The fascinating field of biochemistry is experiencing phenomenal growth. CCSU graduates holding an interdisciplinary BS degree from the biochemistry program, which provides a solid foundation in both molecular biology and chemistry, can use their knowledge in a wide range of stimulating and creative career opportunities.

Biochemists delve into minute characteristics of organisms by studying the chemistry of living things. As Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry Thomas Burkholder, co-coordinator of the biochemistry program, explains, “Biochemistry focuses on the function, structure, and activity of molecules in biological systems. It looks at the molecules that make cells work, that regulate functions in the body.”

The mission of the program is to prepare students for careers or advanced study in biochemistry, molecular biology, health-related fields, or industry. CCSU graduate biochemists can find roles in medicine—carrying out tests and investigations to diagnose and treat disease in humans—or they might work in agriculture, the pharmaceutical industry, or crime labs.

“Although we already understand much about how cells work, we really have just
scratched the surface,” states Burkholder. “There are so many aspects to studying cells, such as genetics, metabolism, protein synthesis, or how a substance is transported in and out of cells.” He says an X-ray crystal structure of a yeast ribosome, a part of the cell that makes protein, was recently described in detail for the first time in a professional journal. “The biochemistry field is wide open,” he declares.

CCSU graduate Allison Pekari Core ’05 has worked for the past five years in the biotechnology industry. She spent three years at Amgen in Rhode Island manufacturing an arthritis/psoriasis treatment product called Enbrel. Currently, she’s working for another biotech company, Genzyme, in Massachusetts. “At Genzyme, I am part of an important project bringing a new biomanufacturing facility online to produce the orphan drugs Fabrazyme (a treatment for Fabry disease) and Cerezyme (a treatment for Gaucher disease),” she says.

Core lauds the CCSU biochemistry program: “I believe that I use a variety of skills and knowledge that I acquired during my studies at CCSU. In a biomanufacturing facility that makes drug products from sterile cell cultures grown in large-scale, highly complex bioreactors, my background in cellular and molecular biology, microbiology, biochemistry, general chemistry, organic chemistry, and even physics has played an important role in my understanding of the process and in my career success. In my current position I have written many technical and scientific backgrounds for training procedures. Most of the content in these backgrounds was directly related to the knowledge I gained while studying at CCSU.”

Core adds, “What I remember most about studying for my major at CCSU was the enthusiasm that the chemistry and biology professors possessed for their field of work.”

**Hands-On Learning**

The Biochemistry program’s curriculum focuses on “molecular and cellular mechanisms but also integrates organismal physiology,” says Associate Professor of Biomolecular Sciences James Mulrooney, co-coordinator of the program. “Importantly, it emphasizes hands-on learning through laboratory instruction and independent student research—at least one semester—carried out under the guidance of a faculty member from Biomolecular Sciences or Chemistry.” Students can present research findings at URCAD, the Eastern Colleges Science Conference, or the annual national American Chemical Society meeting.

The biochemistry faculty who are teamed with students in research projects include: James Arena, Thomas Burkholder, Guy Crundwell, Michael Davis, Betsy Dobbs-McAuliffe, Neil Glagovich, Barry Hoopengardner, Carol Jones, Martin Kapper, Thomas King, Kathy Martin, James Mulrooney, Cheryl Watson, and Barry Westcott, Jr.

**CCSU graduate biochemists can find roles in medicine—carrying out diagnostic tests and investigations to diagnose and treat disease in humans—or they might work in agriculture, the pharmaceutical industry, or crime labs.**

Junior biochemistry major Charlene Singh, who is collaborating on research with Westcott, states that the experience has “given me a sense of responsibility and taught me to be patient for results.” She describes impressive research: “I am focusing on making new compounds that incorporate lanthanide metals. Lanthanides are important in the medical field as contrast agents for MRI scans and in general nanotechnology as possible precursors for molecular wires. Our hope is to make new compounds that can be structurally characterized using the departmental X-ray crystallography equipment. So far, I have found what reaction conditions are most conducive to making these compounds; however, we have not grown satisfactory crystals for X-ray analysis as yet.”

CCSU biochemistry graduates will join a scientific arena where, as Mulrooney remarks, “extraordinary cutting-edge research techniques of a few years ago are now routine. Technology has advanced so we’re able to share scientific findings, methods, and procedures quickly. Even specialized equipment is more readily available and affordable.”

Burkholder blue skies. “We have genomes for about 200 species now. The future is to discover what information is contained in each part of the genome. Someday, scores of biochemists pursuing thousands of projects may be able to shed more light. Conceivably, our graduates will be among those making a contribution—or even a breakthrough.”

— Geri Radacsi
It’s sheer poetry when Assistant Professor of Psychology Marianne Fallon describes why she loves teaching: “Because it challenges my assumptions, stretches my thinking, and hones my problem solving.” Then she launches into a breathless litany. “I teach because I believe in students and in their education. I teach to become more empathetic. I teach to be part of a community. I teach because I want students to feel connected to science, to experimentation, and to each other. I teach to show students how to make mistakes and hopefully grow from them (and I make my fair share of mistakes). I teach for the thrill of it. I teach to learn.”

Her irrepressible élan underscores an outstanding professionalism that this year merited her the prestigious Connecticut State University Board of Trustees University-Level Teaching Award. This type of public approbation is underscored by the enthusiasm expressed by students in the classroom of this exemplary junior faculty member, who joined the Psychology Department in 2006.

Occasionally she even receives a round of applause on the first day of her Learning and Memory class. With an infectious laugh, Fallon says she puts her students at ease by demonstrating memory principles and techniques. To show how information can be encoded in the brain and then retrieved, she memorizes the names of up to 37 students in the space of five minutes. “I’ve seen her in action and it’s pretty astounding,” says an awestruck Melina Perez.

A senior psychology major, Perez, who has done well in three courses with Fallon, likes being stretched “to think outside the box” and being given diverse learning options. She says Fallon uses different teaching formats to engage students’ multiple learning styles and preferences—lectures, demonstrations, working in groups, interacting online, and much more.

Fallon uses technology as an important educational tool. Almost all course assignments are submitted through Blackboard Vista, and she posts podcasts of lectures so students can prepare for class and review material. Also, she says, “I developed screencasts (i.e., virtual lectures containing real-time screen captures and reinforcing captioning and highlighting) to model step-based procedures for analyzing data and for using instructional technology.” In addition, she has taught hybrid (combining online and traditional on-ground instruction), as well as completely online courses. She mentors faculty who want to learn about hybrid course design in order to adapt their courses.

Fallon has devised an ingenious, unique system for grading which involves abundant choices. “Students are responsible for choosing

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Student in the Spotlight: Chetan Patel
Finding the Right Path

Adjusting to college life can be tricky. The controlled direction of secondary school dissolves and young students have to navigate byzantine campuses while adapting to a self-disciplined academic mind-frame. This transition takes some getting used to—especially if you’re legally blind.

Chetan Patel is hydrocephalic. Hydrocephalus, literally meaning “water on the brain,” is due to the problematic flow of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF). In hydrocephalus, CSF builds up, putting pressure on the brain, which can seriously damage or destroy brain tissue. The myriad effects can be devastating. Luckily for Patel, his condition was found early on and a shunt was installed to regulate the flow of CSF. It worked well. For a while.

When Patel was ten, the shunt cracked and a floodgate opened. The fluid rushed to his optic nerve and pinched it, halting blood circulation. He walked away from the ordeal with some vision, but it’s all a blur—not the kind of blur that glasses can help. In four weeks his life changed forever. “I had to learn new things immediately,” Patel said, “like learning Braille and all the different technology that’s offered to people with vision problems.”

For Patel, this was only a momentary setback in his education. It took the then-fifth-grader “a month or two” before he felt confident in school again. He worked hard to maintain the status quo—not just for himself, but for his parents as well. “When I first lost my sight, they cried a lot and were really sad,” he said, “so I had to stay positive for them, because if I broke down, they’d break down. It was pretty fragile.” Since then he’s worked hard to prove that his vision impairment is not a roadblock.

Now a psychology major at CCSU, Patel maintains a GPA over 3.90. He’s accomplished this exceptional feat while making his own specific adjustments to college life. His tests need to be translated into Braille—and translated back so his teachers can grade them. He maintains a rigorous study schedule. As far as navigating the campus is concerned, he found his own way. “I had to basically create a cognitive map of the campus,” he said, explaining that he memo-

izes paths between buildings and steps between doors.

And then, there’s the occasional deferential treatment. It’s not discrimination that concerns him: it’s the overly polite people that make him feel out of place. “All I want is to be treated like a regular person,” Patel said. “And when people are overly nice around me, it just makes me feel that I’m different, and I don’t think anybody wants to feel different.” But at the same time he understands and recognizes the support he’s been given. In fact, he may even be inspired by it.

Patel plans to pursue an MS in counselor education—with a specialization in student development in higher education—at CCSU, and he envisions himself advising college students. “I’d like to help others because so many people have helped me over the years,” he said. Director of Student Disability Services Natalie Stimpson-Byers acknowledged his generous nature, saying, “That makes him who he is. He’s very respectful.”

When asked what he would say to students with impairments similar to his own, he said he would tell them it’s “critical to stay patient,” and, while certain tasks might take a little longer, not to give up. Nothing seems more fitting. Patel’s work ethic and unshakable determination make him the ideal figure to steer any young student in the right direction.

—Taylor Zavattero
Focus on Scholarship:  
Geologist Michael Wizevich  
Making Rocks Speak

Geologist Michael Wizevich, whose scholarship has taken him to extremes—from the hot terrain of Utah to the subzero austerity of Antarctica—has probed the earth to learn its ancient stories.

On a quest, CCSU Associate Professor of Physics and Earth Sciences Wizevich strives to understand how the earth’s material, structures, processes, and organisms have changed over time. Wizevich reflects, “It’s like being a hard-boiled detective putting together a case of what happened when the rocks were formed. What was the climate like? What animals lived there? Were rocks deposited in a marine or terrestrial setting? Each layer in the sedimentary rock represents a part of the story.”

Wizevich earned his doctorate from Virginia Tech and his master’s from the University of Illinois, both in geology, and a bachelor’s in material science and engineering from Cornell University. He specializes in sedimentology, stratigraphy, geomorphology, and paleoclimatology. “The aim of much sedimentological research is to interpret ancient environmental conditions by studying the constituents, textures, structures, and fossil content of the deposits,” he explains.

CCSU Students Explore Utah

For the past four summers, Wizevich, his colleagues from Kutztown University in Pennsylvania, and a half-dozen CCSU students have ventured to southwest Utah, about 15 miles from Bryce Canyon, to study sedimentary rocks which recorded ancient earthquakes some 80 million years ago.

“Our objective has been to examine seismites—sedimentary rocks that contain evidence of past earthquake activity,” says Wizevich. “These rocks also contain other interesting features, such as dinosaur bones and tracks.”

The team found evidence that dinosaurs exhibited predatory behavior by digging into burrows to hunt mammals. Wizevich co-authored a paper in Geology (2010, v. 38) describing their findings.

The work, conducted with the assistance of the Petroleum Research Fund of the American Chemical Society, ended this past year. During the last four years, Wizevich has co-authored several peer-reviewed papers and abstracts in such professional journals as Geology and Sedimentary Geology. In 2010 he published numerous abstracts in collaboration with other professors and with CCSU students Ken Boling and Keenan Golder, both of whom were Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day Senior Prize award recipients.

Golder, now a graduate student at Wesleyan University, said field study in Utah’s desert-like, low-scrub, old river channels and canyons was “useful since the stratigraphy is so well exposed and shows the true scale of geology, up close, enabling us to discover real-world manifestations continued on page 8
Marianne Fallon

continued from page 3

their learning opportunities,” she says.

“I love Dr. Fallon’s point grading system—which takes a while to get used to because it’s like nothing we students have seen before,” Perez admits. The “Bucket Point” system is inspired by Mary-Ellen Weimer’s book Learner Centered Teaching: Five Keys to Practice. Students are presented with an ample array of assignments and then decide which assignments to complete and store in their grade “buckets.” Students work to earn a minimum number of points needed in certain areas (homework, tests, and preparation) as they build their overall final grade. Fallon states, “Students themselves determine how well they want to do in a particular component of the course. They work incrementally, at their own pace, and select activities of interest and import.”

Other opportunities, called “Discussion Points,” require face-to-face or online discussion with peers. For example, Learning and Memory students might generate personal examples of classical conditioning and post with illustrative photos. Finally, “Mastery Points” include high-stakes assignments designed to strengthen critical thinking skills through writing. Students can submit a certain number of these assignments—with their best work factoring into their final grades. For example, Learning and Memory students can complete up to 14 take-home essay test questions during the semester, but only their top eight scores will be counted toward their final grades.

Cultivating Confidence

In Fallon’s upper-level courses, students practice psychological science by participating in or conducting empirical procedures. This year she and the students she’s mentored made eight poster presentations at three professional conferences.

To promote student success, Fallon, in collaboration with Learning Center Tutor Coordinator Elizabeth Spear, developed a Peer Tutoring program in partnership with The Learning Center. With the assistance of research methods faculty in her department, Fallon recruits outstanding students who help fellow students to understand difficult concepts, conduct and interpret statistical analyses, and write research papers and reports. She also spearheaded a collaborative faculty effort to develop tutorials, using screencasts, to teach students how to deconstruct a research scenario.

Fallon’s own current research is focused on older adults’ language development, auditory perception, and memory. She’s collaborated with Associate Professor of Psychology Carrie Andreoletti to establish the Adult Development and Gerontology Laboratory. “I enjoy studying a psychological phenomenon and figuring out the conditions under which people learn best,” reflects Fallon. And, she proficiently puts that knowledge to work in her teaching.

— Geri Radacsi

Burritt Celebration a Family Affair

Elihu Burritt’s descendants pose after laying a wreath on their famous ancestor’s grave for his birthday celebration on December 8. The family members met with a representative from the Mayor’s office and CCSU library staff at the Fairview Cemetery before moving the celebration to CCSU. The Elihu Burritt Bicentennial Committee—Librarian Emily Chasse, Library Technician Heidi Kropf, Associate Librarian Lynn Johnson-Corcoran, Library Technician Renata Vickrey, and Librarian Ewa Wolynska—prepared for the celebration by putting together a website, a library exhibit, lectures, and other events to commemorate Burritt’s birthday. In the photo are Burritt’s great-great-great-grandnephews Sherrod (“Rod”) Emerson Skinner III (left) and David C. Skinner, Jr. (second from right), with David C. Skinner III and Elizabeth B. Skinner (second and third from left, children of Sherrod) and nephew Nathaniel Bradley (right). Elihu Burritt was a native of New Britain (not New Haven—as incorrectly stated in the February issue of the Courier). We apologize for the error.
The life of a scientist shines with glitz and glamour. We’ve all seen the images of hectic labs filled with raving fans—the money, the fame, the posters of Watson and Crick that fly off of the shelves, and the teenagers in their immaculate Air Einsteins. Okay, maybe not. But that doesn’t mean a scientist can’t make an impact on a young audience.

Randy Kudra is a graduate student in the Biomolecular Sciences (BMS) Department at CCSU. “Some of the stuff we do in science—I’ll be the first to tell you—it’s not that glamorous,” he says. “It just piques my interest because it’s all these things that are still a mystery—things in humans that we don’t know about.”

Kudra has made a home for himself in the BMS Department. Department Chair James Mulrooney calls Kudra “an octopus” with a tentacle in every aspect of their academic community. Currently, Kudra is a full-time student working on his thesis, a fixture in the lab, a graduate assistant, and a tutor in the CCSU Learning Center. While juggling all of this, he somehow manages to find the time to reach out to another community.

For the past year and a half, Kudra has been active in two separate community-engagement programs operating at CCSU: the national Health Professions Partnership Initiative (HPPI) and the local Pathways/Sen- deros program, founded in New Britain. Both programs offer minority and at-risk students an opportunity to experience working in a college-level laboratory setting.

But it’s not just a series of lectures; it’s hands-on laboratory experience. These kids produce real data and measurable results. “I work in a cell-culture lab with Dr. Mulrooney, so we’ve done different sterile techniques and culturing techniques with the kids,” Kudra says. The students learn about concepts like immunofluorescence and Western blots. “That fun science stuff,” Kudra says with a smile. “It shows them that going to college is not unachievable and gives them a chance to see that it isn’t scary, because it really isn’t,” Kudra adds.

In the process of volunteering, Kudra discovered something interesting about himself: he’s a successful teacher. Mulrooney remembers Kudra’s first experience with the HPPI students: “He took these kids under his wing and really turned them into mini-scientists, and Randy came out that much better a scientist himself. He had these students working for him, and they were all doing their job, they were on task. They had to do a big presentation at the end of the semester that rivaled anything our students were doing. It was really nice.”

Community engagement is often a two-way street. What Kudra puts in has bounced back at him as a sense of increased self-awareness, and the effects have been noticeable to others. “I think this whole experience has shown him that—with his knowledge and his skills—he has a lot to offer,” Mulrooney notes. “Here’s a perfect example of a student realizing a potential that he didn’t know he had. It’s been pretty amazing to watch him transform from a student to a professional.”

Kudra’s future is full of possibilities. He’s thought about continuing his education and obtaining his PhD. He also likes the idea of getting some real-world experience in a professional lab—maybe for a pharmaceutical company. Whatever path he takes, he knows one thing for sure: he wants to make his mark. “Hopefully, by the end of my career, I can look back and think of something I did that has had a direct impact,” he says. At this point in his career he doesn’t need to look back too far.

– Taylor Zavattero
Michael Wizevich

of textbook concepts. The experience expanded my skills and taught me how to look at an exposed feature and interpret it.”

Senior geology major Ali Steullet, who also participated in field studies, says, “I am working on a project to study the origin of mineral concretions through various digenetic processes in the Cretaceous Sandstone in the Wahweap Formation, Southern Utah.” She wrote an abstract about this project that was presented in poster format at the meeting of the Northeast Section of the Geological Society of America, held in Pittsburgh in March.

Wizevich co-authored several articles in 2009 and 2010 focusing on research conducted during his Utah field studies. Discussion of preserved Late Cretaceous biological soil crust in the capping sandstone in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Utah, and its paleoclimatic implications appears in Sedimentary Geology, 2010, v. 230. In addition, Wizevich and his colleagues explored an Upper Cretaceous sag pond deposit and discussed implications for recognition of local seismic activity along the Kaibab Monocline, Utah, in Geology, 2009, v. 37.

This past fall, the CCSU community was treated to a spectacular exhibit of Wizevich’s photographs at the Elihu Burritt Library. The images were taken on two expeditions to the Antarctic during the 1993–94 and 1995–96 austral summers. Both took place in a region of the Antarctic directly south of New Zealand. “We were in remote camps with Scott tents for sleeping—the same type used by Captain Robert Scott in the early part of the century—and helicopters transported us to our project sites,” recalls Wizevich.

The first expedition, under the auspices of the New Zealand Antarctic Program, interpreted ancient Antarctic environments, biota, and climates from Devonian-age (more than 400 million years ago) sedimentary rocks of Table Mountain, a locality surrounded by astonishing views of glaciers and distant peaks.

The second expedition, sponsored by the US Antarctic Program and a National Science Foundation grant, considered climate change in Antarctica over the past few million years by examining microorganism communities in sediment cores from recent deposits in the Dry Valley region. Wizevich and his colleagues survived a terrifying windstorm with hurricane intensity on this expedition.

Intrepid as ever, Wizevich remains a hardy scholar, armed with a rock hammer, shovel, pickaxe, Brunton compass (to determine directions of bedding), Jacobs staff (for measuring bed thickness), GPS (for location recording), hand lens, and notebook as he pursues ancient conundrums of the earth.

— Geri Radacsi

CCSU Hops the Pond with Passport to Global Citizenship Program

CCSU students (from left to right) Ali Maffucci, Jen Kenworthy, Gloria DeFilio, Mariah Roussel, Lisa Solar, Marisa Valo, Molly Martin, and Samantha Iacobucci took a break to pose with retired Professor of Theatre Jaroslaw Strzemien, who served as trip faculty leader, in front of the British Museum during their visit to London in January. Members of CCSU’s Passport to Global Citizenship Program spent an action-packed week across the pond attending theatrical performances, going on a London Panoramic Tour, and visiting Shakespeare’s Globe Theater, the Tate Museum, Covent Garden, and CCSU’s partner institution, the University of Hertfordshire. The program is designed to give first-year students real-life experience with other cultures. This year students also visited Bath and Stonehenge, a first for the Passport to Global Citizenship Program. During their free time, students took walking tours of London, visited Big Ben and the London Eye, and sampled local eateries. The trip was sponsored by the Center for International Education.
CCSU Nationally Recognized for Community Engagement

A prestigious achievement for CCSU! The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has designated CCSU as a Community Engagement Institution. Only three higher education institutions in the state were selected for this special classification.

“We are honored. This puts us in a distinctive category and acknowledges our support of and advancement in community engagement,” says Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Carl Lovitt. “Our ultimate aim is to prepare students to be thoughtful, responsible, and successful citizens, as we partner with our community to help address serious problems, realize opportunities, and stimulate revitalization.”

To be considered for the designation, CCSU completed a 36-page application describing the nature and extent of its engagement with the local community and beyond.

“Through a classification that acknowledges significant commitment to and demonstration of community engagement, the Foundation encourages colleges and universities to become more deeply engaged, to improve teaching and learning, and to generate socially responsive knowledge to benefit communities,” said Carnegie President Anthony Bryk. “We are very pleased with the movement we are seeing in this direction.”

In a letter to CCSU, Carnegie cited Central for its “exemplary” practices of community engagement and “excellent” alignment among its mission, culture, leadership, resources, and practices that support dynamic and noteworthy community engagement.

Having identified community engagement as one of the University’s four elements of distinctiveness, CCSU has been dedicated, over the past five years, to making community engagement an institutional priority. Faculty, staff, administrators, and students, from the President’s Office on down, have been actively involved in improving and expanding CCSU’s partnerships and outreach. In 2009, the Office of Continuing Education and Community Engagement was established and charged with planning, developing, and coordinating community-based projects and engagement programs.

The University established multiple channels for community members to provide feedback about perceptions and program and partnership development. Central offers student scholarships and faculty grants to support community efforts and formally recognizes faculty, staff, and students through University-wide and departmental awards.

The number of first-year students giving back to the community has shown a marked increase, indicating an increased institutional focus on their development. In 2006, 26% of first-year students reported that CCSU had influenced them “very much” or “quite a bit” in their interest in the welfare of their communities. Two years later, that number increased to 46%, according to Lovitt, who added, “But we won’t be satisfied until a substantial majority of our students indicate that CCSU has enhanced their commitment to community engagement.”

Some of the projects exemplifying CCSU’s involvement in community engagement are mentioned below.

More information about the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification can be found on the web at: www.carnegiefoundation.org.

— Janice Palmer
February at CCSU was filled with lectures and discussions in recognition of Black History Month.

The first event held on campus was Donna McDaniel’s lecture on “Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African-Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice.” McDaniel is the author—with Vanessa Julye—of Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship, a book about the relationship between Quakers and African Americans. Through their research the authors discovered that, although Quakers have a reputation for working hard for the freedom of enslaved people of African descent and fighting throughout history for their equality, most actually held many of the same beliefs as their European counterparts. This lecture, part of the African American Studies Lecture Series, was co-sponsored by the Philosophy Department, Political Science Department, and Peace Studies Program.

On February 7 the Ruthe Boyea Women’s Center sponsored free HIV/STD testing for students in recognition of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. The testing was provided by AIDS Project Hartford.

Later that week, Reverend Samuel Billy Kyles presented a lecture titled “The Witness: Dr. King and the Movement and My Friendship.” The last living person to witness the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Kyles has been involved with the civil rights movement since the 1960s. During his presentation, he noted that it is imperative for future generations, who did not witness the civil rights movement or ensure segregation, to be made aware of this history. One day, he said, they will be the ones in positions of power and need to carry those lessons with them and keep the memories and messages alive. This talk, also part of the African American Studies Lecture Series, was co-sponsored by CCSU’s Civil Rights Project.

Also that week, the schools of Education and Professional Studies, Business, and the Ammon School of Arts and Sciences sponsored a conversation with civil rights legend Dr. Bernard LaFayette on “Continuing King’s Work of Nonviolence: Confronting Injustice Then and Now.” In the 1960s LaFayette was an active member of the civil rights movement. A Freedom Rider and cofounder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, he played a leading role in the early organizing of the Selma, AL, voting rights campaign. As an executive staff member for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., he was appointed as national coordinator for the Poor People’s Campaign. LaFayette currently conducts Kingian nonviolence training around the world.
Black History Month

At another African American Studies Lecture Series event, Shayla Nunnally, professor of political science at UConn, spoke about “Being Black in America: How Black Americans Learn about Blackness and How It Matters.” Drawing on data from the National Politics and Socialization Study she conducted in 2007, Nunnally concluded that there were minimal generational differences in African Americans’ racial socialization. She noted the importance of future research to study trends in African-American public opinion and how racial socialization may influence political consciousness. The lecture was co-sponsored by the departments of philosophy and political science and the Peace Studies Program.

This year’s Annual Amistad Lecture, titled “The Legacy of the AMISTAD Revolution: Lessons for the 21st Century,” was given by Associate Professor of English Iyunolu Osagie of Pennsylvania State University. During her lecture—another in the Black History Lecture Series — she spoke about the movie Amistad and discussed how artistic representations don’t always give all the details of the story. Osagie is the author of The Amistad Revolt: Memory, Slavery, and the Politics of Identity in the United States and Sierra Leone.

Later that month, a panel of entrepreneurs and corporate leaders discussed “Women in Business: A Life’s Journey.” Four African-American women—Gwendolyn Smith Iloani, president, CEO, and CIO of Smith Whiley & Company; Jamy Hall, director of the Global Service Business Office at Ford Motor Company; Aneka Young, president and CEO of six McDonald’s restaurants in the Greater Hartford area; and Josie L. Wright, senior sales consultant at Bayer Healthcare—shared their life experiences with members of the audience, noting that hard work, the ability to adapt, and perseverance are the keys to success. The event was sponsored by the Center for Africana Studies, Office of Administrative Affairs, School of Business, and School of Engineering and Technology.

Wrapping up the month were two lectures by Associate Professor of History Vibert White of the University of Central Florida. During his first lecture, “Queen Mother Laura Adorkar Kofi: Matriarch of Black Nationalism and Revolutionary Theology,” White spoke about the work of Laura Adorkar Kofi, who came to the US to teach African Americans about African culture. Kofi, who was assassinated in 1928, played a large role in Black Nationalism in the 1920s. White’s second lecture focused on the political philosophy of Malcolm X. The African American Studies Lecture Series, co-sponsored by the departments of philosophy and political science and the Peace Studies Program, continued into March with a presentation by Renee T. White, professor of sociology and Black Studies at Fairfield University, titled “Scholar, Activist, and Change-maker: Embracing the African American Woman’s Voice in Black Studies Scholarship.” White is also Fairfield University’s first African American woman president.
University’s Academic Coordinator for Diversity and Global Citizenship. Her areas of research include HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, race theory, and social inequality.

The final lecture of the series was delivered by CSU Professor of Philosophy Felton O. Best, who also serves as director of African American Studies at CCSU. In his talk, “From Bishop Richard Allen to Rev. Jeremiah Wright: The Significance of the Black Church In America,” Best focused on the prominent role the Black church has had in American history. The Black church played a large role in the Underground Railroad and assisted in the establishment of Black colleges throughout the South during the Jim Crow era and segregation. Best noted that the Black church provided religious leadership during the civil rights movement and aided in the election of African-American politicians—from the Era of Reconstruction to the recent election of President Barack Obama.

— Erica Bliss

**Black History Month**

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Professor of History **Mieczyslaw Biskupski**, holder of the Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies, was honored with the 2010 Choice Outstanding Academic Title in the film category for his book *Hollywood’s War with Poland, 1939–1945*. Choice subject editors choose titles for this recognition based on overall excellence, importance relative to other literature in the field, distinction as a first treatment of a given subject in book or electronic form, and value to undergraduate students.

The CCSU Alumni Association continued Classic Fridays for the spring semester with “Women in Focus.” Professor of Modern Languages **Paloma LaPuerta** spoke at the screening of *Ninotchka*, and Professor of Anthropology **Abigail Adams** discussed *Mrs. Miniver*. The following faculty members also participated this semester: Professor of Communication **Karen Rittenhoff**, *Double Indemnity*; Professor of Educational Leadership **Karen Beyard**, *Adam’s Rib*; and Associate Professor of Geography **Cynthia Pope**, *Roman Holiday*.

Two series of mixed media paintings by Professor of Art **Cora Marshall** were featured at the Pump House Gallery in Hartford during January and February. “Runaway! Going, Going, Gone!” was inspired by descriptions of runaway enslaved people of African descent on “Wanted” signs from the 1700s and early 1800s. The “To Be Sold” series is based on brief advertisements used to sell enslaved people during the same time period. Marshall serves as chair of CCSU’s Art Department.

Women’s Basketball Head Coach **Beryl Piper ’87** spoke to the New Britain Lions Club in January about coaching a team to succeed. She said her players set a goal to make it to the Northeast Conference championship game, and they began by getting in shape and weight training during the offseason. Piper said that her team is having fun and enjoying the physical and mental challenges. She also noted that having a sports psychologist has helped the women’s team better prepare mentally for games and allowed them to keep distractions off the court while they rack up the points on the scoreboard.

*The New Republic*’s Peter Gordon reviewed Assistant Professor of History **Matthew Specter**’s book *Habermas: An Intellectual Biography* in January. In the review, Gordon refers to Specter as “the intellectual historian” and provides an in-depth look at Specter’s views on the historical significance of Habermas.

**Too Good For Instruments (TGFI),** one of CCSU’s three a cappella groups, had a successful weekend at the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella in February. The group placed third in the Northeast Region Quarterfinals, and theatre major **Ally Brown** received the Outstanding Soloist recognition for the group’s arrangement of “If I Ain’t Got You” by Alicia Keys. TGFI was the only group from Connecticut to make it into the competition.
For the first time, Washington, DC, tops the America’s Most Literate Cities list, while San Francisco and St. Louis return to the top 10. The annual survey, now in its eighth iteration, is conducted by President Jack Miller and measures a key component in America’s social health by ranking the culture and resources for reading in America’s largest cities. The top 10 cities are:

1. Washington, DC
2. Seattle, WA
3. Minneapolis, MN
4. Atlanta, GA
5. Pittsburgh, PA
6. San Francisco, CA
7. St. Paul, MN
8. Denver, CO
9. Portland, OR and St. Louis, MO (tie)

The survey was featured in USA Today and reported by a long list of media outlets throughout the US, including the Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, Chicago Sun-Times, and The Huffington Post.

Working with CCSU’s Center for Public Policy and Social Research to collect the latest data and compare it with figures from the past seven years, President Miller discovered two “worrisome” trends: the decline of newspaper readership and the continuing erosion of book purchasing.

On average, less than one-third read a weekday paper and less than half read a Sunday paper. Some of the largest declines occurred in Atlanta, Boston, Miami, and San Francisco.

Bookstores are also disappearing. In 2003, on average, there were nearly nine independent booksellers per 10,000 people; that average is now just below six per 10,000.

One bulwark that seems to be sustaining American literacy is the public library. The across-the-board-average for library branches per person remains virtually unchanged. Circulation has actually increased from 6.8 to 7.17 per person during that time.

The trends Miller discovered point to a general decline in Americans’ critical literate practices. How well America fares when compared to some of our most significant international competitors will become more apparent as the President develops his forthcoming study and book on American literacy on the global stage.

The complete rankings are available online at: www.ccsu.edu/amlc2010.

— Janice Palmer

Men’s Track Wins First-Ever NEC Indoor Championship

The Men’s Track Team took home the first place title of the 2011 Northeast Conference Indoor Track and Field Championship in February and, with it, the first indoor-conference win in the program’s history. Led by Head Coach Eric Blake, the Blue Devils ousted second-place Sacred Heart University 114 to 109. This win improves on the program’s back-to-back fourth-place finishes and a tenth-place finish three years ago. This year, the top four teams all finished within a twelve-point margin in what proved to be a nail-biting conclusion to the competition.

Among the team’s top performers were sophomore Aaron Radden, who was named the NEC’s Most Valuable Performer and took home Outstanding Track Performer honors for the second consecutive year, and freshman Denzell Jones, who was named the conference’s Most Outstanding Rookie after his well-margined win in the high jump and third-place finish in the triple jump.

For more Blue Devil highlights and complete results, visit www.ccsubluedevils.com.
On March 12, the Student Center hosted the 5th Annual CCSU Conference for Language Teachers, which was organized by faculty from the Modern Language Department and sponsored by organizations across campus and in the community. The theme of the conference was “Engaging the Community, Engaging the World.” Indeed, teachers, professors, students, and other members of the education community mingled in a multilingual environment focused on bringing the world and our local communities closer together through language education.

The keynote talk by Rita Oleksak from Glastonbury Public Schools (and former president of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) focused on how foreign language study and community connections augment one another. Oleksak provided inspiring evidence from international exchanges at local high schools and from a range of creative and technology-rich events and activities that support foreign language learning in her district.

The event attracted some 200 participants from across Connecticut and included dozens of talks on how to teach various languages, including Spanish, French, Italian, German, Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, and English as a second language. Breaks, lunch, and other information sessions gave participants a chance to network, learn about relevant projects across the state, and browse the latest textbooks and teaching materials. A reception and performance by Flamenco guitarist Gregoire Pearce provided a relaxing finale to a day full of multilingual networking and professional development.

The 2011 conference continued the tradition of strengthening the international focus at CCSU by bringing the campus and regional communities together around language teaching and the promotion of global perspectives through multilingualism.

— Matt Ciscel

ITBD Offers Training and Hope to Unemployed Workers

Out of work due to a plant closing, Gil Violette turned to CT Works in Enfield. It was there that Violette learned of a training program, funded through the Workforce Investment Act and offered by CCSU’s Institute for Technology and Business Development (ITBD). The TQM-Lean program, which included courses such as Six Sigma Black Belt, Lean Tools, 21st Century Leadership, Project Management, and ISO Quality Standards in Medical Device and Aerospace, was well suited to his needs.

“The guidance and training I received were instrumental in landing my new position. I was able to interview with a new set of skills and a positive attitude,” says Violette.
In April, CCSU hosted the 4th Annual Global Environmental Sustainability Symposium: Water, Life, and a Changing Planet. Visitors had the chance to see part of the Izzy the Frog exhibit (right) and Art-Farm's "Circus for a Fragile Planet," a five-person performance on science and environmental issues. Windsor High School students presented a "Kids 'n' Critters" workshop to teach visitors about reptiles and amphibians. Assistant Professor of Teacher Education Jacob Werblow gave a presentation, titled "Bring the Change: Sustainability at the Individual Level," on how sustainability works differently for everyone. Professor of Anthropology Abigail Adams (above) presented her paper, "CCSU: Achieving Environmental Sustainability in Study Abroad Programs," on the impact of tourism on water availability. She noted that with responsible tourism, including educational tourism like CCSU's study abroad programs, international travel and sustainability can go hand in hand. The keynote lecturer was Emmy Award winner Dave Chameides, a film maker and environmental educator best known for his blog 365 Days of Trash: One Man’s Attempt to Throw Nothing ‘Away’...and Beyond. Following a Town Hall Meeting and Eco Fair in the Student Center, the symposium closed with a concert by MAJK Jazz in Torp Theatre.

Auction Off a Fish to Feed Many

CCSU conducted a fundraiser in conjunction with the University Museum Community (UMC) Night at the Museum. Each academic department was given a wooden fish and asked to decorate it. On March 31 all decorated fish were placed on display at the New Britain Museum of American Art. On April 7, they were auctioned off during the 4th Annual Environmental Sustainability Symposium at CCSU. Proceeds from the auction, amounting to over $1800, benefitted the Mayor’s Work Plan to End Homelessness through the YWCA in New Britain.

The World Is in Your Reach

In April, CCSU hosted the 2011 International Festival in Alumni Hall of the Student Center. The festival was sponsored by the Center for International Education and the International Relations Club. The theme for this year was "The World Is in Your Reach." The event included over 20 exhibit booths, as well as food samples and performances by local and campus organizations and CCSU international students. Asian Performing Arts (right) performed a traditional Mongolian Ensemble Dance during the festival.
Ringing in the Year of the Rabbit at CCSU

On January 29, the Chinese Culture Center of New Britain and the East Asian Center at CCSU hosted the Annual Chinese New Year Meeting and Gala Show. The meeting included speeches by Connecticut Speaker of the House Christopher Donovan and CCSU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Carl Lovitt, among others, and local leaders were honored for their contributions to the community. The show featured a Dragon and Lion Dance (shown left) performed by Asian Performing Arts and Wu Dang Kung Fu Academy. In addition, martial arts demonstrations and acrobatics and singing performances were presented by local groups.

New books

*Rhymes of Love*, a translation of Torquato Tasso’s *Rime d’amore*, has been translated into English verse by Professor of Modern Languages Maria Pastore Passaro, who also wrote the introduction. Tasso, one of the greatest Italian poets of the late Renaissance, is best known for his heroic epic poem *Gerusalemme liberata*. Published by Legas in January 2011, this is the first translation of his complete love poems into English.

In *The Promise of Preschool: From Head Start to Universal Pre-Kindergarten*, Project Coordinator for the History Department Elizabeth Rose traces the history of decisions on early education made by presidents, lawmakers, experts, advocates, and activists. Using this historical context as a lens, Rose shows how the past shapes today’s preschool debate and provides a meaningful view of the policy questions to be addressed as we move forward. *The Promise of Preschool* was published in March 2010 by Oxford University Press.

Assistant Professor of English Heather Urbaniski’s book, *Writing and the Digital Generation: Essays on New Media Rhetoric*, is a collection of essays and profiles by 30 contributors who explore what may be a rise in rhetorical activity, due in part to the sudden blurring of the traditional roles of creator and audience in participatory media. Published in January 2010 by McFarland, this collection focuses on topics often overlooked by traditional academic scholarship.

Programs in the community

Assistant Professor of Teacher Education Jacob Werblow and students enrolled in his learning theory course were featured in an article in *The Hartford Courant* for their work with DiLoreto Middle School’s eighth-grade students, who used music, poetry, rap, and artwork to “unmask their outward identity and reveal the students’ inner true self.” According to the article, “DiLoreto and CCSU students brought down the house, at a November meeting, with a Spanish and English rap that cried out for acceptance, understanding, respect, and bridging the gap despite our differences.”

The Community Is a Stage

Theatre student Becky Salituro addresses the audience at the Erwin Home in New Britain during a performance of *Early Stages*. The event was one stop on a tour of the show, which is performed by CCSU theatre students in collaboration with Hartford Stage.
Civil War Conference and Commemoration at CCSU

It has been 150 years since the beginning of the Civil War, when Confederate forces attacked Fort Sumter in South Carolina. The Connecticut Civil War Commemoration Committee made sure Connecticut didn’t let it pass by without, well, a bang—as 12 cannons were fired in front of the State Capitol on April 12, following remarks from CCSU Professor of History Matt Warshauer and Governor Dannel P. Malloy.

A few days later, on April 15, a conference, titled “Commemorating the American Civil War: Connecticut Connections,” was held in CCSU’s Student Center. Director of the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition David Blight, Yale University professor of history, gave the keynote lecture, speaking about Americans’ fascination with the Civil War. Over 220 people attended the daylong conference of seminars, lectures, and breakout sessions.

The Commemoration Weekend’s Opening Ceremonies were held on the 16th—complete with Civil War re-enactors, the Governor’s Foot Guard, and National Guard units from across Connecticut who marched with their Color Guards across campus and fired a 21-gun salute. The Connecticut Blues Fife and Drum Corps from Durham played the national anthem, followed by speeches from CSU Professor of Philosophy Felton Best, Co-Chair of the Connecticut Civil War Commission Booker DeVaughn, Senior Minister of Asylum Hill Congregational Church Gary Miller, CSU Trustee Ron Pugliese, Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Linda Spoonster Schwartz, Emmy award-winning journalist and host of the morning’s ceremonies Diane Smith, New Britain Mayor Timothy Stewart, CCSU Professor of History and Co-Chair of the Connecticut Civil War Commission Matthew Warshauer, and even Abe Lincoln himself (played by Howard Wright).

For the remainder of the weekend, guests had plenty of options. There were historical exhibits on Connecticut’s role in the Civil War on display in the Student Center and an exhibit titled “Picturing the Civil War: Kellogg Lithographs and Civil War Envelope Covers” in the Samuel S.T. Chen Fine Arts Center. The Kellogg Lithographs were produced in the 19th century by the Kellogg brothers from Hartford. These Victorian-era lithographs depicted patriotic images and Civil War scenes, including the firing on Fort Sumter and the Battle of Bull Run.

Throughout the weekend in nearby Stanley Quarter Park, re-enactors set up encampments and participated in two major battles. Confederate and Union troops fired upon each other using rifles, muskets, and cannons until both sides eventually pulled out, leaving the park dotted with fallen soldiers.

Sunday morning visitors also had a chance to catch a vintage baseball game played by the Friends of Vintage Base Ball league from Hartford. Decked out in brightly colored uniforms with bibs, none of the fielders wore gloves, and the pitchers tossed the ball underhanded to batters, as was the practice in 1861.

The commemoration was sponsored by the CCSU Alumni Association, CCSU Foundation, Provost’s Office, Carol A. Ammon School of Arts & Sciences, Center for Public Policy and Social Research, and History Department, as well as by Travelers Foundation, The Connecticut Humanities Council, Bill McCue, the Berlin and New Britain Lions Clubs, and the Connecticut State University System Foundation.

— Erica Bliss
A $600,000 National Science Foundation grant will expand CCSU’s efforts to support and prepare a diverse group of highly trained professionals in the mathematics and science fields. An interdisciplinary group of professors received the four-year grant to fund the Computer Science, Mathematics and Physics (CSMP) Scholarship program. CSMP is designed to attract high caliber students from under-represented, low income backgrounds interested in pursuing education in one of the three fields.

This is the second round of NSF funding for Professors of Computer Science Stan Kurkovsky and Bradley Kjell, Professor of Mathematical Sciences Ivan Gotchev, and Professor of Physics and Earth Sciences Nimmi Sharma. In 2006, the group received nearly $500,000 for a similar initiative, and this new version builds on its strengths and successes. During CSMP’s first iteration, which wraps up in December, the goals were to increase the enrollment and retention of under-represented students. According to Kurkovsky, those targets were met a year early. The number of incoming female and minority students in CSMP disciplines increased 38% and 108% respectively. The one-year retention rate increased 25% for females and 38% for minority students, and the number of degrees awarded to female and minority students in CSMP disciplines increased 33%.

“Receiving this second award indicates that the reviewers and program officers believe we have done a good job with the first program, and that there is a strong need for this kind of support,” Kurkovsky says.

“There is still such a substantial disparity in who is pursuing the sciences and mathematics,” he explains, “that a portion of the new funding will be used to further develop recruitment strategies and tools.” Kurkovsky serves as principal investigator for both grants.

Another component built into the new CSMP program is a strong research emphasis. Although it was not the main objective of the first grant, the team eventually began emphasizing research and involving students in research projects.

“We wanted to encourage them to think about graduate school,” Kurkovsky says. CSMP students attended professional conferences with faculty and presented posters; several students won prizes. Some CSMP graduates have gone on to graduate school, including the University of Notre Dame and City University of New York.

“Research is now our primary emphasis, with the ambitious goal of improving diversity among higher education faculty,” he says.

Once accepted, CSMP scholars receive financial and academic support, in addition to a variety of enrichment opportunities. At least 20 scholarships will be awarded for the fall semester, and each qualifying student will receive up to $5,400 for the academic year. Over four years, students can receive over $21,000 to help cover their education costs.

Facets of the program include faculty mentors, specialized tutoring, peer mentoring, field trips, lectures by industry and research leaders, internships, and job placement assistance.

“This is a collaborative effort,” says Kurkovsky. “To be successful requires support from many offices on campus, and we are appreciative of the assistance we have received from the Dean of Arts and Sciences, the Provost’s Office, and many other administrative offices.”

– Janice Palmer

In February the MOSAIC Center hosted SNAPSHOT: a true story of love interrupted by invasion, featuring award-winning actress Carmen Mitzi Sinnott. SNAPSHOT uses theatre, dance, and music to tell the true story of Sinnott’s own life as the daughter of a white mother and an African-American father who left Appalachia for Vietnam before she was born. Snapshots from a photo album were projected on the wall and brought to life by the actors and accompanying music. Sinnott received a Best Actress Nomination for the Stage Awards at the 2005 Edinburgh Fringe Festival for her performance in SNAPSHOT. She was also awarded the Brooklyn Arts Council’s NYSCA Individual Artist Re-grant Award, which allowed her to develop the full-length play.

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**NOTABLE programs**

CCSU hosted the “2010 Latinas Unidas Conference” in December. Over 100 middle and high school students attended workshops on self-esteem, empowerment, and furthering their education. The conference was sponsored by CCSU, United Healthcare, the Opportunities Industrialization Center, the Leslie A. Correa Education Foundation, and Telemundo.
In the wee hours of December 21, about two dozen people, hoping to be moonstruck, gathered on the roof of the Copernican Observatory to watch a lunar eclipse. This year’s event was considered rare because it occurred on the shortest and darkest day of the year, the winter solstice. TV videographers from NBC Connecticut and Fox Connecticut joined the group in hopes of catching great pictures. They did not. About 1:30 a.m., the moon began moving behind the Earth, putting the Earth between the sun and moon and creating a shadow on the moon and an amber glow. But the stargazers’ show was muted and, at times, blocked by light and moderate overcast skies. The next lunar eclipse is expected in about four years.

Robert C. Vance Endowed Chair in Journalism and Mass Communication John Dankosky was profiled in The New Britain Herald and The Bristol Press in December. The article highlighted his appointment as endowed chair and gave readers a glimpse of a typical day in his life—working at NPR every day until 6 p.m. and then teaching at CCSU at 6:50 p.m. Associate Professor of English Vivian Martin is quoted in the article as saying “[Dankosky] has really raised the professional bar” for CCSU’s journalism program. With so many years of his professional life devoted to radio, Dankosky brings his experience to the classroom to the benefit of students.

Associate Librarian Deborah Herman was one of several guests on a December episode of WNPR’s Colin McEnroe Show focusing on the evolution of Connecticut’s libraries. The conversation included a discussion on how libraries are becoming a resource for digital materials and the concomitant issues.

In December The New Britain Herald interviewed Associate Professor of English Jason Jones and CCSU student Alex Jarvis, a special studies major in the subject of digital humanities, regarding their opinions on net neutrality. Jones and Jarvis agreed that net neutrality is important for both customers and software companies. They believe that customers should have access to all services once they pay for internet access and should not be required to pay extra for services such as YouTube, Google, or Netflix. They noted that net neutrality also gives startup software companies more of an opportunity to become successful. Without neutrality, startups would need to spend a substantial amount of money for priority access to customers.

The Hartford Courant highlighted communication major Josh Therriault’s work on a documentary with CCSU’s Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy. The December article noted that the documentary, about children with incarcerated parents, changed Therriault’s perception about people in that situation. Therriault hopes his film will shed some light on these children who are often lost in the shadows.

Gary Mala, who earned his BS in elementary education from CCSU in 1983 and an MS in special education in 1987, has been appointed to a three-year term as Superintendent of Avon Public Schools. Prior to this appointment, Mala headed the Regional District 17 school system.

Kelly Smith, fifth grade wellness teacher for Regional District 10 (Harwinton-Burlington), has been named 2010 Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year by the Connecticut Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Smith earned a BSED in physical education at CCSU in 1995.

Correction: John Dankosky’s name was misspelled in an article in the February issue of the Courier. We apologize for the error. Dankosky, who is the Robert C. Vance Endowed Chair in Journalism and Mass Communication, served as moderator for this year’s “Nowakowski Conversation” held in October.
Civil War Conference and Commemoration at CCSU

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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.

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CCSU’s campus resembled the 1860s during the commemoration weekend in April. Re-enactors took over Stanley Quarter Park, setting up an encampment, firing off cannon, and engaging in two major battles. See story on page 17.

Opening the commemoration in front of the State Capitol, Governor Dannel P. Malloy spoke about the role Connecticut played in the Civil War, from the number of men who fought to the supplying of guns, ammunition, tents, and other supplies.

CCSU Professor of History Matt Warshauer (left), co-chairperson of the Connecticut Civil War Commemoration Committee, stops for a quick picture with Abe Lincoln (portrayed by Howard Wright).