followed 13- and 14-year-old American girls on the streets of New York.

During the conference, the following members of the CCSU community were recognized for their key roles in developing and expanding the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program: Coordinator of the Women’s Center Jacqueline Cobbina-Boivin; Professor of Sociology, Emeritus, Mary Ertel; Associate Director of Library Services, Emeritus, Francis J. Gagliardi; Director of the Women’s Center, Emerita, Doris Honig Guenter; Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences, Emeritus, June Baker Higgins; Associate Professor of English Melissa Mentzer; Professor of History Heather Prescott; and Professor of Communication Karen Ritzenhoff.
Barnard Recipients Combine Scholarship with Community Engagement

Inspirational is the word that best describes four recent graduates from CCSU. Joshua Fischer, Andrew LeFebvre, Elzbieta Sikora, and Damek Spacek were four of 12 seniors in the Connecticut State University System who received the 22nd annual Henry Barnard Distinguished Student Awards.

The Connecticut State University System Foundation sponsors the awards which are presented to students at a dinner held in May. Proceeds from the dinner are used by the CSUS Foundation to continue its educational and outreach programs for students of all ages across Connecticut. The award is named for distinguished educator Henry Barnard, who, in 1850, became the state’s first superintendent of schools. He later became the first US Commissioner of Education.

Faculty members at the four CSUS universities are asked to nominate students who they believe “best exemplify the ideals of scholarship, hard work, and compassion for others.” Students must have excelled academically and also have donated their time and talents to improving the University and community.

In speaking about the award recipients, CSU Board of Trustees Chairman Karl Krapek told the audience that the Barnard event is a “highlight” of the academic calendar. “The recipients of tonight’s honor demonstrate, quite clearly, that our universities are doing an outstanding job of educating and preparing the leaders and workers of tomorrow. These students cannot help but inspire you, and renew your faith in our young people,” he said.

President John Miller introduced each of the CCSU students and shared some of the outstanding attributes that contributed to their academic success.

Damek Spacek, Biomolecular Science

Damek Spacek of Berlin had intended to stay at CCSU just long enough to prove to his parents that he was ready for higher education before transferring to a larger university. The biomolecular science major carried a very heavy course load and graduated with a 3.94 GPA. Associate Professor of Biomolecular Sciences James Mulrooney, chair of the department, describes Spacek as their “gem—a bright, remarkable student who is an all-around good guy.”

Spacek’s achievements at CCSU have been rewarded with several distinguished scholarships and earned him a place in the Golden Key International Honor Society. His DNA research landed him the Student Research Grant for two consecutive years, and his work has been published in two peer-reviewed journals.

As a research assistant, Spacek is credited with being “selfless” for the amount of time he spent mentoring students, both majors and non-majors. As a lead mentor for a New Britain neighborhood program, he worked with high school students on lab research projects with the goal of inspiring them to pursue college diplomas.

Spacek is headed to Stanford University this fall where he has been accepted into the PhD program in genetics.
Andrew LeFebvre, Music Education
A music education major from Rocky Hill, Andrew LeFebvre achieved a 3.85 GPA at CCSU while excelling in teacher preparation and achieving stand-out status as a musician and traditional jazz saxophonist.

Associate Professor of Music Carl Knox, director of the Jazz Ensemble, believes “LeFebvre is quite possibly the best musician with whom I’ve ever worked.”

LeFebvre’s work ethic is above reproach, according to Knox. The dedicated saxophonist practices five to six hours a day. While student teaching in Old Saybrook this past spring, LeFebvre got up at 4 or 5 in the morning just to get in several hours of practice before his long commute.

In addition to earning the CCSU Music Scholarship, LeFebvre was twice selected as the Best Soloist at the prestigious Villanova Jazz Festival. He served as drum major for CCSU’s Marching Band for three years, played sax for the Jazz Combo, and was section leader for the Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, and Chamber Players. LeFebvre also worked at several area schools mentoring young musicians.

Joshua Fischer, Management Information Systems
Bristol resident Joshua Fischer credits his father and step-mother with fully supporting him, especially his decision in his mid-30s to attend CCSU full-time and finally earn a diploma.

While at Central, Fischer discovered a keen interest in Management Information Systems (MIS) and graduated from the program with a 3.80 GPA. In addition to taking more than the required course-load, Fischer became immersed in college life. He says it was an “opportunity that couldn’t be wasted.”

Fischer won several awards, including one from the MIS Department for achievement, and was inducted into two honor societies. He is credited with re-energizing the MIS Club, for which he served as president and treasurer.

He organized successful corporate recruiting events and a food drive, which has become an annual MIS activity. For the CCSU-New Britain Homeless Initiative, Fischer organized student volunteers to tutor residents in computer skills, and he also wrote the instructional materials.

Leading by example, Fischer helped students and faculty realize that community engagement is a necessary obligation “for those of us that have been so fortunate.”

Elzbieta Sikora, Psychology
When Elzbieta (Ella) Sikora emigrated from Poland to the US six years ago, she didn’t speak a word of English. She worked at a coffee shop to earn her way in life until a customer challenged her to pursue higher education.

After taking some courses at community colleges, Sikora enrolled at CCSU as a psychology major. During her studies, she held down a full-time job, and, on most Saturdays, she volunteered in the community, raising money for local charities, building accessible playgrounds for children, and working with the Middlesex Association for Retarded Citizens.

Sikora graduated with a 3.93 GPA and was the Psychology Department’s valedictorian.

Her list of academic achievements at Central is long, including merit scholarships and awards from Anthropology, International Relations, and several other programs. She was inducted into two honor societies and maintained active membership in the Eastern Psychological Association, the American Federation of Teachers, and the Polish Women’s Alliance of America.

She now speaks three languages fluently and will be pursuing a master’s degree in psychology at the University of Hartford.

— Janice Palmer

CCSU Hosts Girls and STEM Expo
In April, 100 seventh-grade girls from New Britain, Newington, Meriden, Hartford, and Bloomfield participated in the second annual Girls and STEM Expo at CCSU. At left in photo, Professor of Biomolecular Science Kathy Martin-Tray speaks with participants at the Expo, which featured workshops designed to promote the girls’ interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The event was the result of the collaboration between the Connecticut Women’s Education and Legal Fund and the CCSU School of Engineering and Technology.

Four outstanding CCSU students were selected by the Connecticut State University System to receive the 2010 Henry Barnard Distinguished Student Awards (from left to right): Andrew LeFebvre, Damek Spacek, Elzbieta Sikora, and Joshua Fischer.
Two CCSU professors—Heather Prescott of the History Department and Timothy Reagan of the Teacher Education Department—have each been awarded the distinguished title of “Connecticut State University Professor” by the Connecticut State University System. The designation is one of the System’s most prestigious honors and is retained by the recipients until their retirement.

CCSU President Jack Miller, who nominated the two faculty members, says the application review process was made difficult by the “outstanding” field of candidates from the four campuses.

“The appointment as CSU Professor is a singular honor in recognition of a recipient’s professional excellence,” says Miller, who was limited to only two nominations. “I am extremely pleased to recognize professors Prescott and Reagan with an honor for which they are eminently qualified,” he said.

Each university in CSUS may have no more than three CSU Professors at any one time. CSU Professor of Philosophy Felton Best earned the distinction in 2004.

**Heather Prescott, PhD**

Prescott has been on the CCSU History Department faculty for 18 years. She was a coordinator of the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program for several years and served as chair of the History Department for a four-year term.

Combining her passion for history and medicine, Prescott has become an international leader in the field of gender and medicine. Senior scholars applaud her for pushing the discipline beyond traditional approaches and credit her with playing a vital role in the development of a new sub-field, the history of children and youth.

In her examination of the histories of adolescent medicine, women’s studies, and, most recently, disability studies, Prescott has produced an illustrious body of scholarly work. She is a prolific writer whose peer-reviewed articles have been published in leading journals. She is frequently invited to give lectures and participate in professional conferences in Canada, France, and Great Britain, as well as the US.

Her most prominent works are three books that have been described as ground-breaking and are often cited by scholars and authors in a variety of professional fields, including medicine, law, and public policy. Her first book, *A Doctor of Their Own: The History of Adolescent Medicine*, which was published in 1998, was the first to be written on the subject and earned the American Medical Writers Association’s 2000 Will Solimene Award of Excellence in Medical Communication. She co-edited *Children and Youth in Sickness and Health: A Historical Handbook and Guide*, and then wrote *Student Bodies: The Influence of Student Health Services in American Society*.

Prescott, who earned her BA from the University of Vermont and an MA and PhD from Cornell University, is as enthusiastic about teaching as she is about research. She incorporates new teaching strategies in her classroom to improve student learning. Her integration of digital history and new media technologies into the master’s program in public history set the program apart from others in the region and gives graduates an edge in the job market.
American Idle
Judged a Winner

Assistant Professor of English Mary Collins recently received the highest honor in the independent book world. Her latest book, American Idle: A Journey Through Our Sedentary Culture, was selected as the Grand Prize Winner for Non-Fiction Books in the 2010 Next Generation Indie Book Awards.

Collins, who teaches creative writing at Central, beat out hundreds of fellow authors. During a ceremony at The Plaza Hotel in New York City, she was presented with a trophy, a $1,500 cash prize, and the honor of having her book reviewed by renowned literary agent Marilyn Allen for possible representation.

Each year, the Independent Book Publisher Professionals Group recognizes and honors "the most exceptional, independently published books in 60 different categories." The Indie Book Awards include books published by university presses and independent authors and publishers.

In her book, Collins explores how inactive the American lifestyle has become. She was inspired to investigate this subject after a bicycle accident put her in a two-day coma and ruptured disks in her back, severely limiting her mobility and resulting in extensive rehabilitation. As a former varsity college athlete, avid basketball player, and runner, her new "idle" life was daunting.

"As I worked to regain the full use of my body again—which involved some back surgery—I became painfully aware of America’s chair-dominated culture," Collins said.

In researching her book, Collins traveled across the country and spoke with Americans who work in a wide range of environments. She discovered that people’s lack of movement is not necessarily by choice. "Environment and schedule make it nearly impossible," she writes, for people to integrate healthy movement patterns into their day. Through individuals’ stories, Collins illustrates how inactivity has affected the way peoples’ minds and bodies function.

Collins has written two other adult nonfiction books, The Essential Daughter: Changing Expectations for Girls at Home and National Public Radio, in addition to histories, biographies, and articles that have appeared in major publications and media.

— Connie Yan
extra credit

The town of Wethersfield honored Associate Professor of Geography Charles Button and a group of CCSU students for their work on Wintergreen Woods. The students, who were taking Button’s class in field methods, produced a thorough assessment of the cultural and environmental attributes of Wintergreen Woods. Their work will help ensure that the woods will be maintained and protected.

Professor of Modern Languages and University Ombudsman Antonio Garcia Lozada was invited to speak at the National University in Colombia at the end of April as part of that country’s celebration of the bicentennial of its independence. As a keynote speaker, Garcia Lozada lectured on “Colombian Intellectual Independence through Literature.”

TESOL graduate students Laura Herold, Eloise Barreto, and Elvis Minga presented their research findings at the 31st New York State TESOL Applied Linguistics Conference held at Columbia University in April. The conference focused on “Strengthening Classroom Practices: The Link Between Research and Application,” and the students presented, respectively, on adult English learners’ vocabulary acquisition, adult ESL article acquisition, and Albanian immigrant attitudes toward their native language and its impact on their children.

The website ProfHacker, co-founded by Associate Professor of English Jason Jones, has partnered with The Chronicle of Higher Education. ProfHacker, which can be found at www.profhacker.com, offers articles “by professors for professors” on the topics of pedagogy, productivity, and technology in higher education. The posts can now be viewed on The Chronicle’s blog page.

Professor of English Paul Karpuk and Assistant Professor of Modern Languages Jakub Kazecki both had articles published in the December issue of the Canadian Slavonic Papers, an interdisciplinary journal devoted to central and eastern Europe. Karpuk’s article was titled “Reconstructing Gogol’s Project to Write a History of Ukraine.” Kazecki’s article had the title of “Laughing Across the Border: Radek Knapp’s Mr. Kuka’s Recommendations and Instruction Manual for Poland.”

The Connecticut Trio—CCSU Professors of Music Linda Laurent and Julie Ribchinsky and Adjunct Lecturer of Music Gerard Rosa—performed a concert, featuring the works of Mendelssohn and Schumann, in the middle of March at the New Britain Museum of American Art. A second concert was performed in late March at Davidson Hall. The trio was joined by guest violinist Adjunct Lecturer of Music Karen Fagerburg.

Assistant Professor of English Seunghun Lee has returned from his stay at the University of Venda, in South Africa’s Limpopo Province, where he conducted linguistic research on the southern African language Xitsonga. Working with students, Lee gathered data on the consonant-tone interaction in the language and has concluded that his data differs widely from similar information collected in the 1960s and ’70s. Lee plans to submit his findings on this often-overlooked language to various publications.

Eight members of Central’s men’s soccer team participated in the 20th annual Penguin Runge at Hammonasset State Park in Madison, CT. The team was mentioned in a New Haven Register article on the event, which involved jumping into 36-degree water to raise money for the Special Olympics.

A musical production of The Secret Garden, presented by The Newington Children’s Theatre Company in Central’s Torp Theatre this spring, was directed by CCSU student Christa Pizzoferrato, with music direction by student Chris Kulman. The production was sponsored by the Dean’s Office, School of Arts and Sciences, and the Theatre Department.

Associate Professor of English Aimee Pozorski organized “CCSU Night at Holmes” this spring at the Holmes Elementary School in New Britain to further ties between CCSU and the community and to encourage education. In a simulated college environment, Holmes students registered for “college” courses taught by CCSU faculty. Classes were scheduled at opposite ends of the school to mimic the distance college students walk between classes, and a social gathering was held at the end of the night. Pozorski taught a poetry class with Professor of English Gil Gigliotti. Associate Professor of History John Tully, Professor of Physics and Earth Sciences Kristine Larsen, Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry Guy Crundwell, Associate Professor of Biomolecular Science Jim Mulrooney, and Professor of Biomolecular Science Kathy Martin-Troy all taught courses on their fields of study. Director of the University Learning Center Meg Leake led a course on college preparation.

First-year student Aaron Radden had one of the best individual seasons in Central history and helped CCSU to its second-straight fourth-place finish at the Northeast Conference Indoor Track and Field Championship. He won the 60- and 200-meter dash events and was named Outstanding Rookie, Outstanding Track Performer, and Most Valuable Performer of the Meet. He broke the 60-meter dash record in 6.89 seconds and CCSU’s 200-meter dash record in 22.03 seconds at the Boston Indoor Games. Radden won the New England Championship in 21.03 seconds.

Associate Professor of English Ravi Shankar and Adjunct Lecturer of English Leslie McGrath have each been awarded a 2010 Solo Writers Fellowship by the Greater Hartford Arts Council. Sixteen Connecticut writers were each awarded $2,375 to use toward expenses, such as writer’s... continued on page 29
Jazz Musicians Score at Competition!

CCSU’s Jazz Ensemble hit a high note at the Villanova Collegiate Jazz Festival in March and brought home five awards from the competition. The ensemble of 19 student musicians, directed by Associate Professor of Music Carl Knox, scored first place in the performance category and placed second overall in the event.

The annual festival, held at Villanova University in Pennsylvania, offers college and university jazz groups an opportunity to compete and be judged on skills and performance.

“This was our best year ever, and I am so proud of how far our program has come in 10 years,” says Knox. “When we first began attending this festival, we were not competitive, and now we are consistently judged as being among the top tier musicians.”

The CCSU students competed against groups from seven other schools, including Boston University, Johns Hopkins University, and the US Naval Academy.

Central’s ensemble included John Anderson, Jennifer Bellizzi, Michael Carabillo, Sarah Coviello, Jesse Engle, Antonio Franco, James Gerrard, Nicholas Kane, Matt Kittson, Jordan Liddell, Alvaro Maldonado, William O’Keefe, Taino Pacheco, Robert Robinson, David Schramm, Gregory Smith, Jeffrey Spitzer, Ryan Vacca, and Weena Walton.

Individual members and instrumental groups from the CCSU ensemble achieved excellence in three other categories. Outstanding Soloist was awarded to trombonist Alvaro Maldonado—the fifth time a CCSU student has won this category. Best Trumpet Section Award was presented to Ryan Vacca, James Gerrard, Greg Smith, Jordan Liddell, and Matt Kittson. Best Rhythm Section Award went to Jesse Engle, Rob Robinson, Taino Pacheco, and Nick Kane.

– Connie Yan

Shopping, Gardening, and Baking Lead to Elevator Pitch Wins

More than 70 CCSU students participated in the Spring 2010 Shipman & Goodwin Elevator Pitch Competition, but only three walked away with a prize. The competition is organized by the CCSU Entrepreneurship Club and sponsored by Shipman & Goodwin, LLP, which gives $500 in prize money. Each contestant, in 60 seconds or less (the length of a hypothetical elevator ride), pitches a sales idea or investment opportunity to a potential investor or customer.

In the Enterprise Venture category, Brian Mitchard of Meriden won the top prize of $125 for Foodlife.com. His website would tap supermarket data collected from customer purchases and then share that data with those customers in order to provide shoppers with an accurate profile of what they purchased and help them make more effective purchases and consumption choices.

Eric Francis of Durham won the top prize of $125 in the Personal Venture category for his Home Garden Assistant. His company would help homeowners set up and maintain home-based vegetable gardens.

The over-all winner was Samantha Magri of Bristol with her plan for “The Cupcake Parlor,” a retail bakery based on an ice cream parlor model. She received $250 and went on to the statewide competition, where she proved that she had the ingredients for two more awards. In the Small Business category, her concept was selected for the top honor in the Elevator Pitch competition and for the Best Business Plan, earning her an additional $1,500 in prize money.

– Janice Palmer

Business student Samantha Magri was the overall winner in the Shipman & Goodwin Elevator Pitch Competition for her business plan to establish “The Cupcake Parlor.” Magri went on to win two more awards at the Statewide Business Plan Competition. Pictured at right with Magri is her advisor Professor of Management and Organization Drew Harris.
Fallon and Greenfield Receive CSU Trustees Awards

CSU System honors have gone to Assistant Professor of Psychology Marianne Fallon, recognized for outstanding teaching, and to Associate Professor of History Briann Greenfield, for promising research.

They were among eight CSUS faculty members recognized for exceptional performance. During the Board of Trustees April meeting, Chairman Karl J. Krapek said: “The caliber of teaching and research at Central, Eastern, Southern, and Western is truly remarkable, and scholarship by these faculty members is both inspiring and significant.”

As recipient of the Trustees Teaching Award, Fallon is widely regarded for her effectiveness and commitment to the improvement of teaching and learning. Fallon is described by colleagues as a “professor who creates daily learning experiences for her students.” She has distinguished herself as an innovative and dedicated teacher who designs courses to meet the needs of students. She tells her students to treat each course as an opportunity to develop skills: “Yes, you will learn content, but you can also learn how to analyze and critically evaluate information, devise effective problem-solving strategies, master new technologies, hone oral and written communication skills, develop interactive skills with your peers and your professors, sharpen attention and focus, and enhance your long-term retention of information.”

She is known for her technology-facilitated tutorials and successful use of student feedback for improvement and continuous exploration of curriculum innovations.

Fallon has made conference presentations, has been published, and is currently doing psycholinguistics work emphasizing learning via auditory information.

The Norton Mezvinsky Trustees Research Award recipient, Greenfield is widely regarded for her scholarly work on the role that collective memory has in the creation of community identities and social values. Greenfield’s work, typified in her newest book, Out of the Attic: Inventing Antiques in Twentieth-Century New England, also concentrates on the definition of power structures and the management of cultural resources. In the book, she focuses on the construction of public memory in 20th-century New England, via the popularization of antiquing as an emerging factor in building regional identity.

Greenfield is the coordinator of Central’s Public History Program. She has done considerable outreach by presenting papers and giving lectures, through service as a State Humanities Scholar of the Smithsonian Institution, and through work with the Connecticut Historical Society.

She has published book reviews, articles, book chapters, and encyclopedia entries and will next examine the construction of public memory through the popularity of genealogy in the late 19th century.

– Geri Radacsi

ITBD Offers EMS Training

CCSU’s Institute of Technology and Business Development (ITBD) has partnered with New Britain Emergency Medical Services and The Hospital of Central Connecticut for the 2010 High Performance EMT Program to train 55 Connecticut residents as emergency medical technicians (EMTs). The eight-week collaborative program will qualify successful participants to take the national emergency medical services (EMS) certification examination preparing them to enter the workforce in supporting roles at hospitals and other healthcare facilities.

Participants engage in internships with both the New Britain EMS and the Hospital of Central Connecticut, spending 18 hours in “ride-alongs” with EMS personnel and working in the hospital’s departments of emergency and radiology, its laboratory, the sterile processing unit, and the pharmacy. Additionally, students serve as ‘victims’ during a state EMT practical examination, taking part in the same testing process that they will later have to complete.

Students entered the program in May and graduation ceremonies will take place in August. The program is funded using over $71,000 from a grant awarded to ITBD by the Connecticut departments of Higher Education and Public Health and the Office for Workforce Competitiveness.

– Tom Lorenzetti
CCSU Pedals with the Best as Host of HPV Contest

The Devil’s Chariot from Central took on friendly, but fierce competition from the likes of The Tank, The Knight Rider, and The Dragon Wagon during the 2010 Human Powered Vehicle Challenge–East. The annual competition is sponsored by the American Society of Mechanical Engineering, and, this year, CCSU’s Human Powered Vehicle Club hosted the eastern division’s competition.

For three days in early May, 29 teams representing 24 universities from the eastern United States, Canada, and Venezuela competed in one of two classes (unrestricted and speed) and in up to four events.

Because most teams were not from the area, their human-powered vehicles (HPVs) arrived at Central in pieces and had to be reassembled. The vehicles were judged on their design, drag, utility, endurance, and speed. While the design judging and safety tests were conducted on campus, the actual races were held at Stafford Motor Speedway in Stafford.

The competing HPVs were more than “suped up” bicycles. The teams were required to use sound engineering design principles in developing human-powered alternative transportation that is both sustainable and practical. The vehicles had to be able to turn within a 25-foot radius, reach 15 miles an hour within 100 feet, and come to a stop within 20 feet. The students labored for months to design, build, test and tweak their vehicles.

CCSU students Johnny Kassay, Joshua Treadwell, Charles Hart, Shayna Bartell, and club president Ben Haase worked nights, weekends, and holidays to complete their entry in time for the challenge. They were assisted by Associate Professor of Technology and Engineering Education David Sianez, who serves as the club’s advisor. Entered into the unrestricted class, CCSU’s three-wheeled HPV, constructed of molded carbon fiber, came in 9th overall. In the speed-endurance event, Central’s team zoomed to sixth place, and, in the drag event, the men’s team landed 5th and the women came in 10th. The Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology placed first in the unrestricted class; the Missouri University of Science & Technology won the speed class.

CCSU Hosts Holocaust Remembrance Events

The CCSU Hillel hosted the “When Humanity Fails: A Holocaust Exhibit” in the Media Collections Room at the Elihu Burritt Library in April. Several events were held in conjunction with the exhibit, including a discussion on “Holocaust Days of Remembrance—Stories of Freedom” and a panel discussion featuring (from left to right) Ben Cooper, a US veteran and liberator of Dachau; Professor Avinoam Patt of the Greenberg Center; and Ruth Fishman, a Holocaust survivor.

In its role as host, CCSU received a $1,000 monetary prize and a plaque. For more information on the HPV club, visit www.ccsuhumanpowered.com.

– Connie Yan
Interim Chief Diversity and Equity Officer Announced

Ernest Marquez has accepted CCSU President Jack Miller’s invitation to return to campus as Interim Chief Diversity and Equity Officer while a search for a permanent candidate is underway. Marquez previously served in this position on an interim basis in 2008. He also served as Interim Chief Human Resources Officer at CCSU in 2004 and as Executive Officer for Human Resources at the CSUS office.

Preventing Sexual Harassment on Campus

Sexual harassment is a form of gender discrimination. The University believes all members of the campus community have the right to a working and learning environment that is free from harassment and intimidation. The University’s sexual harassment policy works to preserve a respectful academic and employment environment free from all forms of discrimination. Here are some commonly asked questions relating to sexual harassment on campus.

Q. What is sexual harassment?
A. The University’s policy prohibiting sexual harassment states that sexual harassment is any repeated, unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favors, or conduct of a sexual nature when:
   1. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, the basis, term, or condition of any individual’s employment, or a factor in an individual’s grade, evaluation, promotion, or retention; or
   2. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive learning or working environment.

Q. How should one respond initially to being sexually harassed?
A. If you believe that you have been sexually harassed, take action. Firmly tell the harasser you do not like the inappropriate behavior and want it to stop. If the behavior has been severe and/or repeated, or the harasser does not cease after the warning, report the behavior to the Office of Diversity & Equity, the Ruthe Boyea Women’s Center, or the Counseling and Wellness Center.

Q. What is the process to report sexual harassment?
A. A student, faculty member, or staff person may contact the Office of Diversity & Equity to report the incident. The Chief Diversity Officer will meet with the complainant to discuss the alleged sexual harassment and offer assistance to stop the alleged behavior. The Chief Diversity Officer will then conduct an investigation into the reported harassment, ensuring that the complainant is protected and supported. The Chief Diversity Officer will also make recommendations for appropriate remedial action.

Elihu Burritt Library Rewards Undergrad Research

For the third year, the Elihu Burritt Library presented its own Undergraduate Research Awards recognizing excellence in undergraduate research papers and projects, as well as skill and creativity in the application of library services, resources, and collections.

This year’s winners were Laci Corridor and Gregory Person, and they each received $350 for their outstanding work. Above, Corridor (left) receives her prize from Assistant Librarian Susan Slaga. Corridor’s research focused on “Anorexia Nervosa: A Review of Current Literature.”

Person was not able to attend the event since he was student teaching at the time. Slaga read his paper on “What Gives You Sovereign Empire to Oppress My Sex? Women’s Conceptualizations of Gender and Class during the French Revolution” to the audience.

Q. How does the University determine whether alleged conduct constitutes sexual harassment?
A. The University looks at the totality of circumstances, whether the conduct was sexual, whether it was unwanted or unwelcome, whether it was offensive from the perspective of a reasonable person, and whether it was severe and/or pervasive. (A complainant need not expressly reject a sexual advance in order for the advance to be considered unwelcome.)

Q. What protections exist against retaliatory behavior?
A. University policy and federal and state law prohibit retaliation against a person who opposes an allegedly discriminatory act. That includes any acts relative to their jobs or to their education. Persons may file separate retaliation complaints with the Office of Diversity & Equity.

Q. How can sexual harassment be prevented?
A. The best prevention is education and training of all members of the campus community and a speedy response to any and all complaints. Mandatory training is ongoing for all newly hired or promoted managerial and supervisory staff.
Best of Undergrad Projects Highlighted at Annual Event

Exceptional work by CCSU students on a wide range of topics was celebrated during the 2010 Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day on April 9.

The day’s activities began with a breakfast and opening remarks from Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Carl Lovitt. Associate Professor of English Jason Jones, who served as event chair, welcomed the participants and audience and extended his appreciation to Administrative Assistant Courtney McDavid, from the Provost’s office, for her “tireless support” in helping him organize the event.

The URCAD Senior Awards, the top prizes of the day, were presented to Laura Elliott (History), Keenan Golder (Physics and Earth Sciences), and Shari Bednarz (Psychology). They each received $500 and an all-expenses-paid trip to the National Conference for Undergraduate Research, held in mid-April at the University of Montana. Another 26 students were selected by the URCAD Committee to present their projects at a series of poster and paper sessions highlighting their studies which included new approaches to literacy, sports medicine, and the internet culture.

Laura Elliott, a Manchester resident, won the Arts & Humanities Senior Prize for “City Walls as a Political Canvas: Loyalist and Republican Murals in Derry.” As part of her study abroad experience, Elliott traveled to Northern Ireland to study its political and social history. Her work, guided by Professor of History Louise Williams, focused on Derry, where murals painted on city walls depict the conflict between Republicans and Loyalists.

“The Derry murals,” according to Elliott, “provide an accurate representation of the problems and positions of Loyalists and Republicans and are used as a mode of communication, expressing both sides’ identities.”

Newtown resident Keenan Golder traveled to Utah to study “Oligocene Ichnofossils in the Non-Marine Limestone of the Brian Head Formation” located in Bryce Canyon National Park. By investigating ichnofossils (trace fossils) left millions of years ago in sediment, Golder helped scientists gain a better understanding of the organisms which created them and the environmental conditions in which they lived. His advisor was Associate Professor of Physics and Earth Sciences Michael Wizevich.

Through sedimentological analysis and field study, the team found four distinct categories of traces, although only three types — those left by insects, grasses, and fresh water crustaceans — were identifiable. The fourth remains an unknown according to Golder. By interpreting the fossils, the team was able to conclude that the area was once a “stable marshy wetland.”

New Britain resident Sheri Bednarz focused on “The Predictive Power of Callous Unemotional Traits in Juvenile Sexual Offenders.” With the help of her advisor, Assistant Professor of Psychology Jason Sikorski, Bednarz studied 506 juveniles who had been incarcerated for serious sexual offenses in the southeastern US. Using three-way variance analyses, Bednarz said she looked for evidence of whether groups formed among the sex offenders based on their victims’ ages or gender or on the degree of the offenders’ callous or unemotional traits.

Although she found “no significant differences across almost one hundred outcome measures,” Bednarz did discover that those who scored highest in the callous/unemotional traits displayed the highest rates of aggression, impulsivity, anger, deceptive tendencies, depression, social insensitivity, violence exposure, and school problems across multiple standardized self-report measures. She concluded that assessing for the presence of callous/unemotional traits in juvenile sexual offenders “is paramount and likely to prove most useful in constructing individualized treatment programs to reduce risk for sexual and general criminal recidivism in specific groups of juvenile sexual offenders.”

— Janice Palmer
Earth Day 2010 Casts New Light on CCSU

April 22 was marked by a variety of earth-friendly events on campus aimed at inspiring awareness of nature’s delicate balance and educating students, faculty, and staff about their roles in and the University’s commitment to achieving environmental sustainability.

The day began with a ceremonial tree planting led by President Jack Miller. In a show of support for the University’s Sustainability Initiative, the Geography Club organized an earlier fundraising effort to purchase the tree, which is now rooted between Copernicus Hall and the Burritt Library. This was the second year of what is expected to be an annual event for the group. Also involved in the project were students from several geography classes and the Global Environmental Sustainability Action Coalition (GESAC).

Associate Professor of Geography Charles Button, founder of GESAC, guided students through the process.

“The students chose a tree, because it is a symbol of growth, protection, and life. Trees provide oxygen that we breathe and remove carbon dioxide, which is a major contributor to global climate destabilization,” he explained.

A milestone in the University’s initiative was also reached on Earth Day when the last of 500 Victorian-style lamps, that light the campus walkways, were retrofitted with energy-saving LED bulbs.

“Using the LEDs lessens the electrical usage without compromising safety and security—the campus remains as well-lit with the new bulbs as it was with the older bulbs,” said Environmental Health and Safety Officer Domenic Forcella.

Light-emitting diode lamps, or LEDs as they are best known, are longer lasting and more energy efficient than incandescent and fluorescent lights. According to Forcella, using the LEDs extends the life of the fixture five times longer than the traditional lamp and offers a financial savings for energy and longevity.

In addition to the financial gains, the environmental benefits provide enough of a reason to do such a project, he says. CCSU is reducing its kilowatt usage with these lamps by more than 75% and will save 332,400 kWh each year. Over the life of LEDs 4,155,000 kWh will be saved.

In addition to energy conservation, the new LED retrofit kits significantly reduce uplight pollution, which is consistent with the goals of the International Dark Sky Initiative, a nonprofit organization working to save the night skies through “better lighting practices.”

Additional environmental savings are also expected in the reduction of a number of pollutants, such as sulfur oxide, particulates, and nitrogen and carbon compounds. Thousands of tons of air pollutants will be reduced by the lamps; the equivalent of taking 36 cars off the road for 10 years, Forcella said.

CCSU’s resolve to reduce its carbon footprint began in 2007 when President Miller became an early signee of the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment. Central also became the first state university to submit a Climate Action Plan, a factor The Princeton Review’s Guide to 286 Green Colleges took into consideration when it cited Central as an “exemplary Green institution.” (See Princeton Review story, page 21)

Additional Earth Day activities included a series of talks held at the Student Center. Assistant Professor of Geography Patricia Houser presented “Sustainability in Semesters.” She was followed by Sharon Vocke from Evergreen Energy of Southington whose lecture focused on “Climate Change and Solar Energy Solutions.” The event wrapped up with a talk by Charles Button who shared information on “Reducing Your Carbon Footprint.”

— Janice Palmer
Princeton Review gives CCSU a Green Thumbs-up

CCSU has been named an “exemplary Green institution” by the Princeton Review’s Guide to 286 Green Colleges, released in early April. The guidebook, produced in partnership with the US Green Building Council, focuses on higher education institutions that have demonstrated “an above average commitment to sustainability” in terms of campus infrastructure, activities, and initiatives.

The Review credits CCSU with being the “only school in Connecticut to meet all of its deadlines for the ACUPCC [American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment],” and President Miller is applauded for naming sustainability as “one of the top four priorities of the University.”

Also highlighted in the guide is CCSU’s “ambitious goal” to reduce by 50 percent its greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2025. Other green improvements that were cited include campus parking restrictions to encourage carpooling and special parking for carpoolers, the implementation of a solid waste and recycling plan, and the use of environmentally responsible procurement policies. In fact, 100 percent of the cleaning supplies purchased by CCSU are Green Seal-certified.

On the academic side, CCSU offers an environmental studies degree.


Islam Awareness Week Celebration

CCSU celebrated Islam Awareness Week in April with events highlighting various aspects of Islamic culture. A screening of the documentary film “30 Days: Muslims and America,” directed by Morgan Spurlock, was followed by a discussion on Islam in America. In order to educate Central students about the culture and religion of Islam, a booth, titled “What Is Islam?,” was set up in the Student Center. A performance by Boonaa Mohammed (above) titled “Inspirational Memoirs of a Muslim Poet” was a highlight of the week. An accomplished slam poet, playwright, and short-story author, Mohammed frequently heads writing workshops and seminars on social justice.

Graduate Research Event Inspires More Than Ever!

Nearly 120 students—a record number of participants—took part in CCSU’s ninth annual Graduate Research and Creative Presentation Event held in May. Lining the perimeter of seven rooms across campus, posters and displays highlighted the work of graduate students majoring in mathematical sciences, special education, biomolecular sciences, communication, international studies, psychology, English, and teacher education. The event was organized by Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies Paulette Lemma, along with her staff, and is designed to inspire collaboration and interaction among faculty and students while advancing knowledge through innovation and research.

Above, graduate psychology student Chantel Thomas (on left) presents her work on understanding the influence of age and gender on attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder to her faculty advisor, Associate Professor of Psychology Carolyn Fallahi.

CCSU Hosts Third Global Environmental Sustainability Symposium

On April 5 CCSU hosted the third annual Global Environmental Sustainability Symposium. Commissioner Amey Marrella (right) of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection was the keynote speaker. Marrella’s lecture was titled “A Green Economy for a Sustainable Future.” CCSU’s Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Philosophy Ned Lamont (above, right) and State Representative Christopher Donovan (left) spoke later that day at a Town Hall Meeting, held to discuss what needs to be done to create a thriving green business economy, nationally and in Connecticut.
Central Connecticut State University is where award-winning journalist John Dankosky will live as the Robert C. Vance Endowed Chair in Journalism and Mass Communication.

Dankosky is host of Where We Live, a talk show broadcast weekday mornings on WNPR, Connecticut’s public radio station. Working out of the Hartford studios, he also serves as news director, overseeing the radio news operation. He will continue in those roles in addition to his appointment to the CCSU faculty.

The endowed chair was created by a gift from the Robert C. Vance Charitable Foundation and named for the esteemed journalist who was editor and publisher of The Herald of New Britain during the 1950s. The Vance Foundation awarded $1.4 million to CCSU in 2000 to fund journalism-related projects, including workshops and conferences. The state’s matching endowment program added an additional $400,000 to the fund.

Dankosky’s broadcasting career has spanned over two decades. He was hired by Connecticut Public Broadcasting in 1994 after working at stations in Pittsburgh and Boston. He also served as an editor for National Public Radio in Washington, DC. For the last six years, Dankosky held an additional position as an adjunct professor at Quinnipiac University where he taught graduate journalism courses. He has received dozens of honors, including national awards from the Radio Television News Directors Association and Public Radio News Directors Incorporated.

“As a veteran journalist respected by colleagues in both broadcast and print mediums, we are proud to have John Dankosky and his reputation affiliated with CCSU,” said Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Carl Lovitt. “With solid teaching experience at the university level and his extensive reach in both the field of journalism and the public, he will add a new dimension to our young Journalism program.”

Dankosky’s responsibilities will include teaching and mentoring students, organizing public lectures and discussions focused on current issues in journalism and mass communications, and collaborating with faculty on curriculum development, research, and outreach projects.

The position attracted him, he says, because he saw it as a “good opportunity” to re-evaluate how journalism is taught.

“So much has changed,” he says. “There is a lot of bad press about journalism’s future, and, if nothing else, I’d like to get a new generation excited about doing work they’re proud of and learning creative strategies for storytelling.”

In Dankosky’s new course, titled “The Story in Sound,” students will be introduced to radio reporting, podcasting, sound gathering, interview techniques, and the art of story-telling, which, he points out, requires skills that differ from one medium to another.

“Our goal is to equip students for multimedia reporting and give them another tool in their arsenal,” he says. “When no pictures are involved,” he emphasizes, “different styles of writing and reporting are needed. Unlike print, radio and the new technologies have little time and a compressed space to grab a person’s interest.”

CCSU’s Journalism program, which accepted its first students last fall, is offered through the Department of English; the Department of Communication contributes several courses to the major as well. Associate Professor of English Vivian Martin, who runs the program, says Dankosky’s expected contributions to the program are vital in the digital age.

“Everyone needs to know how to use audio in reporting. In addition to radio and television reporting, it has become an essential element on websites and for the new technologies,” says Martin. “To have that component provided by someone with his foot in the business right now will greatly benefit our students.”

She also expresses enthusiasm about Dankosky’s involvement on boards and with organizations that are discussing and monitoring the direction journalism is taking.

“We want to be part of these kinds of conversations, and it made sense to me to bring someone onboard who is convening these conversations.”

— Janice Palmer
Moonbuggy Team Takes One Giant Leap for Engineering

The Engineering Department is “over the moon” about the CCSU team’s finish in NASA’s 17th annual Great Moonbuggy Race. CCSU finished seventh among the 70 teams representing engineering schools from 18 states, as well as Canada, Germany, India, Puerto Rico, and Romania.

CCSU’s 14-member team traveled to Huntsville, Alabama, in April for the comprehensive competition. NASA’s rules require that vehicles be designed to hold one male and one female. In an unassembled state, the buggy must fit into a four-by-four foot box, as did the Lunar Roving Vehicle which first explored the moon in 1971.

The competition tested vehicle speed and ability to handle obstacles, as well as students’ understanding of mechanics. Two racers from each team were required to carry the box 20 feet to the starting line, assemble the moonbuggy while being timed, and then race along the half-mile simulated lunar terrain course that included craters, lava ridges, lunar soil, inclines, and rocks.

The CCSU team took just 20 seconds to assemble its moonbuggy. After it was inspected for safety, the team took two runs on the course. The shortest time was added to the assembly time for a final tally of 5:16, putting them in seventh place overall—a vast improvement over last year’s finish of 54th.

Team members included Jeffery Cloutier, student project manager; Walid Alhomari, student assistant project manager; Hitesh Shah, lunar exploration club president; Jason Williams; Joseph Wickham; Arsalan Shamin; Majidullah Dehlavi; Mounir Elrassmani; Nicholas Monacchio; Pawel Abramek; Carly Woodward; Emanuel Figueroa; Massab Hashmi, and Jenna Kimble.

The group modified several features of last year’s buggy for this race. The side-by-side seating was changed to an inline, more comfortable recumbent seating. The front and rear eight-speed drive systems were separated, and the four-wheel independent suspension was improved.

The moonbuggy program, introduced to CCSU by Associate Professor of Engineering Viatcheslav Naoumov, now allows student teams two semesters to design, build, and test its vehicle.

Though extremely pleased with the team’s effort and finish, Naoumov is already looking forward to next year’s event. Team members have identified two factors that prevented their win this year—the vehicle’s weight and racer training. “Using solid engineering analyses” says Naoumov, “the team will now focus on reducing the weight of each system and component.”

— Connie Yan

Mezvinsky Shares Middle-Eastern Experiences

CSU Professor of History, Emeritus, Norton Mezvinsky (left) returned to Central this spring to present a lecture titled “Talking with Hamas & Dealing with the Rebbe.” Mezvinsky currently serves as president of the International Council for Middle East Studies, a think tank located in Washington, DC. His talk stemmed from lengthy discussions he held in Damascus, Syria, with Khaled Mashal, the political head of Palestine’s Hamas, and Osama Hamdan, the top international relations official for Hamas. During his lecture, Mezvinsky also discussed the Hasidic rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson (1902–1994), who is referred to as the Lubavitcher Rebbe for his leadership in the Chabad-Lubavitch movement in Orthodox Judaism.
Academia for Peace

“The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Pathways to Peace,” Central’s Second International Academic Conference, was held in April. During the two-day event, participants analyzed and discussed various obstacles preventing reconciliation between Palestinians and Israelis. In his keynote address, titled “Anatomy of a Peace Building Relationship: Dan Bar-on and Sami Adwan as PRIME Leaders,” Dr. Salibar Sarsar (left), professor of political science and associate vice president for academic programs at Monmouth University, discussed the effectiveness of the two co-directors of the Peace Research Institute in the Middle East (PRIME). The conference highlighted the potential that research and scholarship has for contributing to a peaceful resolution in the Middle East, while focusing on social, psychological, and economical factors and issues such as geographical obstacles and demographic spread. Associate Professor of Psychology Moises Salinas, who served as conference chair, noted that “a great effort was made to maintain a balance of viewpoints.”

Practicing Nonviolence

CCSU’s Peace Studies program sponsored a visit to campus by Hardy Merriman (right), a senior advisor to the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict, to speak on nonviolent movements in the modern world. In the first of two lectures, “Understanding Nonviolent Power,” Merriman discussed current pacifist movements focused on the preservation and advancement of human rights. His lecture covered such topics as how nonviolent movements gain and control power, the organization and development of strategies and their implementation, and how to “win” in the face of adversaries who practice repressive violence.

During his second lecture, “Nonviolent Power in the Field and in the Classroom,” Merriman first defined and gave examples of nonviolent action, then demonstrated how this practice is relevant to many disciplines in academia. He concluded by discussing materials that can be used by professors and scholars in teaching and research.

Merriman is the former director of programs and research at the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict and co-author of A Guide to Effective Nonviolent Struggle, a training manual for activists.

Outstanding Seniors Receive President’s Citation

The President’s Citation is presented annually to outstanding seniors for their leadership, volunteerism, and academic success. This year’s winners, pictured below with Vice President of Student Affairs Laura Tordenti (left) and CCSU President Jack Miller (right), were (from left to right) Megan L. Dwyer, history major; Samia Hussein, biology; Kelly Fournier, political science; Sharon Kenniston, elementary education/English; and Andrew Froning, psychology.

Nigerian Officials Study Public Administration at CCSU

CCSU’s Center for Public Policy and Social Research hosted a welcome banquet for 35 public officials from Oyo State, Nigeria, in February. During their two-week stay, officials took classes on public administration at CCSU and visited with local government officials to study best practices.
CCSU Holds Alcohol Awareness Fair

The Alcohol Awareness Fair held in April was designed to alert students to the dangers of drug use and irresponsible drinking. Sponsored by the Office of Alcohol and Drug Education, students were given “Fatal Vision” goggles designed to simulate the view of a person with twice the legal limit of blood alcohol levels allowed for driving. As noted in an article in The New Britain Herald, the event also featured free food and music. New Britain firefighters demonstrated how victims are cut out of a car using the “Jaws of Life,” and students like Liz Braun (above) had the opportunity to sit in “The Convincer,” a machine that simulates a car crash at speeds up to five miles per hour.

CIE Holds International Festival

This April the Center for International Education hosted the annual International Festival in the Student Center’s Alumni Hall. This year’s theme was “Engaging Global Communities.” The festival featured bite-sized foodstuffs, displays of traditional clothing and artifacts, and performances from around the world. Pictured below are members of the CCSU Albanian Club, one of many international student organizations represented on campus.

Women and Film Festival to be Held at CCSU

Central is set to host the 2010 Doris Honig Guenter Women and Film Festival this fall from October 26–28. Events will be held in CCSU’s Torp Theater and Davidson Hall as well as at the New Britain Museum of American Art (NBMAA). The theme of this year’s festival is “Unlocked Images: Family, Warriors, and Art.” John Dankosky, news director at WNPR and the first holder of CCSU’s Robert C. Vance Distinguished Professor of Journalism and Mass Communication, will serve as the moderator for one of the panel discussions. All events are free and open to the public. Shuttle buses will run between campus and the NBMAA parking lot. For more information, visit www.communication.ccsu.edu or contact Professor of Communication Karen Ritzenhoff at (860) 832-2692 or ritzenhoffk@ccsu.edu.
Student Produces Award-Winning Video, Again!

Joshua Therriault, a junior in the communications program, won the 2010 Public Service Announcement Contest sponsored by the Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of Connecticut, Inc., which created the contest as part of its community relations program to combat underage drinking and drunk driving. Entrants are required to write, shoot video, and produce a 30-second television public service announcement (PSA) to educate parents about the myths associated with underage drinking.

Thirty-one teams, consisting of over 100 students from six universities in the state, submitted original PSAs for the annual contest, which is open to all Connecticut college students. Submissions are scored by a panel of judges from state government, law enforcement, business, and higher education.

During a ceremony held in CCSU’s Torp Theatre in early May, Therriault was presented with a prize of $2,500 for his video, which is airing on television stations Fox 61, NBC Connecticut and WTNH.

This is Therriault’s second PSA to debut on local TV. He produced a PSA, selected by the state, urging residents to fill out the 2010 Census form.

Therriault is advised by CCSU Assistant Professor of Communication Jeffrey Teitler.

— Janice Palmer

Turning Point in Anti-War Movement Commmemorated

Two Art Department faculty members led the 40th anniversary recognition this past May of the deadly college protests at Kent State and Jackson State universities. The two faculty members, Associate Professor of Art Mike Alewitz and Assistant Professor of Art Jerry Butler, were students at the time of those protests.

Alewitz was a student at Kent State University in Ohio and among the students who demonstrated on May 4, 1970, against the American invasion of Cambodia. The Ohio National Guard fired on the unarmed college students, killing four and wounding nine others. Alewitz became the founder and chairman of the Kent State Mobilization Committee Against the War and led the national strike by four million college students protesting the violence and American involvement in the Vietnam War.

Butler was a student at Jackson State College in Mississippi during that time. Ten days after the Kent State shootings, two Mississippi students were killed by police; 12 others were injured.

Alewitz and Butler, who both became mural artists, organized the commemorative events on Central’s campus, which included a slideshow and a discussion led by Alewitz. During the next month, both artists worked with 10 student volunteers to paint a large outdoor mural depicting the events of 40 years ago. In July, Alewitz took the artwork to the National Anti-War Conference in Albany, NY, where it was put on display.

Alewitz said he was “impressed” with the students, many of whom worked full-time and attended classes while managing to find time to work on the project. Among the student artists were Vanessa Butler, Zoe Nicole Shaw, Ally King, Elliot Vallez, and Hema Pertab.

“It is especially important for students to learn about the massacres and protests because it is part of our history,” said Alewitz, “and it’s going to become an even more important part of our history because of the anti-war movements against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.”

— Connie Yan
New Civil Engineering Major Launched at CCSU

CCSU has a new four-year civil engineering degree program. In June 2009, the Connecticut Board of Governors for Higher Education licensed CCSU to begin the program, and the first civil engineering students were admitted in fall 2009.

The new program will replace the civil engineering technology program offered since 1987.

Civil engineering is found in historic construction that occurred long before the title “civil engineering” existed. The pyramids of Egypt, the Mayan pyramids in Guatemala and Mexico, the Lighthouse at Alexandria, the Roman aqueducts, the Roman roads, and the Inca city at Machu Picchu are all marvels of civil engineering. But civil engineering constantly grows and applies new technologies. The England-to-France Channel Tunnel, the Netherlands North Sea Protection Works, the Millau Viaduct in France, Cowboys Stadium in Texas, and the Burj Khalifa in Dubai (the world’s tallest building) all employ new materials, innovative construction techniques, and computer-aided analysis and document preparation.

Civil engineering contains many engineering fields: bridge, coastal, construction, development, environmental, geotechnical, hydraulic, hydrologic, structural, surveying, and transportation engineering.

These technical fields require extensive professional experience, and often advanced education, and the new civil engineering program will provide a solid foundation for graduates to enter these specialized fields.

Civil engineering graduates will be prepared in advanced mathematics and several areas of science.

On graduation, students will have knowledge of the fundamental engineering sciences common to most engineering disciplines (statics, dynamics, fluid mechanics, thermodynamics, and mechanics of materials) and a solid undergraduate foundation in general civil engineering principles, enabling continued education at advanced levels.

The new civil engineering program will prepare students to successfully complete the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying fundamentals of engineering examination that is the first step toward professional engineering registration.

The civil engineering curriculum was established to meet the accreditation requirements of the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET, Inc. CCSU will apply for accreditation when the first students graduate from civil engineering. Upon ABET approval, accreditation will include the first graduating class.

Civil engineers commonly find employment in federal and state agencies and municipalities. While government agencies are major employers, the many civil engineering consulting firms that serve federal, state, and local government and private enterprise are expected to employ the most graduates.

Admission to the civil engineering program requires eligibility to enroll in calculus and freshman composition courses. High school students planning to enter the program should take mathematics courses that include trigonometry and pre-calculus.

Taking high-school calculus and physics courses will provide added value. Many students can begin by enrolling in the engineering science associates degree program at most Connecticut community colleges, where they can complete two years of the four-year civil engineering degree. Further information about the new program can be obtained online at www.set.ccsu.edu/programs or by calling 860-832-1815.

— Clifford Anderson, Associate Professor of Engineering
Academic Honors Awarded at Spring Ceremony

CCSU held its annual Academic Honors Convocation in Welte Hall in May to recognize the numerous achievements of members of the undergraduate class of 2010. Academic awards and honor cords were distributed by faculty from each student’s department. Honors included completion of the CCSU Honors Program, highest grade point average of male and female student-athletes, and a plethora of other awards, including the distribution of honor cords. Above, Associate Professor of Political Science Paul Petterson, director of CCSU’s Honors Program, presents Ala’a Alsaqri with silver cords—and a boxed Barnes & Noble giftcard—in recognition of her completion of the Honors Program.

Evaluating Learning

The Spring 2010 CSUS Assessment Conference was held at Central in April. Marilee J. Bresciani (above), professor of postsecondary education leadership and co-director of the Center for Educational Leadership at San Diego State University, gave the keynote lecture and headed the conference’s special-topic session on “General Education Program Review (with NEASC Context).” In addition, 17 CSU faculty teams, including seven from Central, who received grant-based funding for assessment projects in 2009, presented their findings.

CCSU Holds First Annual Lavender Graduation Reception

Central hosted its First Annual Lavender Graduation Reception this spring to honor lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) students for their achievements and contributions to the University, as well as to recognize the unique challenges such students face. Ronni Sanlo (left), director of the LGBT Campus Resource Center at the University of California in Los Angeles, gave the keynote address. She organized the first Lavender Graduation while at the University of Michigan, and the event is now celebrated nationwide. According to Sanlo, “Lavender is important to LGBT history. It combines the pink triangle that gay men were forced to wear and the black triangle designating lesbians as political prisoners in Nazi Germany. LGBT activists took these symbols of hatred, combined them, and created a symbol and color of pride and community.” Sanlo is the founding chair of the National Consortium of LGBT Campus Resource Center Directors and currently serves on the national board of the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education. CCSU students Marcia Butland and Peter Testori, who both graduated in May with master’s of science degrees in counseling therapy—and with specializations in student development in higher education—organized the event on campus as part of their capstone project.

Networking Reception Features Former Education Commissioner

The Department of Educational Leadership hosted a networking reception in April to honor graduates and faculty of CCSU’s educational leadership programs. CCSU Instructor of Educational Leadership Betty Sternberg (above), former Connecticut State Commissioner of Education, was the keynote speaker for the event. Other speakers included school administrators, teachers, and graduate students.
Engineering and Technology Honors

The School of Engineering and Technology held its 21st annual Student Recognition Reception in May. The event recognizes students who have received scholarships and awards donated to the University by industry and private individuals, as well those seniors receiving departmental honors.

In addition, department chairs and administrators honor an alumnus who has been successful in his or her career since graduating from Central. This year Robert Mercier ’88 (shown right with Dean of the School of Engineering and Technology Zdzislaw Kremens) was named the Engineering and Technology 2010 Outstanding Alumnus. Mercier serves on CCSU’s Technology Management Advisory Board and is the senior director of divisional engineering at Covidien in Norwalk, CT. He recently established a cooperative program between CCSU and Covidien in order to increase students’ knowledge and understanding of the inner-workings of business. The partnership also offers scholarships to Central students.

A State-Wide Effort to Enhance Ties with the Community

CCSU hosted the first Connecticut Community Engagement Conference in March. The daylong event, titled “Connecticut Universities as a Community of One," brought together state colleges and universities to share their best practices and ideas for enhancing student engagement in the community. A keynote lecture given by Distinguished Professor of Political Science William Dyson (left), who also holds the William A. O’Neill Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Practical Politics, focused on the widespread benefits of getting students involved in and informed about their communities.

Following the presentation, breakout sessions covered numerous topics, including Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, AmeriCorps and Peace Corps, Professor of Physics and Earth Sciences Kristine Larsen, Professor of Biomolecular Science Kathy Martin-Troy, and Associate Professor of Biomolecular Science James Mulrooney shared their experiences with science-based community engagement at CCSU. Associate Professor of Nursing Shelley Bochain, Associate Professor of Teacher Education Karen Riem, and Robert Travaglini, principal of the James A. Naylor School, spoke about “Promoting Community Engagement through an Interdisciplinary Family Health Fair.” Riem and Travaglini also joined teachers and administrators from Naylor School to discuss the Naylor-CCSU Community School Partnership. Coordinator of the Intensive English Language Program Christie Ward, CCSU student Meghna Desai, and Riem reflected on the Barnard International Community Education Project which connected Central’s international students with adults and children from Hartford’s South End.
notable programs

The Black Inventor Exhibit and Latino Heritage Museum, a traveling multimedia presentation, stopped at CCSU on March 8. The Black Inventor Exhibit aims to raise awareness about the technical, medical, and engineering accomplishments of African Diasporic people. The Latino Heritage Museum, an extension of the Black Inventor Exhibit, focuses on pioneering inventions by Latinos. The event was sponsored by the Black Students Union; the Center for Africana Studies; the Department of Anthropology; the Latin American Student Organization; the Latin American, Latino and Caribbean Center; the offices of Administrative Affairs, Academic Affairs, and Diversity and Equity; and the schools of Arts and Sciences, Education and Professional Studies, and Engineering and Technology.

CCSU’s Department of Modern Languages hosted a “Celebrating Foreign Languages” event in May. With a theme of “Monolingualism can be cured!,” the day’s activities encouraged students to consider learning a new language. Student projects from language courses at Central were featured, along with song, dance, food, and poetry of numerous cultures around the world.

In March a day-long conference on United States and Cuban relations was held at CCSU. The conference, which was featured in The New Britain Herald, was sponsored by CCSU’s International Studies Program; Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program; Department of Sociology; Center for Public Policy and Social Research; and CCSU Youth for Socialist Action, as well as by the Greater Hartford Coalition on Cuba; July 26 Coalition (Boston); Pioneer Valley Cuba Solidarity Committee; Greater New Haven Peace Council; and Promoting Enduring Peace.

The Latin American Studies Program sponsored a talk in March on “Deportations and Historical Memory: The Longue Durée of Mexican Expulsions since the Nineteenth Century” given by Jose Angel Hernandez, professor of history at UMass, Amherst.

Professor of Management and Organization David Fearon hosted a live webcast titled “Does ‘Green Jobs Programming Make Sense for Your Campus?” in two sessions in April. Susan Jennings, director of community and campus sustainability at University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, and Victoria Matthew, director of program development at University of Massachusetts Amherst, discussed how an alignment with local companies whose business future is committed to green products and services could create potential jobs for students. Fearon stressed his view that if ‘green jobs’ programming is to be successful at Central, an emphasis must be placed on multi-disciplinary efforts.

Dr. John Davenport, associate professor of philosophy at Fordham University, gave a talk titled “For a Federation of Democracies” at CCSU in March as part of a series of informal, philosophical, and social events sponsored by the CCSU Department of Philosophy.

The CCSU School of Business teamed up with the Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) at the University of Connecticut to sponsor a “Globalizing Business Education” conference in April. The conference was geared toward business faculty and deans in the Northeast and focused on what business schools are doing to internationalize their curriculums. The guest speaker was Angelo J. Messina, vice president and chief financial officer of Otis Elevator.

CCSU was one of the stops for “The Great Debate: Heads vs. Feds” in May. This touring debate about the legalization of marijuana featured Steve Hager, former editor-in-chief of High Times magazine, and former New York DEA chief Robert Stutman. The event was interactive and driven by student questions.

The departments of Biology and Political Science, the Peace Studies Program, and the Arts and Sciences Public Policy Committee sponsored two seminars in early April. The first, “Hard, but Not Hopeless: Diplomatic, Development, and Conservation Work in Iraq and Afghanistan,” featured Dr. Peter Smallwood from the department of biology at the University of Richmond. The second, “Conservation in a Country in Conflict: Afghanistan,” featured CCSU Professor of Biology Sylvia L. Halkin, who shared her research on the unique species of animals found in Afghanistan.

The Center for Teaching Excellence and Leadership Development and the Office of Academic Affairs hosted a Student Learning Colloquium in May. During the seminar, titled “Hybrid Course Designs: The Benefits and Challenges of Blending On-Ground and Online Learning,” faculty gave presentations on teaching in an online atmosphere of blogging, podcasts, and video chat.

The International Studies Lecture Series hosted a talk by Elmina Kulasic on “The Impact of Ethnic-Cleansing and Genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina: The Perspective of a Survivor and Advocate” in Torp Theatre in May. Kulasic and her family were held in a concentration camp in Bosnia in 1992 before finding sanctuary in Germany and, later, in the US. She currently serves as executive director of the Bosniak American Advisory Council on Bosnia and Herzegovina in Washington, DC.

The Hillel student organization sponsored a talk, titled “Israeli Soldiers Speak Out on Moral Character,” Avi Webber, a reserve commander in the Paratroops Brigade, and Yoav Eron, a former

Latin Week
Central celebrated Hispanic culture and history with numerous events on campus during “Latin Week” in April. The Latin American Student Organization hosted a screening of Wetback: The Undocumented Documentary. The film, directed by Arturo Perez Torres, follows the lives of immigrants making the trek from Nicaragua to the United States.

The Latin American Student Organization and the Office of Diversity and Equity sponsored a panel discussion on “Health Disparities among the Latin Population in the US.” Topics included the implications of health care reform, resilience of family caregivers for relatives with dementia, and demographic and health-related trends in the aging US Latino population. Another “Latin Week” event featured Enrique Mayer, professor of anthropology at Yale University, who lectured on the complex history of land reform in Peru from the 1950s to the present day.
combat soldier and current platoon sergeant, dis-
d the moral challenges they face during times of
war. Both speakers served under the Israel Defense
Forces in the Gaza War.
In early April Ambassador of the Republic of
Kenya Peter Ogego presented a lecture at the
Ogego’s appearance was sponsored by the Cen-
ter for Africana Studies at CCSU.
CCSU’s Department of Theatre presented the
seventh annual “Laugh With Purpose!” at Trinity
on Main in downtown New Britain in May. The free
show featured a blend of music and comedy. Donations benefitted New Britain Mayor Timothy
Stewart’s Work Plan to End Homelessness.
In May, Karen Torre, Esq., presented a lecture
on her experiences as lead counsel for the 19
white and Hispanic firefighters in the Ricci et
al. v. DeStefano case. The Supreme Court voted
in June 2009 that the City of New Haven violated
Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act—which prohibits employment discrimination based on race, color,
and other factors—when invalidating tests taken
by the city’s firefighters. Torre, who practices law
in New Haven, discussed the case in terms of racial
discrimination, as well as what the ruling says
about liberal activist judges. The lecture was spon-
sored by the CCSU College Republicans student
organization and the Connecticut affiliate of the
National Association of Scholars.
The Peace Studies program hosted Randy
Kehler for a lecture on “A Life of Non-violent
Resistance.” Kehler is a noted pacifist and vocal
advocate for social justice. His family’s refusal to
pay war-supporting federal income taxes, and the
resulting struggle with the IRS, is the subject of the
documentary An Act of Conscience, directed by
Robbie Leppzer.
The Latin American Studies Committee and the
Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino
Studies hosted a performance by Berimbrown, a
capoeira group with Brazilian roots. Berimbau,
an instrumental bow, served as the focal point of the
martial art and dance performance. Berimbrown
promotes citizenship through art and offers social
criticism as part of its energetic performances.
The International Studies Lecture Series hosted
a talk by Vijay Prashad, director and professor of
international studies at Trinity College, on “Politics,
Natural Disasters, and Reconstruction.” Prashad
has authored numerous books, including his
forthcoming The Poorer Nations: A People’s History
of the Global South.
David Leheny, the Henry Wendt III ’55 professor
of East Asian Studies at Princeton University, gave
a lecture, titled “The Politics of Anime, K-Pop, and
Jet Li: Does Soft Power Matter in Asia?,” at CCSU
in late April. The event was sponsored by the East
Asian Studies Committee and the Center for East
Asian Studies.
CCSU’s School of Business Professional
Advancement Program offered a series of free
workshops this summer to help students and
alumni develop the marketable skills desired by
employers. These workshops covered a variety of
topics, such as enhancing managerial skills, con-
ducting job searches, making business decisions,
and using the latest technology.
The International Studies Lecture Series spon-
sored two presentations in April with a focus on
the Middle East. Cynthia Enloe, research professor
at Clark University, gave a talk on “Tallying the
True Costs of the Iraq War: What Does Paying
Attention to Women’s Lives Reveal?” Susan Abul-
hawa lectured on “The Status of Women and
Children in Palestine” and read excerpts from her
book, Mornings in Jenin. Abulhawa is the di-
rector of Playgrounds for Palestine, a program that
purchases materials for children’s playgrounds
abroad and then constructs them on donated
land using local labor.
The Department of Mathematical Sciences
hosted a Teichmuller Theory International Work-
shop in April to follow the successful NSF-CBMS
Regional Research Conference held last July. Eight
national and international speakers, including
CCSU’s Assistant Professor of Mathematical Sci-
ences Roger Vogeler, presented on various topics
relating to the geometrical theory.
CCSU faculty, students, and staff came together
to host “Unity Is Strength,” a festival and con-
cert celebrating the art, music, food, history, and
culture of Haiti. The money raised was donated
to AmeriCares to aid Haitian earthquake victims.
Food, shoes, clothing, and toiletries were also
collected to be sent to affected areas. The concert,
which was held in Torp Theatre, included 24 cul-
tural music performance artists and groups who
all volunteered their time for the benefit. The festival
was sponsored by the Office of Administrative Af-
airs; food for the event was donated by Sodexo.
CCSU hosted a forum on “Why Drugs Matter:
The Impact of Drug Policy on Connecticut’s
Economy” in March. The event was a collabora-
tion by faculty at CCSU, Yale University, University of
Hartford, and St. Francis Hospital and was intended
to promote discussion among policy makers
and stakeholders regarding the cost and effec-
tiveness of current and potential drug policy in
Connecticut. Presentations focused on the history
of Connecticut’s drug policy, drug treatments, and
the cost of criminalization. All Connecticut guber-
natorial candidates were invited to the forum and
given a chance to respond following the presenta-
tions. The forum received press in the New Britain
Herald, Bristol Press, and Hartford Advocate.
Alumni Achievements Celebrated

More than 200 alumni and friends turned out to honor the 2010 Alumni Award recipients and Athletics Hall of Fame inductees during a dinner and ceremony held in April.

Serving as emcee for the evening, Vice President of Institutional Advancement Chris Galligan credited the honorees with being “a highly talented and successful group who bring distinction to the University through their achievements.”

University President Jack Miller and Alumni Association President Fred Agee ’80 greeted each honoree and then one-by-one the Hall of Fame candidates were presented by Executive Assistant to the President for Community Business Programs, ITBD, Rick Mullins, ’84, MSOM ’91, chair of the Alumni Sports Committee, before being welcomed to the Hall of Fame by 32 previous inductees.

The Distinguished Alumni Service Award was presented to Norman Hausmann ’54. Jack Burriesci ’97 received the Young Alumni Award, and Mike Ryan ’97 was honored with the Kaiser Alumni Service Award.

The five Hall of Fame inductees were Joe DiCosimo ’70, Rick Fusari ’70, Charles “CJ” Jones, Jr. ’69 MS ’72, Kate Mullen ’78, and Brent Rutkowski (posthumously).

Hall of Fame

Joseph DiCosimo ’70 spent two years playing football and four excelling in track. He was named College Division All American for the 440 intermediate hurdles in 1969, and, for over 30 years, he held Central’s record for the 110 meter high hurdles. He was a three-time recipient of the All-New England honor for the 440 yard hurdle; three-time recipient of the All-New England honor for the 120 yard hurdle; and College Track Champion for the 60 yard high hurdle relay. Since retiring from a career in banking and as vice president and comptroller for the Corporation for Independent Living, he has spent many years coaching youth football and track.

Rick Fusari ’70 goes by the numbers. As a pitcher for Central, he averaged 12.4 strikeouts per nine innings. He was named to the All-District I team by the NCAA in 1969 after a pitching record of 7-1 with a 1.14 ERA while striking out 112 batters against only 26 walks. In 1970, he hit .398 and had 18 RBI. After earning a BS in elementary education, with a major in mathematics, he was drafted by the Philadelphia Phillies. After an injury to his pitching arm cut short his career, he put his energy into developing a successful financial planning business in Florida.

For more than 40 years, Charles Jones, Jr. ’69, MS ’72 has been involved in CCSU athletics and administration. He served as athletic director for 14 years and is credited with playing a large role in securing the Blue Devils a spot in the Northeast Conference. While a student at Central, he was a varsity athlete for the Blue Devils. After graduation, he worked at CCSU as the men’s junior varsity basketball coach, assistant varsity coach, and then head coach. He also served as director of Central’s Educational Opportunity Program and the Connecticut Collegiate Awareness and Preparation Program. For many years, he was also the coordinator of Minority Student Services and director of Educational Support Services.

Kate Mullen ’78, professor of physical education and associate director of athletics at Wesleyan University, has served as the women’s basketball coach at Wesleyan for 15 years. Prior to Wesleyan, she was head coach of women’s basketball at Westfield State College. While earning her bachelor’s at Central,
Mullen played field hockey, basketball, and softball. She was co-captain of the field hockey team in 1977 and of the women’s basketball team in 1978. As an honors student, she qualified for AIAW tournaments in 1976–78.

For 15 years, Brent Rutkowski served as CCSU’s Assistant Athletic Director and Sports Information Director. He tirelessly promoted Central athletics and helped to make Blue Devil Athletics what it is today. He helped create the archives that are used when choosing the CCSU Alumni Athletics Hall of Fame class. Soon after taking a job in the alumni office in 2000, Rutkowski’s life was cut short by an accident at his home. His wife, Janine MS ’99, and daughter, Sara, live in Marlborough.

Young Alumni Award
Dedicated to public service, Jack J. Burriesci ’97 is a senior-level consultant for General Dynamics, supporting the US Department of Homeland Security on national cyber security. He has also worked as a senior management analyst for the District of Columbia’s Chief Financial Officer and a senior analyst with the Government Accountability Office, leading congressionally-directed performance reviews and evaluations of federal programs. He remains active in the CCSU community as a booster, coordinating local alumni events. He also started a fan-based website to discuss CCSU athletics.

Kaiser Alumni Service Award
As a scholar-athlete in cross country and track at Central, Mike Ryan ’85 received his bachelor’s degree in athletic training. He is currently the head athletic trainer and physical therapist for the NFL Jacksonville Jaguars and previously served as the assistant athletic trainer for the New York Giants. An author on sports medicine and also a frequent lecturer, Ryan is president of the Professional Football Athletic Trainers Society Research & Education Foundation, a member of the National Football League’s Foot & Ankle Committee, and chairman of the NFL Collegiate Athletic Trainers Committee.

Distinguished Alumni Service Award
Norman Hausmann ’54 spent his career in sales and sales management of corporate retirement plans, initially with Connecticut General Life Insurance Company and later with Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company. After retiring in 1997, he served on CCSU’s Alumni Association Board of Directors and on committees for Reunion and the TCC Class of 1954 Scholarship Fund. He is actively involved in his hometown of East Granby, and he led the effort to place a monument in Hartford’s Bulkeley Stadium to commemorate the historic home of professional baseball.

In their acceptance speeches, awardees credited CCSU with much of their success in life. Burriesci commented that “Central means so much to me. It has provided me with wonderful personal experiences and helped lay the foundation for my professional achievements.” He then implored the crowd to “continue to do our part to support Central.” Jones told the crowd, “It is a special feeling to be listed among the greatest sports legends of the University. To walk into Kaiser Hall and see my name on the wall is an indescribable feeling.” DiCosimo said he’d been fortunate to receive awards and honors throughout his career, “But none can match the honor this University has bestowed on me this night.” He then added, “Well maybe, there is one very important item that can surpass this event—the day my wife, Patricia, and I were married some 40 years ago this very month.”

Nominations for the 2011 awards are due by November 1. To find out more or to get nomination forms, visit: www.ccsu.edu/alumni.

— Janice Palmer

alumni news
The Anthropology Department’s Brown Bag Lunch Lecture series featured Rod Anderson ’97, who is an adjunct lecturer in International Studies at CCSU. During his lecture, “The Lost and Forgotten History of Black Civil Society: 1776–1860,” Anderson explored the question of why black civil society is not included in the study of African-American history.

Brenton Costa ’09 was awarded the highly competitive BMI Foundation Pete Carpenter Fellowship for Film Composers and will travel to Los Angeles to work with film composers for five weeks.

Governor M. Jodi Rell appointed Brenda Sisco ’80 as secretary of the Office of Policy and Management in May. Sisco has served as the Department of Administrative Services Commissioner since January 2008.

in memoriam
Professor of Physics and Earth Sciences, Emeritus, Charles A. Baskerville died on September 18, 2009, in New York. Baskerville taught geology and earth science courses while at CCSU.

Associate Professor of Education, Emeritus, Norma D. Smith died on January 14, 2010, in Lake Mary, Florida. Smith spent 20 years teaching in the Hartford public school system before coming to Central. She received a doctorate in urban childhood development from the University of Massachusetts and enjoyed theatre and dancing. She was 87.
As noted in the Stamford Times, Biology major Rodna Anius received the Martin Luther King, Jr., Scholarship from the Person-to-Person Scholarship Program. The ceremony was attended by state and federal officials, community leaders, and Person-to-Person board members.

CCSU students Christian Ayala and Luis Enrique Mendez Angulo were featured in a New Britain Herald article on the “Creative Arts Ministry,” a program offering free classes for youth. Based out of New Britain’s South Church, Angulo teaches creative writing while Ayala oversees the art lessons for the weekly program.

Professor of History Jay Bergman was interviewed in the Jewish Ledger on his latest book, Meeting the Demands of Reason: The Life and Thought of Andrei Sakharov, which was published 20 years after the death of the Soviet nuclear physicist. Sakharov was a human-rights activist and dissentient critic of the Soviet Union. Bergman spent 11 years researching and writing the book in an academic exploration of prominent dissidents such as Sakharov and Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.

Professor of History Mieczyslaw Biskupski, the Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies, was featured in numerous Polish media outlets, as well as in The New Britain Herald, for his most recent book, Hollywood’s War with Poland, 1939–1945. Biskupski was also quoted in The Hartford Courant and the Herald for articles on the plane crash that killed the Polish president and 96 others.

Assistant Professor of Art Jerry Butler was featured in the Baltimore Sun for his outdoor mural on social justice displayed in Baltimore, MD. Butler collaborated with the community, working with about 100 students, to create the 180-foot-long wall painting.

Coordinator of the Ruthe Boyea Women’s Center Jacqueline Cobbina-Boivin was featured in an article that appeared in a March edition of The Hartford Courant. In the article, on the ways colleges are enlisting men to help stop stereotypes that can lead to sexual violence, Cobbina-Boivin noted that men are becoming more involved in the issue.

Professor of Physical Education and Human Performance, Emeritus, Frank J. Frangione ’62 was recently inducted into the New Britain Sports Hall of Fame. His induction was featured in an article in The New Britain Herald. Frangione played basketball and ran track while a student at Central.

CCSU graduate student Rachel Gary’s op-ed, “When All the Children Get Blue Ribbons, Everybody Loses” was featured in The Hartford Courant. Gary discussed her views on the emphasis that society currently places on boosting the self-confidence of children. Gary recounts her experiences at her eight-year-old son’s first science fair, where all the students received first-place ribbons simply for participating.

Professor of Physical Education and Human Performance David Harackiewicz and Assistant Professor Michael Voight were featured in a Spring-field Republican story about Team USA’s bid for the 2010 Amputee Hockey World Championships. Harackiewicz is the assistant coach, and Voight serves as the team’s sports psychologist. The US team recently attended the National Disabled Festival in Maryland, before visiting the White House and the Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Associate Professor of English Vivian Martin was mentioned in a Stamford Advocate article about the conference held at Western Connecticut State University on the future of journalism. In the April article, Martin noted that she believes that future business models may include the funding of investigative reporters by universities and non-profit organizations.

Professor of History Heather Prescott authored an article for the History News Network, a news outlet that aims to put current events in a historical context by publishing articles written by historians on contemporary issues. Prescott reflected on the February shootings in the Biology Department at the University of Alabama and called for an end to the stigmatizing of persons with mental illness.

CSU Professor of Teacher Education Timothy Reagan was mentioned in a Chicago Tribune article on American Sign Language (ASL). Reagan supports the designation of ASL as a foreign language, remarking that it has a rich history of poetry and culture.

Professor of Art Ron Todd and Associate Professor of Music Charles Menco were mentioned in The New Britain Herald for their joint art exhibit at the New Britain Downtown Gallery. The show, titled “Meldings: An Audio Visual Installation,” looked at unconscious human gestures. Todd compiled the video footage and Menco synchronized the music for the exhibit’s three video displays.

Associate Professor of History John Tully was interviewed by the News Times about Danbury’s local chapter of the Emmett Club. The group provided political and financial support to end the British occupation of Ireland and, as Tully notes, “is part of a long history of Irish Americans working for Irish independence.”

Professor of History Matthew Warshauer was mentioned in a late February article in The Hartford Courant. Warshauer and a team of historians researching the mental health of Civil War veterans in Connecticut won a legal battle against the state’s Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services which supervises Connecticut Valley Hospital. The researchers filed a Freedom of Information claim after being denied access to the medical records of Civil War veterans.

Professor of Reading and Language Arts Ken Weiss and Associate Professor Julia Kara-Soteros were mentioned in The New Britain Herald for their criticism of Connecticut’s recent adoption of the Massachusetts Test for Educator Licensure for teaching early reading. The pair discussed the shortcomings of the standardized test and its assessment of teaching ability.
The CCSU Department of Intercollegiate Athletics announced the Frederick Gladstone and Gail Rutz award winners at its Senior Awards Ceremony in May. James Mallory (left) of the football team collected the coveted Gladstone Award, while Leah Blayney (center) of the women’s soccer team and Kandra Kane (right), a swimmer, shared the esteemed Gail Rutz Award. The awards are given to the top male and female student-athletes in the senior class.

Mallory, who led the Blue Devils to the Northeast Conference title last season, rushed for 1,352 yards and 16 touchdowns in his final season in New Britain. He was named an All-American and was a finalist for the Walter Payton Award, given each season to the top player in the Football Championship Subdivision. Following his senior season, Mallory was chosen as the NEC Offensive Player of the Year. He was also named an AP All-American, an AFCA All-American, and an ECAC All-Star and was chosen for the New England Sports Writers All-New England team. He was one of 20 finalists for the Payton Award.

Mallory finished his career with 3,245 rushing yards, the second-highest total in school history. He ran for 2,872 yards in the last two seasons and scored 31 touchdowns during that time. He finished his career averaging 5.2 yards per carry and with 34 career scores. He is second all-time in school history with his 206 career points. Mallory and his teammates put together one of the most successful football seasons in school history in 2009. They finished the year 9-3 and won their third NEC title in the last six seasons. The nine victories matched a school record.

Blayney was the 2009 Northeast Conference Offensive Player of the Year in her final season and was named to the All-Region First Team. She helped lead CCSU to a 12-7-4 overall record in 2009, as the Blue Devils earned the NEC Regular Season Championship with a 9-0-1 record. Blayney led the Blue Devils and the NEC in scoring as a senior with 11 goals and 13 assists, good for 35 points. It was the third-highest single season point total in school history, and her 13 assists were the second-most in a single season at Central. She ranked fourth in the country in assists per game (0.65) and 17th in points per game (1.75) in her senior campaign.

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For her career Blayney played in 61 games and posted 21 goals and 20 assists in three seasons. Her 62 points are fourth all-time in school history, while her 21 goals places fifth and her 20 assists are good for third. She scored 11 game-winning goals in her three seasons.

After helping to lead CCSU swimming and diving to back-to-back NEC Championships as a sophomore and a junior, Kane guided the Blue Devils to a runner-up finish at the league championships this season. Named a captain for her senior year, she put forth a gold medal performance and earned first team all-conference honors as a member of the CCSU 800 freestyle relay team.

Kane came into her own as a senior, recording silver medalist performances in both the 200 and 500 freestyle events at the league meet. She added second team all-conference accolades in three other relays in 2010. Kane was also a member of the first-ever CCSU team to win the ECAC Swimming and Diving Championships, which the team accomplished in 2007.

The combined successes of Mallory, Blayney, and Kane embody the missions of both the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and Central Connecticut State University.

— Daniel Forcella
New CSU Professors Address Graduates

Central's newest CSU professors delivered the commencement addresses to CCSU students in May. CSU Professor of History Heather Prescott (left) spoke at the Undergraduate Commencement, held at the XL Center in Hartford. CSU Professor of Teacher Education Timothy Reagan (right) delivered the address at the graduate ceremony, which took place on campus several days later.