Two firsts for CCSU! The University has received its largest gift ever, $8 million from the Carol A. Ammon Foundation, and, as a gesture of gratitude, the Connecticut State University Board of Trustees has voted to rename the CCSU School of Arts & Sciences to the Carol A. Ammon School of Arts & Sciences.

At a December news conference, CCSU President Jack Miller expressed his pleasure in announcing the historic gift, which will be used to fund student scholarships and academic program support.

“This gift, for which we are deeply grateful, comes from one of our most illustrious graduates,” he said. “Carol Ammon’s passion for learning and success in life serve as an inspiration to all of our students. Her wonderful generosity will make an important difference in our students’ lives for generations to come. This is particularly important for CCSU, where many of our students must balance work and family responsibilities while pursuing their education.”

Ammon, who now lives in Delaware, is a native of New Hyde Park, NY, and graduated from Central in 1973 with a BA in biology. Currently, she is the chair of the board and a trustee of the Christiana Care Health System, headquartered in Delaware. She is best known for her achievements as the founder and chief executive officer of Endo Pharmaceuticals, Inc., located in Chadds Ford, PA. At the time of her retirement in 2007, Ammon’s company employed 1,000 people, and net sales were reported in excess of $1 billion.

continued on page 2
For Ammon, this gift to CCSU is about paying back the University that helped shape her academic focus and the subsequent direction of her career.

“I am deeply grateful to CCSU and to Chemistry Professors Richard Groth and Timothy Shine (both of whom have since retired) who helped me discover my passion for science and my joy for learning,” says Ammon. Much-appreciated support also came from her dorm parents, Beth ’65 and Lenny Lavalette ’67, who helped her reach a number of important decisions about her future.

“I felt at home at Central, and the environment there stimulated me. My experiences at Central, including the mentoring I received and the confidence I developed, helped establish the foundation for my financial and career success. Now I want to do the same thing for others who want an excellent education.”

In response to the impressive donation, the Connecticut State University Board of Trustees approved a resolution renaming the School of Arts & Sciences to the Carol A. Ammon School of Arts & Sciences, making it Central’s first named school.

“I am deeply appreciative of this honor, and I thank all those who’ve made this possible,” Ammon said. She is hopeful that sharing her wealth and name “inspires others in similar financial circumstances to give back.”

After graduating from Central, Ammon spent 23 years in the pharmaceutical division of E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, beginning as an associate research scientist in research and development. Over the years there, she served in positions of increasing responsibility across research and development, finance, manufacturing, and sales and marketing. In 1993, she was appointed president of the generic pharmaceutical business unit of the DuPont Merck Pharmaceutical Company, the pharmaceutical joint venture of DuPont and Merck and Company, Inc. In 1996, she was named president of the U.S. Pharmaceuticals Division of DuPont Merck and was responsible for a significant share of the company’s revenue and earnings. In 1997, Ammon led a buyout team and purchased 37 pharmaceutical products from DuPont Merck to form Endo Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Ammon, a self-described “average B student,” never dreamed of reaching the level of success she has attained. “I can’t tell you how gratifying it is to leverage my success and invest in students, students like me, with a love for learning and a potential yet to be discovered,” she said.

In addition to her BA from Central, Ammon earned an MBA and an honorary doctorate from Adelphi University and completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University.

Although details are yet to be finalized, the first Carol A. Ammon Foundation scholarships will be awarded in the fall. They will not be the first scholarships made possible by Ammon’s generosity. In 2008, she helped establish a scholarship in memory of her former CCSU roommate Frances E. Librera ’73.

— Janice Palmer
William Dyson
Engaging Students and Community in Public Policy

At the forefront of shaping public policy in Connecticut for more than three decades, William Dyson surveys CCSU students in his Non-Profit Organizations course. Soft-spoken, he presses them: “Why does government choose to address certain issues and not others?” A student in the political science class which has been considering social, educational, and health issues faced by non-profit organizations ventures, “Maybe it’s the squeaky wheel, or a resourceful person who speaks up, or a public outcry that causes government to respond and address an issue.”

Dyson nods and smiles. Perhaps he’s recalling 1960 in Sumter, South Carolina, when he sat down at a segregated lunch counter during one of the many nonviolent sit-ins that aroused national sentiment and spurred integration during the civil rights movement.

As holder of the Governor William A. O’Neill Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Practical Politics, in the Center for Public Policy and Social Research, Dyson wears two hats—as a teacher and a community outreach facilitator.

In the Political Science Department, he teaches the Non-Profit Organizations course, which he developed, as well as State and Local Issues and Legislative Process. Dyson’s insights into the workings of government are grounded in a life-time of accomplishments as a legislator. For 32 years he served in the Connecticut House of Representatives from the mostly low-income 94th district in New Haven. He served a long tenure as House Chair of the Appropriations Committee.

Awarded his bachelor’s from Morris College, a master’s in urban studies, and a sixth-year degree from Southern Connecticut State University, Dyson was a hard-working public school teacher and administrator who served in the New Haven Public School System for 36 years.

“The awesome thing about Mr. Dyson is that he is the textbook—a living book full of knowledge on how politics works,” exclaims Erika Lynn Dawson Head, senior social work and political science major and a Student Government Association senator. “His experience is what pushes the classes—I’ve taken two with him—so that we are breathing in his energy along with politics. He’s brought fascinating people from different organizations to campus to discuss current issues. He invited Sen. Christopher Dodd to speak to our class, and I got to ask him about his role in health care reform and about working with Sen. Ted Kennedy. That was a tremendous moment for me.”

continued on page 4
Dyson has also invited former legislators, non-profit agency leaders, and the governor to speak to his classes, and he’s taken students on outstanding field trips.

**Role in Community Engagement**

Dyson is the chair of the Commission on Community Engagement for the state Department of Higher Education. As the O’Neill chair holder, he has helped initiate programs promoting community engagement and outreach. In 2010 Dyson coordinated two state-wide Community Engagement Conferences at CCSU, bringing more than 150 students from some 15 public and private universities statewide to share ideas and resources and to network on the topic of public service.

Last October, the office of the O’Neill chair sponsored “Central Connecticut 2020,” a forum which brought together leaders from business, education, government, and the non-profit sector to envision future priorities for our region in the areas of education, human services, and the economy. “I’ll be working with Provost Carl Lovitt to coordinate another larger meeting for this spring,” said Dyson.

**A Voice for Civil Liberties and Equality**

Dyson infuses his current position at CCSU with the same passion he exhibited as a powerful legislator. Whether he’s on campus mentoring students in CCSU’s Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), providing inspiration to those who might be apprehensive, or off campus fired-up about social justice as an appointee to the Connecticut Sentencing Taskforce and the Connecticut Judicial Selection Commission, he’s a man committed to civil liberties and equality.

Junior political science major Matthew Clyburn said of Dyson’s State and Local Government class this past spring: “We heard his message loud and clear: the problems of today must be solved by the leaders of tomorrow—and those leaders will be us.

From keeping each other honest by discussing and questioning to getting involved with our communities and the people of influence in our state, we should always venture to participate, engage, and learn.”

Senior Erika Prodell, a political science major, states, “Mr. Dyson stressed the importance of networking and petitioning our government. He treats his students as if we are already valuable policy makers and the future ‘movers and shakers’ of non-profits and government entities. He is truly inspiring, supportive, and exceptionally encouraging.”

Clyburn adds, “Bill Dyson is not just any distinguished state legislator. He’s a man of unique perspectives and tremendous life experiences and intellect. He’s a fantastic addition to the University.”

— Geri Radacsi

### Anne Applebaum at CCSU

Pulitzer prize-winning author and journalist Anne Applebaum visited CCSU in October for a lively discussion on contemporary Poland. Applebaum, a columnist for The Washington Post and online magazine Slate, took part in this year’s “Nowakowski Conversation” with Professor History M.B. Biskupski, holder of the S.A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies. The event was moderated by John Dankoski, the Robert C. Vance Endowed Chair in Journalism and Mass Communication, and included a Q&A with the audience.

Applebaum is a graduate of Yale University and has published extensively on the subject of communism and Eastern Europe. From 1988–91 she covered the collapse of communism as the Warsaw correspondent for Economist magazine. Her first book, *Between East and West: Across the Borderlands of Europe*, described a journey through Lithuania, Ukraine and Belarus, then on the verge of independence. She earned a Pulitzer Prize in 2004 for her book *Gulag: A History*, which discussed Soviet concentration camps and provided insight into daily life in the camps through interviews, archives, and memoirs.

— Erica Bliss
Kevin Josephson
Managing His Golfing Success

CCSU junior Kevin Josephson has shown himself to be an emerging talent this past year on the men’s Blue Devil golf team. His successes have included recent wins at the Macdonald Cup at Yale University and the CCSU Fall Invitational, as well as a culminating runner-up finish at the Fall 2010 NEIGA (New England Intercollegiate Golf Association) Championship.

At Work on the Course

One of Josephson’s passions and occupations during past summers has been working with the Northern Junior Tournament hosted at the Timberlin Golf Club in his hometown of Berlin.

“Kevin has been an unbelievable asset to the Northern Junior Tournament,” says Brent Paladino, who competed with Josephson in his youth and now runs the tournament. “Each year, the same group of people that grew up together as junior players at Timberlin put down their clubs for two weeks and come together to put on what is regarded as the premier junior golf tournament in New England.”

Josephson has been heavily involved in numerous projects to better the tournament. “He was instrumental in helping to plan and construct a PGA-Tour leaderboard next to the 18th green,” notes Paladino. The board now displays live scores of the leading players.

Josephson acknowledges the importance of keeping the tournament up to date with the golfing world by including events such as players dinners, and he notes, “We’re modeling the bigger tournaments and getting pretty big ourselves. We’re adding new things each year.” The tournament, which was founded in 2002, currently hosts 130 youth golfers for two days and 36 holes of competition.

“Running a national tournament is truly a 12-month project,” says Paladino, “and Kevin is an integral part of the tournament committee...It shows how much the game of golf means to him.”

“When it’s over,” says Josephson, “we just start looking forward to the next year.”

As for his career aspirations, Josephson doesn’t have to look far: “I want to do something in golf; I can’t see myself leaving the field.” The management major notes that “With a degree in management and a one-year certificate in turfgrass management, I could run a golf course.”

Success in Competition

“My game was alright my first semester of college,” says Josephson, who transferred to Central after a year at the University of Rhode Island, “but I fell off in the spring. Last year I was a little more steady, but something clicked this year. I played well at NECs, and then I took off.”

“Something” certainly clicked for him at last spring’s Northeast Conference Championship. Josephson headed his team’s fifth-place conference finish with a tie for a seventh-place individual placing, coming in seven strokes behind the leader on the three-day event.

His accolades continued as the All-New Englander advanced to the final playoff at the NEIGA Championship. “I was coming off a bad week at UCONN’s tournament, and I wanted to end my season with a good finish. I missed a few putts and coming in hit a couple bad shots, but anytime I can shoot under par continued on page 6
Kevin Josephson continued from page 5

for two rounds, I’m happy.” Josephson shot a two-day total of 143, finishing one stroke below par. While he ultimately fell to UCONN’s Adam Vaccari on the second hole of the Championship-deciding playoff, he garnered an impressive finish four places higher than his previous season’s effort. The team followed suit, capturing a third-place finish in the 182-player, 37-team event.

When asked about his achievements, Josephson says, “It’s more of a mindset, because once you have a skill set, you just have to learn how to use it. Once I learned how to attack a golf course the high scores disappeared. It was mostly mental.”

Josephson might be characterized by his iron mentality on the course. “When I’m playing tournaments, I have to block everything out. The first seven weeks of school, it’s all about getting into this mindset. This is the first year I’ve really thought like that.” On the course, Josephson tries to show an expressionless demeanor. “If someone’s watching me, I don’t want them to be able to tell if I’m having a good day or a bad one. There’s no need to draw attention to yourself. If you’re playing well, people will know.”

Looking to the spring, Josephson is focused on making it to the National Collegiate Athletic Association’s tournament. “I want to play in NCAAs before I leave, and why not this year?” he says. “Everything is going to be geared towards preparing for that. A good tournament or a bad one leading into it is no problem. I won’t lose my focus. I want it.”

Taking this drive and passion for the sport into the spring season, Josephson looks to keep his upward momentum swinging. Follow Josephson and the rest of the Blue Devils as they compete at www.ccsubluedevils.com.

—Luke Albertson

Connecticut Drug Policy A Bust

According to a recent study conducted by the Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences Susan Pease and Research Assistant Robert Painter for CCSU’s Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy, the amount of money spent on the drug war in Hartford is unjustified. After researching nine categories, ranging from local police costs to taxes not collected on illegal drug sales, Pease and Painter concluded that the war on drugs in Hartford costs taxpayers $148,931,133 per year. And the burden is not only financial. The current policy also negatively impacts families and communities, quality of life, education budgets, and jobs. As a result, Pease and Painter note that current drug policy is not fiscally responsible and that changes need to be implemented. They hope their study will motivate people to think of alternative, cost-effective methods to “reduce the burden of illegal drugs in our communities.”

— Erica Bliss

CCSU Succeeds in Stressing the Importance of Reading Instruction Competency

CCSU’s Teacher Education program has been referred to as “the star” of the Connecticut State University System. Teachers are the best weapon to fight against low literacy rates for elementary and preschool students, but they must know how to teach kids how to read.

The Foundations of Reading test was developed in 2009 to stress the importance of reading instruction competency in teaching programs across Connecticut. Last year 53 percent of CCSU students who took the test passed. However, this year, 89 percent of CCSU students who have completed the teaching program passed the test (this number drops to 73 percent when including students who are not enrolled in or have not finished the program).

Professor of Reading and Language Arts Kenneth Weiss explains, “We took some pretty serious steps here….We’re very proud of the progress that was made.” The University improved the passing rate of its students by instituting tutorials and reviews. Dean of the School of Education and Professional Studies Mitchell Sakofs notes, “We’re not going to be satisfied until we get that 89 percent to 100.” Test results prove that Central students are up to the challenge.

— Erica Bliss
John Tully: Searching for Irish Identity

His own Irish heritage, rich with family lore and nuanced messages, spurred Associate Professor of History John Tully to write his new book, *Ireland and Irish Americans, 1932–1945: The Search for Identity* (Dublin: Irish Academic Press, 2010).

As a second-generation child, Tully remembers being steeped in Irish nationalism and thinking “Erin Go Braugh” meant “British Go Home,” rather than “Ireland Forever.” “I think many Irish Americans saw themselves as exiles who had not gone willingly to the US seeking opportunity, but had fled political persecution. This feeling forged a strong sense of national identity and lasting connection with their homeland.”

The book is an outgrowth of his doctoral thesis at Ohio State University on the history of American foreign relations. (Tully also earned a master’s in history from CCSU and a bachelor’s in economics from Boston University.) In the book, Tully explores the interaction between the Irish government and Irish Americans in the ’30s and ’40s, especially during World War II, and how they looked to each other to create their identities in the world.

In praising the book’s sophisticated scholarship, Prof. Troy David of Stephen F. Austin University states that Tully demonstrates how foreign policymaking influences, and is influenced by, culture. “Tully offers compelling evidence that Ireland’s policy of neutrality was driven at least as much by a quest for identity as it was by a desire of security.”

Tully explores how and why Irish leaders turned to Irish Americans during the ’30s and into World War II for support in creating a policy of neutrality. He writes, “Irish leader Éamon de Valera, as well as his followers and his later Irish Republican Army opponents, could all agree on neutrality as the best means to establish an identity for Ireland on the world stage.”

This policy was successful, Tully argues, because “Irish Americans constituted a large percentage of the American population, had a history of looking to Ireland even as they negotiated the process of becoming ‘real’ Americans, and, in the 1930s, continued to feel isolated from mainstream America.”

The book makes a distinctive contribution to the literature. Tully states, “It’s the first extended work to argue that Irish neutrality can only be fully understood from the perspective of an Irish identity project that depended heavily on the role of and outreach to Irish America by Irish, British, and American policymakers.”

This year Tully wrote a distilled version of his book’s research findings and contributed a chapter to *The United States and Public Diplomacy: New Directions in Cultural and International History*, ed. Kenneth A. Osgood and Brian D. Etheridge (Boston: Martinus Nijhoff Publishers).

He has also written on public diplomacy, the Vietnam war, and Ronald Reagan’s foreign policy. In May 2008 he was a Visiting Fellow at the Clinton Institute for American Studies at University College, Dublin.

Tully’s astute scholarship and writing have informed his teaching since he joined the CCSU History Department in 2004 and assumed duties as social studies education coordinator, with responsibility for the teaching certification program. He currently serves as vice president of the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies and is National Director of Secondary Education for the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations.

In 2009, Tully won both the Connecticut State University Board of Trustees Teaching Award for CCSU and the CSU System-Level Trustees Teaching Award, becoming the first continued on page 8
CSU system teaching award winner at the University.

He has been responsible for the conception and operation of two major three-year Teaching American History grants from the US Department of Education. The federal awards have made it possible for CCSU history faculty to work with area teachers to reinvigorate the study of American history in elementary and middle schools. “The focus of our most recent grant is to help teachers find effective ways to combine literacy with American history,” explains Tully. The Connecticut Historical Society Museum and CCSU’s Department of Reading & Language Arts are also partners in the program.

While currently on sabbatical Tully has been able to jump start his latest research project, which focuses on Robert F. Kennedy’s views of American foreign policy.

Tully reflects, “My research efforts keep me current with the literature and enrich my own understanding of history while nourishing the excitement of learning for me and my students. I cultivate connections with the past and help students better understand who we are and where we want to go.”

— Geri Radacsi

New Leadership for ITBD Advisory Committee

The CCSU Institute of Technology and Business Development (ITBD) Advisory Committee Chairman Richard Larkin (second from left), of Larkin and Associates in Bristol, recently completed his two-year term and passed the leadership role to Frederick Krol, BS ’95, MS ’00 (third from the left), of Progress Inc. in Newington. Krol is the first alumnus from the CCSU School of Engineering and Technology to serve as chair.

Krol worked at ITBD as a college student and was then hired by an ITBD incubator company. He later purchased that company with a business partner.

Marybeth Krupinski (left), from Comcast in Berlin, was elected as the committee’s vice chairperson.

CCSU’s Executive Assistant to the President Rick Mullins (far right) credited Larkin with doing a terrific job during the past two years. “We are pleased to have CCSU alumnus Frederick Krol at the helm. He and Larkin have had experience managing small businesses and serving clients in a global economy, and Marybeth’s experience working for Comcast, named as one of the best places to work in Connecticut by the Hartford Business Journal, will bring a new perspective to the evolution of ITBD,” Mullins said.

CCSU’s ITBD is located in downtown New Britain. Its advisory committee meets quarterly and advises the ITBD management team on the needs, trends, and direction of Connecticut’s industries.
KAYLAH SMITH:
Appreciating the College Experience

Kaylah Smith always has her hands full—literally and figuratively. On any given day she might be carrying a couple of Spanish and anthropology books in one hand and sheet music in the other as she heads off to a class, or practice, or RECentral, or her job, or a high school event to cheer on one of her siblings.

Somehow she manages to do everything she does. The junior, a double major in anthropology and Spanish, consistently earns grades that put her on the Dean’s List each semester.

For 20 hours each week, Smith is a student worker in the dean’s office of the Carol A. Ammon School of Arts & Sciences. She is usually the first person visitors encounter. Sometimes those visitors are students who are frustrated or upset. “Fortunately for them,” says Dean Susan Pease, “Kaylah is an engaging and empathetic person who is able to solve problems and offer assistance.”

“She possesses the good written and oral communication skills that employers find valuable,” Pease says. The dean is also impressed with Smith’s ability to employ both qualitative and quantitative analysis to describe and solve problems. “She can integrate knowledge and resolve difficult issues creatively,” Pease points out.

Smith is a dedicated member of the University Singers and the all-women a capella group T.G.F.I. (Too Good For Instruments). Rehearsal for the two groups requires about 10 hours per week. Professor of Music Pamela Perry says Smith’s ability to stay focused helps her keep balance in her life. “She listens attentively to instruction, arrives prepared, and never lets anything affect her performance,” Perry says. “She can maintain a packed schedule without getting frustrated or tired because she is able to find the joy in whatever she is doing.”

“I’ve never seen her down,” she adds. Perry has been impressed with Smith since she walked into auditions as a first-year student. Very rarely do first-year students make it into the group. And Smith is not even a music major. Each year, Perry selects one student to receive the Elizabeth Walden Scholarship, and Smith was the first first-year student ever to be chosen for the honor. The following year, Smith became the first student to be chosen twice.

Smith is a leader within the University Singers; a role she gained “by example,” Perry states. When the group travelled to China last year to perform in several cities, it was Smith, one of the youngest on the trip, who looked out for students who were not coping well with the stresses of travel. “It is never about her,” says Perry, “It’s always about what she can do for the group.”

Somehow Smith manages to find a couple of hours each week to exercise that kind of leadership quality when she helps teach a Zumba class for RECentral.

Kaylah’s interest in anthropology and Spanish is a perfect fit with her fascination for other cultures and travel. Anthropology is not necessarily a major that is career specific, Smith points out. “It lends itself to many options,” she says. She believes that what she has learned in anthropology, through reading, writing, and critical analysis, will help her with any career path she decides to pursue.

Smith’s recipe for success includes a list of what she considers priorities in her life. She believes that “a college education is a luxury.” To get the most out of college she says “You have to work hard.” She is hopeful that her hard work and determination serve as a positive influence on her siblings and peers, just as her mother has been an inspiration to her.

For those students who choose not to participate in school and show some pride, she warns, “It’s a waste of you. Everybody has something special, so why not share it.”

— Connie Yan
BURRITT’S BICENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY BASH

Elihu Burritt, the New Haven native for whom CCSU’s library is named, would have been 200 years old on December 8, and CCSU marked the occasion with several events during the semester. CCSU Librarian Nick Tomaiuolo added a link to Wikipedia’s entry on the “learned blacksmith” to get word out about the events.

The celebration started in September with a lecture by Wendy Chmielewski on “Elihu Burritt: Nineteenth-Century Pioneer for Transatlantic Peace, Social Justice, and Human Rights.” Chmielewski is the George R. Cooley curator of the Swarthmore College Peace Collection, which contains material chronicling non-violent social change and holds a significant amount of material on Burritt.

In October, actors playing the role of Elihu Burritt led sold-out tours, by moonlight and lamplight, through the cemetery where he and many of New Haven’s well-known citizens were buried. “Timeless Tales of Fairview Cemetery” was researched and written by CCSU graduate student Amy Kirby.

Materials from the Elihu Burritt Collection—including books written by and about Burritt, images of the “learned blacksmith,” photographs from the Centennial celebration, and images of various sites in New Britain related to Burritt—were displayed by the library throughout November. Also that month, Associate Professor of History Robert Wolff lectured on Burritt’s role in the anti-slavery movement, and Professor of English Gil Gigliotti read poetry from Taylor Graham’s book Walking with Elihu Burritt, The Learned Blacksmith.

On December 8, Burritt Library hosted a celebration, including lectures and exhibits, in the Special Collections Room. Descendants of Burritt’s brother laid a wreath on their ancestor’s grave and then attended the party to speak about the life of their great-great-great-granduncle. The library also named the winner of the creative project contest, held to honor Burritt. Victoria J. Sawtelle won a $200 prize for her in-depth submission on Burritt. The library also held a separate, similar contest for New Britain High School students in which the top three winners won $50 each.

— Erica Bliss
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**THEATRE**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 5–9</td>
<td>The Kentucky Cycle, Part 2</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Black Box Theatre, Maloney Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>Student Recital</td>
<td>3:10 pm</td>
<td>Torp Theatre, Davidson Hall</td>
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Collins, Cavender Receive Excellence in Teaching Awards

Two CCSU faculty members have been honored as outstanding educators. Assistant Professor of English Mary Collins has been presented with the 2010-2011 Excellence in Teaching Award, and Adjunct Lecturer of Reading and Language Arts Monica Cavender is this year’s recipient of the 2010-2011 Adjunct Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award. The two were honored at a November ceremony.

Selection of the award recipients is based on nominations from students for faculty who show a steeped knowledge of their discipline, commitment to teaching, and an originality and creativity in their presentation of material. At the heart of these characteristics lies a secured respect of both colleagues and students and the inherent ability to inspire and motivate students.

Collins is an award-winning author best known for her enthusiasm for the writing and teaching of creative nonfiction. She draws upon her experience as a writer and editor for the magazines National Geographic and Smithsonian to inform her teaching. In the classroom, she teaches her students to turn fact-based writing into creative storytelling and encourages searching one’s inner self for inspiration for writing. She instructs her students in advanced literacy skills with the hope that in the future they will make vital contributions to promote a more literate society.

Cavender is a teacher of future teachers who models quality instruction for both her students and peers. She seeks to instill in her students not only a love of reading, but, like Collins, also an appreciation of the importance of literacy. She emphasizes the importance of acquiring knowledge through real-world experience, believing that students “learn best when they are provided with opportunities to experiment, make mistakes, reflect, and get feedback.” Cavender hopes to equip students with a passion for knowledge that they will carry into their own classrooms.

— Janice Palmer

Future Class of 2024?

The year 2024 may seem like the distant future, but, according to some experts, it is never too early to start nurturing a child’s dream of going to college.

With that in mind, about 100 third-graders and two dozen parents from New Britain’s Northend Elementary School spent a November day on campus. “A Day in the Life of a College Student” was organized by the Teacher Education Club and Assistant Professor of Teacher Education Lynda George, who serves as the club advisor, in partnership with College For Every Student (CFES), a national, non-profit organization. CFES works with local organizations and universities to inspire underserved students to attend college.

The young students, wearing bright blue “CCSU Class of 2024” shirts, received a campus tour which began at Welte Auditorium. They stopped at DiLoreto and Willard to check out typical classrooms, visited the Copernican Planetarium, experienced the “Izzy the Frog” exhibit on display in the Art Gallery, and ate lunch at the Student Center before returning to Welte to see a skit.

Before their tour, parents were introduced to some of the “nuts and bolts” of preparing for and applying to colleges. They learned about financial aid and how to fill out federal financial aid forms (best known as FAFSA). Director of Pre-Collegiate and Access Services Awilda Reasco talked about the Educational Opportunity Program, Collegiate Awareness and Preparation Program, and other support services available on campus. Missy Wilkins, CFES mentoring director, emphasized parents’ critical role in preparing children for college.

“Visiting college campuses together, reading together, and showing that studying can be fun are all good ways to show college is important,” Wilkins said. “The fact that you are here today is huge. Take a picture of yourself with your child on campus, mention the day—it all works together to drive the idea home.”

— Janice Palmer
Travelers Program to Give Students the "EDGE"

A new partnership between the Travelers Companies, Inc., and CCSU, announced in December, will provide underrepresented students with the education and training necessary for employment in the insurance and financial services industries.

Through the Travelers EDGE (Empowering Dreams for Graduation and Employment) program, CCSU is receiving a $130,000 grant that covers program expenses and tuition for Greater Hartford-area students who qualify. Program resources will be used to mentor undergraduates, as well as to increase their awareness of future career opportunities.

“We are proud to announce our partnership with Travelers and appreciate their ongoing commitment to support underserved college students,” said Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Carl Lovitt. “The company’s significant investment in our institution through this initiative will increase access for interested undergraduates from all backgrounds and will provide them with real-world internship experiences and quality leadership development programs.”

Travelers first launched this initiative in 2007 by partnering with schools in Minnesota and Maryland, as well as in Connecticut.

“By building awareness of careers in insurance and financial services and providing a combination of professional development, internship, and mentorship opportunities, Travelers looks forward to increasing and enhancing the experiences of underrepresented students in the Greater Hartford area,” said Travelers Vice President of Financial Planning and Analysis Anthony Torsiello, who serves as the company’s liaison to CCSU.

“Our partnership with CCSU reafirms Travelers’ commitment to the community and to education, as well as fostering the development of our future workforce,” Torsiello added.

CCSU Professor of Management and Organization David Fearon, who is the Travelers EDGE advisor on campus, closely guides students as they navigate the pressures of academia and their demanding internships.

— Janice Palmer

New Chief Diversity Officer: Rosa Rodriguez

Rosa Rodriguez has been appointed as Chief Diversity Officer at CCSU. Rodriguez, who comes to Central with over 20 years of higher education experience, has served as the equal opportunity and diversity director and as assistant to the vice president and interim associate vice president for student affairs at Metropolitan State University in Minnesota. At Saint Cloud Technical and Community College, also in Minnesota, she held positions as student affairs manager and vice president for student affairs. Rodriguez has experience in affirmative action, diversity and antiracism training, ADA and investigative activities, and other aspects of higher education. Her academic fields of expertise include social work, counseling and guidance, and education and policy administration.

— Luke Albertson

CSUS Institutions Develop Common Course Designations to Aid Transfer Students

Transferring to another school can sometimes be difficult, but the four CSUS institutions have worked together to make the process easier. For students transferring from one CSUS school to another, there are now approximately 100 common course equivalents at the freshman and sophomore level. These courses meet the General Education requirements and serve as prerequisites for higher-level courses.

All of the course equivalents will be posted at www.ct.edu and on the websites of each of the four CSUS universities. The course equivalents will also be included in the universities’ course catalogs. CCSU Associate Professor of Economics Carlos F. Liard-Muriente, who serves as chair of his department, says about the common course designations: “Our goal is to provide a pleasant academic experience, while committing to high standards and improving recruitment, retention, and graduation rates.”

The CSUS universities are now beginning work on common course designations for upper-level courses. Both of these efforts follow on the heels of the successful implementation of the Dual Admission Program, in which students who have earned associate’s degrees at any of the Connecticut community colleges may transfer to CSUS universities as juniors.

— Bernard Kavaler
School of Education and Professional Studies Awarded Reaccreditation

The School of Education and Professional Studies at Central has been reaccredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) for another five years. This approval came with high praise for CCSU’s undergraduate- and graduate-level teacher preparation programs.

“We are gratified once again to earn NCATE approval because it is evidence that our programs prepare teachers and other education professionals to meet the rigorous national requirements set by education professionals,” said Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Carl Lovitt. “We are especially proud that our education programs met every NCATE standard without a single expression of concern or weakness, which is quite unprecedented. This external review serves as a vote of confidence in the leadership of Dean Mitchell Sakofs and his outstanding faculty who prepare high-quality educators to be collaborative problem-solvers and use best practices to develop diverse and inclusive learning communities.”

Sakofs remarked that the process of accreditation is “extremely involved,” requiring schools to continually evolve and improve. The accreditation process reviews the knowledge, skills, and professional dispositions and qualifications of faculty, as well as the field experiences and clinical practices offered to students. The School of Education and Professional Studies was required to conduct an exhaustive self-study and undergo site visits by an NCATE team.

In addition to the NCATE accreditation, CCSU is also bolstered by several honors earned recently by its graduates. Alumna Jane Callery, BS ‘92, MS ‘97, SYC ’01 received the 2010 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching; Pauline Reid, MS ‘07 was recently named Principal of the Year in Jamaica; the Newington Public Schools System bestowed its 2010-2011 Teacher of the Year Award upon Robert Miller, and the Bristol School District named Lisa Galske, ’93 as its 2010 Teacher of the Year.

“We do an excellent job preparing education professionals,” says Sakofs, and notes that CCSU continues to be a “well-respected teacher preparation university in Connecticut and beyond.”

— Janice Palmer

CCSU Students Win IT Case Competition

A team of CCSU seniors placed first in the annual Travelers IT Case Competition this fall. The four management information systems majors—Christopher Albert, Andrew Brucker, Derrick Karle, and Kristina Larsen—ousted second-place, and last year’s winning team, from the University of Connecticut, as well as third-place Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

The competition focuses on the insurance industry, and this year’s teams had two weeks to prepare a presentation on how best to optimize the use of telecommuting or how to deal with gaps in employee skill levels, multi-generational workers, or text messaging in the workplace. Central’s team developed a three-step plan to review and optimize the company’s telecommuting program.

Professor of Management Information Systems Joo Eng Lee-Partridge and Assistant Professor Jason Snyder advised the winning students. Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Carl Lovitt lauded the students’ accomplishments, noting that their success was both a tribute to their “creativity and professionalism” and to the “student-centered teaching” of their advisors. From left, Snyder, Lee-Partridge, Brucker, Albert, Larsen, and Dean of the School of Business Siamack Shojai.
The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) recently held a luncheon ceremony for recipients of the Governor William O’Neill EOP Public Service Scholarship. The EOP, which began in 1969 as the “Summer Extended Orientation Program,” has as its motto: “The summer that will change your life forever!” Fifty EOP students, who are chosen for their potential to perform college-level work but who don’t meet CCSU’s regular admissions standards, live on Central’s campus all expenses paid for five weeks during the summer. Graduates of the program are admitted to CCSU as full-time students in the fall. EOP students are selected for the program by an advisory board committee that includes Natalie ‘Nikki’ O’Neill (holding plaque), Chair of the Board Toni Milano (left, with plaque), and Associate Professor of Political Science Paul Petterson (far left), among others. Selected students must complete 20 hours of volunteer service per academic year and maintain a GPA of at least 2.50. The scholarship is renewable for four years, provided the recipients maintain full-time status.

For more information on the Educational Opportunity Program, contact Director of Pre-collegiate and Access Services Awilda Reasco (far right) at reasco@ccsu.edu or 860-832-1902.

A three-student team — (from left) Rachael Kane, Ben Haase, and Johnny Kassay — placed first in the regional VEX Robotics World Championship Qualifying Competition hosted at the California University of Pennsylvania in November. Central’s team competed using two robots designed and built in Assistant Professor of Technology and Engineering Education David Sianez’s Robot Design and Construction course.

The game rules for VEX Robotics competitions are changed annually to ensure original robotic designs. This year’s “VEX Round Up” placed robots in a 12’x12’ area to compete for the highest scores. Points were won by placing and defending rings on both movable and stationary goalposts and by climbing a three-foot-high, three-tiered “ladder” located at the center of the playing area.

This regional win qualifies Central’s team for a spot in the 2011 VEX Robotics World Championship to be held at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at Disney World in Florida this spring. The CCSU students will compete against the top teams from more than 20 countries playing in over 200 tournaments.
The 17th Annual Center for Africana Studies Conference, held this fall, featured Patrick Mureithi, artist-in-residence at Drury University in Springfield, MO, who discussed his documentary ICYIZERE (hope): Trauma, Forgiveness and Reconciliation after the Rwandan Genocide.

Associate Professor of English David Cappella gave the keynote address at the 2010 CSU Undergraduate English Conference, held at CCSU in the fall.

During a discussion on the “Agenda for the Next Governor: Connecticut on the Edge,” two former gubernatorial candidates—Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Philosophy Ned Lamont and Oz Griebel—spoke with CCSU’s Robert C. Vance Chair in Journalism and Mass Communication John Dankosky about the financial problems facing the state’s next governor. The discussion, which was held on campus in October, was sponsored by the Arts and Sciences Public Policy committee, Journalism Program/English Department, Honors Program, and Political Science Department.

Economic and business journalist Thomas R. Keene, known for his colorful bow ties and the charts he creates to illustrate his points, spoke at CCSU in November as part of the School of Business’ Banking and Finance Lecture Series. In November, Bilal Dabir Sekou of the University of Hartford gave a presentation, titled “Between Obama and a Hard Place: Racial Politics in the Age of Obama,” sponsored by the African American Studies Program and the Department of Political Science.

CCSU hosted Bike Walk Connecticut’s First Statewide Summit, held in November to discuss how to make Connecticut a bike- and walk-friendly place to live and work.

The Office of Continuing Education and Community Engagement recently sponsored a webinar on “Building Service-Learning Programs: 10 Essentials,” presented by Dr. Barbara Jacoby, senior scholar for the Adele H. Stamp Student Union Center for Campus Life at the University of Maryland, College Park.

National Council for the Social Studies President Steven Goldberg was the keynote speaker at the annual Connecticut Council for the Social Studies Conference, which was held at CCSU and organized by Associate Professor of History John Tully.

CCSU’s Geography Department hosted Connecticut Geographic Information Systems Day 2010 events in November, including a keynote address by GIS pioneer Don Cooke and table demonstrations and displays.

The Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair of Polish and Polish American Studies hosted two concerts this fall. The Connecticut Virtuosi performed Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony, among other pieces, at CCSU’s Torp Theatre, and a Concert of Patriotic Songs was held at the Polish National Home in Hartford.

In recognition of Human Rights Day, the Man Enough Support Initiative, Africana Center’s Solutions Group, and Africana Student Organization teamed up to host the Creating a Culturally Competent Campus Symposium in December.

In December CCSU theatre students joined classmates from Associate Professor of Art Mike Alewitz’s Street Art class to speak out against cuts to education funding during “Defend Public Education: Art and Education—Not War and Occupation,” a project using large-scale street art and guerrilla theater.

In October, Human Resources and the Office of Diversity and Equity sponsored “Experiencing Diversity,” a presentation by Michael A. Brown of High Impact Training.

The Connecticut Trio—Professor of Music Linda Laurence; Professor of Music, Emeritus, Gerard Rosa; and Professor of Music Julie Ribchinsky—performed a concert in November as a fundraiser for Music Department student scholarships.

Central hosted the Fifth Annual Connecticut BEST Robotics Competition this fall, during which 70 middle and high school students raced their robots through challenging obstacle courses.

In recognition of World AIDS Day in December, the Ruth Boyea Women’s Center sponsored “HIV/AIDS: The Forgotten Epidemic,” during which women living with HIV/AIDS shared their stories.

James Douglass, author of JFK, Obama, and the Unspeakable: A Parable of Turning, discussed his book during a free public lecture sponsored by CCSU’s Peace Studies Program and Pax Ecucare, the Connecticut Center for Peace Education.

The Slavic and East European Studies program hosted a lecture in September by the German scholar Sebastian Muth, who spoke on “Language Use in Areas of Conflict: Perceptions on Multilingualism in the Republic of Moldova.”

Tomás Fernández Robaina, a researcher at La Biblioteca Nacional in Havana and a prolific author on Afro-Cuban issues, presented a lecture on “Limitations and Advances in the Fight Against Black Discrimination in Cuba” at CCSU in December.

The International Studies Lecture Series hosted several lectures and discussions during the fall semester. Stephen Buck, deputy chief of mission in Baghdad during the Iran-Iraq War (1986-88), presented a talk in October titled “On-the-Ground Realities and Middle East Peace: Gaza, the
West Bank and Beyond.” In November a panel of international speakers discussed “Voices of Conscience and Hope in Israel, Palestine, and the Golan Heights.” In December, Dr. Sara Roy of Harvard University lectured on “Changing Conceptions of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and the Refugees of Gaza” in Founders Hall.

In November, the Latin American Studies Committee and the Department of Geography sponsored a screening of the film On the Line—an inside look at the people behind one of the largest nonviolent movements in America today—as well as a discussion of Leslie Gill’s The School of Americas: Military Training and Political Violence in the Americas.

Historian Tony Johnston and activist John Guthrie spoke about history, politics, and conflict resolution in Ireland during a presentation, titled “Peace and the Celtic Tiger,” in November.

In October, the MOSAIC Center and Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc., sponsored a lecture on Peace, Economics, and Globalization by Arthur Romano, who has dedicated his life to organizing and supporting peace-related events and campaigns around the world.

The International Studies Lecture Series at CCSU sponsored a presentation by Gabriel Bol Deng, whose return home after a civil war forced him to flee South Sudan is detailed in the documentary film Building Hope.

This fall the Ruthe Boyea Women’s Center, the Latin American Students Association, and the International Student Organization sponsored events on campus as part of the Red Flag Campaign, a statewide movement to raise awareness about dating violence on college campuses.

Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings, the Kellner Family Professor of Urban Education in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, delivered a lecture in October about “The Journey of New Teachers and Other Educators in Diverse Classrooms.”

Film maker Teri McLuhan introduced The Frontier Gandhi: Badshah Khan, A Torch For Peace and took questions from the audience at a screening of her film sponsored by the Office for Diversity and Equity, School of Arts and Sciences, Department of Sociology, and Peace Studies program in November.

Three notable poets presented their work at Central in the fall. The Intermediate Poetry class at CCSU hosted the CCSU Spring 2011 Lecturer of English Leslie McGrath who gave a reading of her often food-infused verse. As part of the Connecticut Poetry Circuit, Jack Bedell of Louisiana presented his Southern poetry, and Pireeni Sndralingam, editor of Indivisible—the first anthology of contemporary South Asian poetry, read alongside Associate Professor of English Ravi Shankar, CCSU’s poet-in-residence, during a visit to Central.

The Department of Counseling and Family Therapy’s Central Access & Student Development (CSD) sponsored a Wellness Recovery Action Planning (WRAP) workshop in September, facilitated by CASD Program Coordinator Lila Coddington and Director of Recovery Initiatives Bill Pierce from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

In November, husband and wife team Peter Menzel and Faith D’Aluisio spoke on campus about their photo book, What I Eat: Around the World in 80 Diets, which describes the eating habits of 80 people in 30 different countries. CCSU Professor of English Mary Collins organized the event and contributed an essay to the book.

The Ruthe Boyea Women’s Center, Office of Diversity and Equity, Educational Opportunity Program/CONNCAP, and the Latin American, Latino and Caribbean Center sponsored a production of Yo Soy Latino!, presented on campus in December.

CCSU Celebrates LGBT History Month

PRIDE hosted a series of events in October as part of the celebration of LGBT History Month on campus. A rally was held on October 13 for National Coming Out Day. CCSU President Jack Miller spoke about the recent wave of teen suicides and the need to promote support of the LGBT community. Members of various student organizations also pledged their support, and an open mic gave students the opportunity to be heard. Later in the month, the LGBT Center sponsored comedian Brent Sullivan, who performed “Fag Life: A Conversation with Fred Phelps.” The celebration concluded with the October Masquerade Ball and PRIDE’s popular drag show in Semesters.

During a conference on social justice, sponsored by the LGBT Center and the Center for Public Policy and Social Research, Victoria Christgau (above), founder and director of the Connecticut Center for Nonviolence, spoke of the need to develop strong allies in the LGBT community to assist in the implementation of programs that transform the cycle of violence in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities.

CCSU students Aaron McAuliffe (above, left) as a Stonewall cop and Zackary Keegan (right) as his drag persona Za*Kari Sunshine strike a pose during PRIDE’s Masquerade Ball.
Central Hosted the 12th annual Connecticut FIRST Lego League State Championship this December. The championship is a partnership between Lego and FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) and was sponsored by CCSU’s School of Engineering and Technology and the Connecticut Department of Education’s Technology Education Office.

Fifty-one regional-qualifying teams designed and constructed Lego-based robots to accomplish 15 various tasks within a two-and-a-half-minute time limit. The robots must act independently, using preset automated programming to work through the challenges. This year’s theme was biomedical engineering, and challenges included dispensing pills and treating blood clots.

The event also included student presentations of research projects focusing on the human body. Teams selected a part of the body and discussed possible problems as well as methods of treatment. Greenwich Academy’s RoboElite Team took home the gold and will advance to the international championships in Saint Louis, Missouri.

Go For Aerospace! Dinner and Lecture

In November, CCSU hosted an event as part of NASA’s Go For Aerospace! Program, which seeks to excite and educate high school juniors, who show high potential in the fields of mathematics and science, about careers in aerospace engineering. CCSU alumna and Pathfinder 7 astronaut trainee Rachael Manzer MS ’98 (shown left) gave the keynote address, titled “Of Dreams and Heroes.” Manzer spoke about her career path and selection for the Teachers in Space program. She described the various hardships that confronted her—and how she overcame them—and encouraged students at the event to pursue their career goals.

Omar Sierra Lectures at CCSU

Consul General of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela Omar Sierra spoke on the “Bolivarian Revolution and Afro-Indigenous Social Movement” in November. The lecture was sponsored by International and Area Studies and the Office of the Provost.

CCSU Hosts 2010 Women and Film Festival

Art critic, commentator, and curator Amei Wallach (right) addressed the audience after a screening of her documentary Louise Bourgeois: The Spider, the Mistress and the Tangerine at the 2010 Doris Honig Guenter Women and Film Festival in October. The theme of this year’s festival was “Unlocked Images: Family, Warriors, and Art,” and events—including a panel discussion moderated by Robert C. Vance Distinguished Professor of Journalism and Mass Communication John Dankosky—took place on campus and at the New Britain Museum of American Art. Guests included feminist filmmaker Joyce Chopra and producer, editor, and director Beverly Peterson.

CCSU Celebrates Asia Day

CCSU hosted its second annual Asia Day Celebration in November. Faculty, students, and staff made presentations on various aspects of Asian language and culture, including a Japanese drumming performance, a karate demonstration, and a lecture on pedagogical approaches to language learning. Students (from left) Ashley Wilson, Catherine Kwok, and Daniel Green gave a presentation on “Learning and Teaching Chinese through Community Engagement” which detailed their work with high school students in the Glastonbury and Berlin public school systems. The daylong celebration was sponsored by the Center for East Asian Studies, East Asian Studies program, Center for International Education, U.S.-China Center, and Department of Modern Languages.
Christopher Galligan was recently inducted into the Nichols College Athletics Hall of Fame as an alum of the year. Galligan was top scorer when he played for the Bisons—and one of only two players who reached the 1,000-point mark in two seasons.

The Skalny Civic Achievement Award was presented to the CCSU Polish Studies Program, the first organization or program selected to receive this award. Accepting the award were Library Technician Renata Vickrey, Waldemar Kostrzewa, Librarian Ewa Wolynska, and Biskupski. Kostrzewa serves as chair of the Polish Studies Advisory Committee. Vickrey and Wolynska are members of the committee.

Assistant Professor of Art Jerry Butler spoke about being an artist, as well as about the necessity for environmental sustainability, during the “Izzy Talk and Walk” event held in October. Butler also created a Park River Watershed mural with students from CCSU and New Britain Middle School as part of the effort to raise awareness about the impact people have on the environment.

Professor of Anthropology Kenneth Feder led a discussion on “How to Pull Off A Sort of Successful Archaeological Hoax: The Sordid but Silly Tale of the Cardiff Giant” at the Barnum Museum in September. In addition, his book Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries: Science and Pseudoscience in Archaeology was recently published in Korean—it has already been translated into Spanish, Japanese, and Italian.

CCSU art education graduate student Elisabeth Finnegan held her first exhibition this fall on the second floor of New Britain’s City Hall. Professor of Art Rachel Siporin notes that Finnegan “has tremendous expertise in the medium of ink wash...She has so much control, yet her work is never tight or overly controlled. It has a wonderful quirkiness about it.” Finnegan’s exhibit, which ran through January 7, was featured in an article in The New Britain Herald.

Vice President of Institutional Advancement Hassan Robinson, a student in Central’s EdD program and a teacher at East Hartford’s Thomas S. O’Connell Elementary School, has been awarded the Teacher of the Year award for the East Hartford School District.

Director of Recruitment and Admissions Larry Hall was the keynote speaker for the NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner held at CCSU. Hall spoke about how necessary the NAACP, now in its 101st year, is for the country.

Professor of Geography, Emeritus, John Harmon, who continues to teach several courses at CCSU as an adjunct, was a featured speaker at the Rockfall Foundation’s annual symposium, “Changes to Regional Planning—New Opportunities to Share State and Local Services,” held at Essex Steam Train and Riverboat. Presenters explored options for implementing regional collaborations to provide services efficiently and economically, while sustaining Connecticut’s unique quality of community life.

Associate Professor of Music Carl Knox was a guest soloist with the Missouri Southern State University jazz combos for a concert in November. In an article about the performance at MSSU, he is described as a “highly acclaimed jazz saxophonist.”

Kevin Leaver, student chapter president of CCSU’s International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) club, was interviewed for October’s issue of the IABC Student Connection Newsletter. Leaver attended the IABC Global Communication Conference Asia/Pacific in Hong Kong last April, and the newsletter’s Student Spotlight focused on his experiences at the conference as well as with the IABC at CCSU.

Professor of Anthropology Warren Perry gave a presentation at Western Michigan University in November on “The Archaeology of New York’s African Burial Ground.” Perry served as director of the African Burial Ground Project.

Adjunct Lecturer of Art Jessica Somers was mentioned in an Art New England article for her use of the Ziatype Process, a complex photographic print method, and for printing her photographs—some of which are self portraits—on salted gelatin paper.

In November Professor of Counseling and Family Therapy Dan Wiener was presented with the Gertrud Schattner Award at the National Association for Drama Therapy’s 31st Annual Conference. The Gertrud Schattner Award is given in recognition of distinguished contributions to the field of drama therapy in education, publication, practice, and service.
Community Central Collaboration Brings New Energy Downtown

When Community Central opened its doors in early November, Central Connecticut State University expanded its presence in downtown New Britain with a pedestrian-friendly, student-oriented space. The center was developed with the goal of inspiring and supporting collaboration among students and the community, and is, itself, the result of collaboration among CCSU, the New Britain Downtown Council and the public school system.

Community Central is part of a larger group of institutional initiatives designed to expand and enhance the University’s historical partnership with New Britain. These efforts aim to strengthen the University’s engagement with the New Britain community.

Associate Professor of Management and Organization Sarah Stookey, who first envisioned the project, developed and cultivated her idea with faculty, students, the New Britain Downtown Council, and high school administrators. Stookey hopes that drawing more CCSU students and faculty downtown will foster connections with area businesses, residents, and high school students—with an end result of the exchanging of innovative ideas.

“Our intention is to spark additional business and interest in the heart of the city, thus improving the quality of life for residents, and student involvement is essential to the success of this project,” Stookey says.

She emphasizes that Community Central is an opportunity for CCSU students “to work together with the young people of New Britain to create positive change.” And that is why Eric Francis, a senior in business management, serves as project manager and is developing some of the first Community Central projects. He visits New Britain High School (NBHS) classes to talk with students about the initiative and to encourage their participation and support.

“We are looking for high school students who want to be leaders, who are inspired by the opportunity to have their ideas heard, and who want to make a difference in their city,” Francis says.

His colleague, criminology major Krista Kingsbury, is developing a pilot mentoring program in a New Britain elementary school. Andrew Froning ’10, a CCSU alumnus who works on campus through Americorps, is focused on organizing and coordinating the participation of the CCSU community.

This semester, Community Central is offering tutoring services Monday through Thursday from 2:30-5:30 p.m. Teacher education students have volunteered their time to work with NBHS students. CCSU and NBHS students are also collaborating on a gallery management project and, at semester’s end, will put on a joint art exhibit. Students are also working to find buildings between campus and downtown for their mural arts collaborative with Assistant Professor of Art Education Jerry Butler; they plan to create a visual path between the two locations. Another project is underway that will involve Professor Gregory Berry’s Entrepreneurship 320 course.

“We hope,” says Francis, “that students from both Central and New Britain High will take what they learn and apply it to the real world.”

— Janice Palmer

CCSU theatre majors led a group of 7-12 year olds through two interactive workshops during “Early Stages: A Celebration of National Storytelling Month” in November.

Community Central’s core team poses for a photo following the news conference to announce the new community-engagement initiative. Pictured are (left to right) CCSU alumnus and Americorps VISTA volunteer Andrew Froning ’10, business major Krista Kingsbury, Associate Professor of Management and Organization Sarah Stookey, SGA Vice President Chris Kyle, and Community Central Project Manager Eric Francis.

CCSU President Jack Miller (left) addressed attendees of the Campus-Community Key Leadership Summit, held on campus at the end of September. Sponsored by the Connecticut Statewide Healthy Campus Initiative, the primary focus of the summit was to discuss methods to reduce high-risk alcohol and drug use on college campuses. As part of this effort, CCSU now provides additional alcohol-free events on those nights that are typically viewed by students as “party nights.” The University is reaching out to students and their parents following citations for underage drinking and has also created a hotline to address any neighborhood concerns about house parties or excessive noise.

CAMPUS-COMMUNITY KEY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
CCSU is asking all members of the campus community to participate in a new sustainability effort to properly collect and discard spent and non-usable batteries. Instead of discarding batteries in the trash, contact David Honyotski at 860-832-3068 or honyotskidab@ccsu.edu to coordinate a pick-up. The Office of Environmental Health and Safety is distributing battery disposal packets, and Facilities Management will be providing a schedule of monthly pick-ups.

A Challenge to Recycle

During football season, Central went “green” for one game-day challenge. As part of an effort sponsored by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), CCSU encouraged fans at one game to recycle as much material as possible by providing readily available bins for discarded paper, plastic, and cardboard. At the end of the day, collected materials were weighed and totals were sent to the EPA. The goals of the challenge were to lower the amount of waste generated during the event; to increase recycling participation by students, faculty, staff, and the community; and to heighten awareness of waste-reduction programs. This initiative follows Princeton Review’s citing of CCSU as an “exemplary Green institution” and furthers athletics’ and CCSU’s commitment to an environmentally sustainable campus.

Grant Helps CCSU Students Assist Voters

CCSU student Eric Bergenn (below) assisted voters at a polling station in West Hartford on Election Day in November. Bergenn and other CCSU students were recruited to serve as nonpartisan poll workers and assistants at the polls thanks to a grant received by Assistant Professor of Political Science Robbin E. Smith. The three-year, $30,000 renewable grant from the US Election Assistance Commission was made possible due to the 2010 Help America Vote College Program which provides funding to support the development of programs to assist state and local governments in the administration of elections. CCSU was one of only fifteen institutions and organizations in the country to be awarded the grant.

During last year’s International Year of Astronomy, Central hosted 76 free public events in addition to its regularly scheduled planetarium shows. The University now looks ahead to the current Year of the Solar System! This celebration, sponsored by NASA’s Planetary Science Division, lasts 23 months (a full Martian year). Headed by Professor of Physics and Earth Sciences Kristine Larsen, Central will be hosting events to highlight the diverse members of our solar system. The celebration kicked off on Astronomy Day in October with a planetarium showing and an “Astro Academy” in which participants made three-dimensional scaled models of all eight planets.

CCSU’s anthropology students took to the streets in November to gather information for a community-needs assessment for the Bristol Community Organization (BCO). The information gathered will be used to determine whether the BCO could qualify for federal funding to support programs like Head Start. Professor of Anthropology Evelyn Phillips says the field experience is an opportunity for students to work in the real world—interviewing people, reading reports, and collecting information—instead of learning only in the classroom. Students spoke with community leaders, staff of social service agencies, city department heads, and other officials.

At the annual SUOAF/AFSCME Holiday Social and Luncheon held in December, members donated over 135 toys for needy children. Marine Staff Sergeants David Mills and Jared Taylor, who are CCSU students and veterans and currently serve in the Marine Reserve Corp, transported the donations to Charlie Company 1st Battalion 25th Marine Regiment from Plainville for the Toys for Tots program.

The CCSU chapter of the Golden Key International Honors Society held a food drive throughout the month of November to benefit the Connecticut Food Bank. A total of 168 pounds of food was collected from members of the CCSU community.

Green News

CCSU is asking all members of the campus community to participate in a new sustainability effort to properly collect and discard spent and non-usable batteries. Instead of discarding batteries in the trash, contact David Honyotski at 860-832-3068 or honyotskidab@ccsu.edu to coordinate a pick-up. The Office of Environmental Health and Safety is distributing battery disposal packets, and Facilities Management will be providing a schedule of monthly pick-ups.
KELLOGG LITHOGRAPHS TO BE DISPLAYED

The S.T. Chen Fine Arts Center in Maloney Hall will be holding “The Kellogg Lithographs and Multiples and Editions” exhibition from March 31–April 22. The Kellogg Lithographs were produced in the 19th century by four Kellogg brothers from Hartford. These Victorian-era lithographs contrast starkly with the contemporary prints and sculptures that will be on display in the larger room of the gallery. Regular gallery hours are 1–4 pm, Monday through Friday, and admission is free to the general public. Visits at other times may be made by appointment.

EOP SUCCESS STORY

Sylwia Szumska and Karen Maisonet are just two examples of the success of CCSU’s Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). Szumska and Maisonet both received the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain’s Ronald F. Gilrain/EOP Scholarship after completion of the program and then registered as freshmen at Central this fall. EOP is a five-week summer program designed for students who have the potential to succeed in college but do not meet CCSU’s academic standards for admission. The program prepares students for college-level assignments and provides them with academic support.

CLASS MEETING TIMES HAVE CHANGED!

In order to minimize time conflicts experienced by students when registering for required courses, CCSU has implemented new time blocks for Spring 2011. This change also increases the number of classes that can be accommodated on campus. Posters detailing the new class meeting times have been placed in all dorms and academic buildings in order to ensure a smooth transition to the new schedule.

CPAS AWARDS GRANTS TO CCSU

In November the Educational Trust Fund of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants awarded grants to CCSU’s Accounting Department and Accounting Society. The grants were presented at the annual dinner meeting of the CSCPA Educational Trust Fund and the Student Outreach and Career Awareness Committee.

Correction:

Ryan Wark and Thomas Naclerio, who provided technical assistance to the Greater New Britain Arts Alliance during the creation of a short video to promote New Britain and its connection with the arts, are University Assistants in Media Technology, not students as incorrectly stated in the December issue of the Courier.

CONNECTICUT TO COMMEMORATE THE CIVIL WAR

In April CCSU will host Connecticut’s commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, including an encampment as well as exhibits from historical organizations and museums. For those interested in learning more about Connecticut’s involvement in the war—from soldiers’ experiences to Connecticut’s arms industry—a conference in the Student Center on April 15 will kick off the event. History Professor David Blight of Yale University is slated to deliver the keynote address. Tickets for the conference are $40 for general admission, $35 for members of the Association for the Study of Connecticut History, and $30 for students. On April 16 and 17, visitors can check out a Civil War re-enactors encampment at Stanley Quarter Park, take a carriage ride, and even sample the “hard tack” biscuit eaten by soldiers, all free of charge. For more details, visit www.ccsu.edu/civilwar.
In the news

In October, Front Page Magazine interviewed Professor of History Jay Bergman about his latest book, Meeting the Demands of Reason: The Life and Thought of Andrei Sakharov. This biography about the Russian dissident focuses on how the work Sakharov did contributed to the collapse of the Soviet Union. Bergman talked about his motivation for writing about Sakharov.

Connecticut Small Business Development Center Director Ginne-Rae Clay was interviewed by USA Today in September about the work of the CSBDC. The CSBDC offers counseling to help develop small businesses.

The New Britain Herald tapped Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice Stephen Cox for his expertise on the death penalty for an article regarding the Petit case in October. Cox said many people talk tough regarding the death penalty, but Connecticut residents do not usually follow through. He cited a recent attempt to repeal the death penalty in Connecticut as a perfect example of how the state can’t really make up its mind.

In November Associate Professor of Political Science Paul Petterson was interviewed by NBC 30 on the differing vote totals in the gubernatorial race. Petterson explained how the official winner of the race would be determined.

Professor of Art Mark Strathy was recently the mystery guest on WNPR’s Faith Middleton Show. During the show’s “Hot Seat” segment, Middleton is given only the name and job title of a guest before conducting the interview. Strathy discussed teaching at CCSU, as well as life as a New York artist.

Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice Raymond Chip Tafrate was cited in an LA Times article about the increase in the classification of intense anger as an illness. Tafrate noted that individuals who report high levels of anger have significantly higher rates of heart disease and stroke.

New books

Professor of Anthropology Kenneth Feder’s new book, Encyclopedia of Dubious Archaeology: From Atlantis to the Walam Olum, was published this fall. In this illustrated encyclopedia, Feder discusses and debunks the pseudoscience surrounding popular archaeological and anthropological findings.

Adjunct Lecturer of English Adam Golaski’s recently published book, Color Plates, is a collection of 63 intertwining short stories, or plates, based on paintings by Edouard Manet, Edgar Degas, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, and Mary Cassatt. Each plate has the ability to stand alone, yet characters, themes, and patterns repeat throughout. Golaski maintains a “Little Stories” blog at www.adamgolaski.blogspot.com.

Assistant Librarian Edward Iglesias recently published An Overview of the Changing Role of the Systems Librarian. Iglesias provides numerous case studies from around the world and concludes that systems librarians must become more proficient in dealing with service providers outside of the library, as well as in training and supporting their traditional constituencies.

Assistant Professor of History Matthew Specter’s new book Habermas: An Intellectual Biography follows postwar Germany’s leading philosopher and social thinker, Jürgen Habermas, through four decades of political and constitutional struggle over the shape of liberal democracy in Germany. Habermas’ most influential theories were shaped by major West German political events: the failure to denazify the judiciary, the rise of a powerful Constitutional Court, student rebellions in the late 1960s, the changing fortunes of the Social Democratic Party, NATO’s decision to station nuclear weapons, and the collapse of East Germany. In turn, Habermas’ reflections on state, law, and constitution played a critical role in reorienting German political thought and culture to a progressive liberal-democratic model.
Charles Fote
Central Alumnus Inspires Business Students with Ideas and by Example

In 1975 a young man named Charles Fote began working at First Data, a pioneering company that was the data processor for newly emerging, bank-issued Visa and MasterCard credit cards. As Fote worked his way up the company ladder over the next decades, the electronic payment industry changed dramatically thanks to the emergence of new technology, the development of new payment methods, and the evolution of the global marketplace. First Data became the country’s largest processor of credit- and debit-card transactions and a Fortune 250 company. In 2002 Fote became the CEO and an industry leader.

During his tenure, First Data grew from an $11 million US division to a global payments firm with $12 billion in sales. Observes Fote, “I think I was the 83rd employee hired. When I left, we had 41,000.” Fote was a relentless taskmaster when it came to quality—six errors in a million transactions was too many in his book—and he instituted daily conference calls focused on quality control. The calls took place at 6:30 a.m. and involved as many as 300 managers making their reports. “It was: What did we do yesterday? What do we need to fix today? What are we doing tomorrow?” says Fote. “The first time I did this call, it was seven and a half hours. When I left it was probably 12 minutes.”

A PIONEER TURNS ENTREPRENEUR

After 30 years at First Data, Fote stepped down in 2005. But he wouldn’t stay on the sidelines for long, and in 2009 he established Fotec, a Denver-based electronic payments company working on an integrated system that can process payments and handle money transfers and bill payment. States Fote, “We’ve come up with a new payment system that revolves around mobile phones, so that every consumer can be a buyer and a seller.” Given that there are four to five billion cell phones in use today, it would seem to be an idea whose time has come—and just the type of initiative one would expect from Fote, a business leader, visionary, entrepreneur, and former math major at Central.

RETURN TO CENTRAL

This past fall Fote returned to Central at the behest of Professor of Management and Organization David Fearon, who for more than three decades has worked to bring compelling figures from the business world to campus. Fote talked about his career to students in Fearon’s Organizing and Managing for Quality course and later participated in a discussion forum that was open to the campus community.

Fearon says his students were impressed with Fote’s achievements at First Data. “Fote was one of the pioneers in the field,” says Fearon. “He walked students through each business cycle as the technology allowed for more accuracy, speed, and volume. What he reinforced with my students was how absolutely significant it was to make sure every transaction went through.” Never mind that the company was processing an astonishing trillions of dollars in transactions.

Fearon says that at first the students were surprised by the humility and accessibility of Fote, who grew up in West Hartford in a family of six children and commuted to Central while also working at a bank.

When students were invited to give Fote their thoughts on his new business, he listened closely and took careful notes. “They were amazed,” says Fearon. “He actually listened to them.”

For his part, Fote thoroughly enjoyed his trip back to New Britain for the first time in over 40 years. He marveled at the dramatic changes to his old school, which was just one building in his time. “I think it’s a heck of a campus,” he says. He also praised the dedication of the faculty and the initiative of the students. “The kids are sharp,” says Fote. “They just learn so much so fast.” As for valuing student feedback about his new venture, he remarks, “These are the people who are going to be primary customers of this sort of business, and I’m always asking people what they think.”
AS INDUSTRIOUS AS EVER
Fote has made time for other things in life in addition to business. He and his wife, Kaye Lynn, have four children and nine grandchildren, whom they enjoy visiting in various parts of the country. An enthusiastic golfer, Fote has served on numerous boards of directors over the years, is head of the Fote family foundation, and currently serves on the board of Project C.U.R.E., a nonprofit, humanitarian relief organization.

AMAZING DRIVE
Yet at an age and career stage when others might retire and rest on their laurels, Fote continues to go into his office between 6:00 and 6:30 a.m. and stays until 5:00 p.m., growing his company through strategic acquisitions and working on a payment system that he believes will offer customers around the globe convenience, choice, security, and—of course—quality.

Fearon remarks, “He has this amazing drive, an incredible drive to be part of the next thing— he did it when he was young and he is doing it again.” Fearon notes that Fote and others like him are demonstrating that Central is a great starting point for future success. He adds, “How fortunate we are that these wonderful people had their start at Central and are extending our reputation throughout the world.”

— Leslie Virostek
CCSU Launches New Planned Giving Site

CCSU alumni can have a lasting impact on students through a planned gift, and a new website makes it easier than ever before. Planned giving supports CCSU programs far into the future while also providing tax deductions, among other benefits. Donations of any amount are accepted and encouraged. To learn more, please visit www.ccsu.edu/plannedgiving.

alumni news

CCSU alumnus Timothy Maule ’91 was recently named District Teacher of the Year. Maule attended Hubbard Elementary in Berlin as a student. He later served as a teacher’s aide and is now in his 19th year teaching at the same school. He uses humor to facilitate learning and keep students paying attention in class.

CCSU alumnus Alfred DiVincentis ’86 recently received the 2010 Supplier/Service Provider Award from the Associated General Contractors of Connecticut. Criteria for the award includes a high level of leadership; a high skill level, developed through education and job experience; and an adherence to fair and responsible business practices. DiVincentis, the only attorney nominated in the Supplier/Service Provider category, received his BS in industrial technology, with a concentration in construction management.

Dr. G. Duncan Harris, who graduated from Central with a master’s degree in 2000, was named Man of the Year by the State of Connecticut African American Affairs Commission at the 11th Annual Classic Awards. Harris, the dean of student affairs at Manchester Community College (MCC), was recognized for his ongoing commitment to the advancement and development of African-American college and high school students. The Brother-2-Brother program at MCC was established as a result of a study done by Harris in connection with his dissertation for the doctorate of education at the Fischler Graduate School of Education of Nova Southeastern University in Florida. The program provides African-American and Latino males with a support system for their academic and developmental growth and includes peer and professional mentoring (Harris himself is a mentor), academic support and recognition, and community engagement and service.

Harris was named the Special Award Recipient at the 2008 Connecticut Higher Education Community Service Awards.

CCSU alumnus Doug Oliphant ’09, who received the 2009 National Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Directing Award while a student at Central, returned to campus in December to direct a short film/music video titled The Greeter for local indie rock band Sleep Well. Several other CCSU alumni were also involved in the project — Peter Krol ’09 (director of photography, film editor), Kevin Shaw ’10 (light engineer), Nathan Bourke ’10 (sound engineer, set dresser, assistant light engineer), Management Associate in CCSU’s Theatre Department Kate Bunce (costume designer), Josephine Calvo ’07 (props coordinator), and Ted Guhl ’72 (leading actor). The film premiered in Central’s Blackbox Theatre.

The Blues Foundation recently honored Mary Lou Sullivan ’98 with the 2011 Keeping the Blues Alive Award in the literature category. Sullivan’s book, Raisin’ Cain, the Wild and Rau
cous Story of Johnny Winter, is an in-depth look at the life of the blues icon.

In response to an ongoing need, alumnus Robert Warner ’77 recently donated his 22nd gallon of blood to the American Red Cross. His first donation was in 1966, and, since then, Warner has donated 176 pints, one at a time. He says that after the 56-day waiting period between donations has elapsed, he looks online to find the nearest blood drive and heads out, noting, “I plan on donating until they tell me I can’t.”
in memoriam

Anthony Bichum, one of CCSU’s most generous benefactors, passed away on September 2, 2010. A lifelong resident of New Britain, he was the son of Russian immigrants and the husband of the late Helen G. Bichum. A man with no more than an elementary school education, Bichum amassed considerable wealth during his lifetime through long-term investing.

As a 13-year-old shoeshine boy at a brokerage firm, he developed a fascination with the stock market. He would say that he learned the stock market while on his knees shining shoes. When he began earning money as a tool and die maker, he put some of his knowledge to the test by investing. He and Helen continued to reinvest, accumulating a sizeable portfolio over the years.

With no children of their own, the couple provided direct assistance to family members for college expenses and set up trusts to benefit children in their church, as well as children with special needs. Bichum’s regret over his lack of formal education led him to create permanent scholarships at CCSU. His gifts to the University stand among the largest ever donated to the school by a single donor. Beginning in 2008 with a scholarship benefiting School of Engineering and Technology students, Bichum made donations to provide scholarships for students from the greater New Britain region and for students with disabilities.

“We are touched by Mr. Bichum’s generosity and the legacy he has created for current and future generations of students,” said CCSU President Jack Miller. “The value he placed on education is underscored by the manner he chose to support it. We are deeply saddened by his death.”

A Homecoming Reunion

During Homecoming, the brothers of Lambda Phi Alpha celebrated the 50th anniversary of the granting of their fraternity’s original charter. Although the fraternity no longer exists at CCSU, the brothers, who still remain in touch, used Homecoming as the perfect venue to reconnect.

Travelers Executive Elected to CCSU Foundation Board

A senior insurance executive with vast experience in accounting and finance has been elected to the Board of Directors of the CCSU Foundation, Inc. Anthony S. Torsiello, a vice president in corporate finance for The Travelers, was elected to a three-year term during the board’s October meeting. Torsiello has worked for Travelers for 22 years and has served as Travelers’ Executive Sponsor at CCSU for the past several years. The CCSU Foundation, Inc., was created in 1971, at the request of the University, as a vehicle to obtain private contributions to support educational programs and research at CCSU.
The CCSU Courier presents a variety of news stories of interest to faculty, staff, and friends of the University, leaders of Connecticut higher education, state school districts, and the University’s other diverse constituencies.

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

Address inquiries or changes of address to:
CCSU Courier, Marketing & Communications
104 Maria Sanford Hall, CCSU,
1615 Stanley Street
New Britain, CT 06050-4010
Phone: 860-832-1790 • Fax: 860-832-1796
Email: agnewlym@ccsu.edu

Coordinator: Patricia Lane
Designer: Diann Thomson
Features Editor: Geri Radacsi
Contributors: Janice Palmer and CCSU students Luke Albertson, Erica Bliss, Connie Yan, and Taylor Zavattero,
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