This past summer Professor of Biology Jeremiah Jarrett took students on four field studies to “get their feet wet.” Above, students visit Hammonasset Beach in Madison, CT, to learn first-hand about marine and invertebrate biology.

Biology Department
Teaching and Learning about the Richness of Life

“We want our students to learn science by doing science, working shoulder-to-shoulder with full-time, approachable faculty in the lab or in the field,” declares Professor of Biology Jeremiah Jarrett, chair of the department. As part of that collaborative educational approach, this past summer during his Marine Invertebrate Biology course, Jarrett took students out on field studies to beaches in Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Danielle Gasser, a senior secondary biology education major who took the class, comments about her experience: “We went on four field trips to beaches to explore the grounds and learn about animal behavior. It was an incredible opportunity to be able to actually see the animals we were learning about in class. It’s much different seeing a ctenophore swimming by your feet in the ocean than seeing a picture of it on a PowerPoint slide. We took a boat out to an island and were able to collect crabs and measure their prevalence at different tide levels. It was extremely enjoyable, and Dr. Jarrett provided stories about his scientific research in Connecticut, California, and Ireland.”

Asked about the Biology Department’s distinctions, Jarrett observes, “We have outstanding faculty and offer a tremendous range of courses in the vast disciplines of the biological sciences, from a macroscopic look at ecology to a microscopic focus on neurobiology.”

“I think the chief asset of the Biology program at CCSU,” says Gasser, “would be the...
The Richness of Life

diversity of courses and field experiences offered during the year. CCSU provides courses on subjects such as Mushrooms, Mosses and More, Conservation Biology, Human Physiology, Neuroscience, and Pharmacology. Going into biology education, I was unsure what kind of biology really grabbed my interest, but after exploring the different courses, I found what I wanted to do. As a future educator, having a background in a range of subjects will enhance my teaching curriculum. I have learned so much in field studies, being able to handle specimens and gain understanding beyond classroom lectures.”

Undergraduate programs include pre-health and general biology (for those focused on medicine or the health field and aiming for careers as doctors, dentists, veterinarians, or physician assistants); environmental science, ecology, biodiversity, and evolution (for students interested in jobs as environmental consultants, wetland specialists, or natural resource managers); secondary biology teaching; and the secondary biology teacher preparation program.

Graduate studies include a program in anesthesia, which, according to Jarrett, has for some 25 years been one of the most outstanding in New England. “We’ve had people come from as far away as Hawaii to enroll,” he says. Master’s degrees are offered in health sciences, general biology, and ecology and environmental sciences.

Responding to a growing interest in sustainability, a master’s in global sustainability was recently launched at CCSU. It features two related programs — offered by the Biology and Geography departments — that share a common core curriculum. “The program is designed for teachers who want to learn more in this emerging area, managers in industry with responsibilities in sustainable development, and government employees whose programs are focused on sustainable practices,” said Professor of Biology Clayton Penniman.

Another strength of the Biology program is that students can participate in faculty-mentored research projects. Students learn practical application of classroom knowledge, cultivate analytical thinking skills, and actively practice the scientific process.

Biology faculty and their diverse array of research interests include: Jarrett, marine invertebrate biology and marine ecology; Dr. Douglas R. Carter, plant physiology, particularly photosynthesis and chloroplast genomes; Dr. Sylvia L. Halkin, animal behavior, avian biology; Dr. Mark Jackson, mammalian neurophysiology, stress physiology, electrophysiology, computational neuroscience; Dr. Thomas Mione, plant systematics, plant reproductive biology, plant morphology; Dr. Barbara J. Nicholson, wetland ecology, particularly paleoecology/developmental history; Dr. Peter Osei, lipid nutrition; Penniman, estuarine water quality management and plant-water quality interactions; Dr. Ruth E. Rollin, physiology, intestinal function; and Dr. David Spector, evolution of animal behavior, especially singing behavior of birds.

Faculty have published on their areas of expertise and have presented their research findings — often with students — at regional, national, and international scientific conferences. For example, Halkin, whose students helped generate data for her research, presented in 2009 on “Cache Clustering and Caching Area Separation” by Eastern Gray Squirrels at the international meeting of the Animal Behavior Society in Pirenopolis, Brazil.

State-of-the-art equipment and extensive facilities support both laboratory work and field research and include a greenhouse, an animal facility, growth chambers, and a 13-foot Boston Whaler for coastal and inland waters research.

Internships expand knowledge and are available with the state Department of Environmental Protection and at zoos, local nature centers, and area hospitals for those interested in health careers.

Students in the Biology program learn about the richness of life in all its myriad forms and locations, from New Britain to the far reaches of the globe. International Field Studies in biology classes acquaint students with different habitats in locations as various as England/Ireland, Australia, Peru, and Panama. On the horizon for January 2013, Jarrett plans to teach a course in Belize on marine biology, and Halkin will offer a course in Australia.

— Geri Radacsi
Cheryl Crespi
Accounting: Numbers with Consequences

Associate Professor of Accounting Cheryl Crespi is hardly the stereotypical dull bean counter, but she concedes it’s a tenacious stereotype. “People often think of accountants, especially tax accountants, as immersed in the dry and arcane,” she says, shaking her shock of blond hair. “Even Albert Einstein said, ‘The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax.’ You see what I’m up against to make my teaching engaging.”

It helps that Crespi brings impressive credentials to the task. She graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Law and was admitted to the bar in 2004. She also holds a Masters of Business Administration in accounting from UConn. Plus, she is a certified public accountant and a certified internal auditor. She worked as a plan controller at Aetna Inc. and was executive in residence at the University of Hartford’s Barney School of Business before joining CCSU in 2005.

A Variety of Teaching Techniques

Using a “guided-discovery” approach to teaching, Crespi helps students negotiate the complexity of the Internal Revenue Code. Through a logical sequencing of research, students learn how the code is written and can be understood. Then she challenges them: “Could you have written code sections better?” She adds with a touch of humor, “You’ll be given the opportunity to do so in an end-of-semester assignment.”

Crespi also employs podcasting as a teaching tool. She explains, “Students take their study notes from class and make an electronic file so they can plug in their ear buds and listen to music interspersed with two minutes of their study notes about financial accounting concepts as they jog or bike or walk.” Further, she says many public accounting firms are using podcasts, which have become a popular way for many public accounting firms to keep their clients informed.

“My students are researching current tax news, turning it into a newsletter, and developing it as a podcast to use with potential clients,” she says. “These are skills that will make them desirable employees.”

Learning accounting can be intimidating so Crespi starts with basics. “I particularly liked how she gave real-world examples, such as a pizza restaurant or candy shop, which helped me grasp more complicated accounting ideas,” says sophomore Ethan Markie, a construction management major. “Doing the financial statement analysis project was interesting, because it taught us how to decide which companies to invest in by looking at actual companies and their financial reports for 2010.”

Positioning Graduates for the Workplace: Doing Well by Doing Good

Crespi encourages her students to volunteer as tax preparers, putting into practice what they’ve learned and thereby helping some of Connecticut’s lower income families.

Volunteerism at CCSU got a boost from Dan Krah ’09, who as an undergraduate finance major, first arranged for the community action agency Co-Opportunity, Inc., to come on campus to provide student training in CCSU’s inaugural partnership with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Today Krah’s an experienced associate with the prestigious “big four” public accounting firm, Pricewaterhouse-Coopers.

“I loved volunteering, because I learned more about tax preparation and that helped me prepare for the CPA exam which I passed right after graduation,” he says. “My volunteer experience was a great talking point during job interviews.”

Building upon the relationship with Co-Opportunity, Crespi and Associate Professor of Accounting Monique Durant have been coordi-
nating training opportunities on campus with Co-opportunity, the Human Resource Agency (HRA) of New Britain, and the IRS. Crespi says, “This way our students can become certified by the IRS, which allows them to e-file for individuals and families meeting income levels of $50,000 and below,” she notes.

For the 2010 tax season, approximately 60 CCSU students participated in VITA training, and they operated two CCSU VITA locations, one on campus and one at Community Central in downtown New Britain.

Recent graduate Christine Albrycht ’11 was a standout accounting major and volunteer tax preparer. For her proficiency as the volunteer site coordinator of CCSU VITA, which she helped set up in its first year, she was offered a paid position by Co-Opportunity to be the site coordinator at two other locations for the tax season.

“I think my volunteer work proved that I can work with many different people from different backgrounds,” says Albrycht. “I also understand the laws and when in doubt I know how to find the answers. This experience cemented my aspiration to obtain my CPA license.”

Crespi is delighted to watch her students gain confidence. “Taxes are always changing—time frames and provisions may be added or repealed,” she reflects, “but I want my students to know how to interpret tax code, do their own research to solve questions that arise, and gain knowledge of the tools that are mandatory in the accounting and tax accounting professions.” Beyond the students’ learning, the program has had an ongoing impact on Connecticut residents.

Albrycht considers her professor’s teaching style, recalling the Corporate Tax course. “You can tell she is excited about the subject, wants her students to learn, and really cares,” Albrycht says. “Once she showed a YouTube video featuring Donny Osmond and his brothers singing ‘One Bad Apple’ to drive home the point that one bad liability does spoil many liabilities transferred to a corporation. I can imagine a class full of students humming that song while taking the final exam in order to keep that law straight.”

– Geri Radacsi

President Citation Awards Presentation

Vice President of Student Affairs Laura Tordenti (left) and CCSU President Jack Miller (right) stand with students (from left to right) John Kassay, Katherine Bossardet, Meghan Craw, and Inez Vera after presenting them with President’s Citations Awards at the end of last semester. The four CCSU seniors received the awards for their outstanding leadership service to CCSU, as well as for their significant volunteer contributions and academic success.

“My students are researching current tax news, turning it into a newsletter and developing it as a podcast to use with potential clients,” she says. “These are skills that will make them desirable employees.”
Focus on Scholarship
Sean Walsh
Exploring the Role of Genomics in Physical Activity

Physical inactivity can be hazardous to your health. It can increase the risk of developing chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease, obesity, Type II diabetes, hypertension, and more. Why then are a majority of people apparently not “moved” to follow recommendations for attaining and sustaining health?

Associate Professor of Physical Education & Human Performance Sean Walsh focuses on a major piece of that puzzle. His research indicates that genetic factors account for 32-85% of the variation in physical activity levels. However, he adds, “Although there is a significant genetic component to habitual physical activity levels in young adults, research in this area is limited, with only 14 studies published since 2000.”

Walsh is expanding that number. “The aim of my current research is to examine associations between specific gene variants and habitual physical activity levels in young, healthy adult men and women,” he states.

His research revolves around genomics, specifically exercise genomics, which examines the role of genetics and genomics within exercise performance and health-related physical activity.

“It is recognized that response to exercise is, at least in part, inherited,” explains Walsh. “The challenge for exercise physiologists who study exercise genomics is not only to identify all genes that are responsive to exercise, but to decipher the mechanisms by which those genes are regulated and the functional impact genetic variation may have on the outcome of an exercise response.”

What about environment? “Genes and gene variations work within different environments to impact a person’s physical structure and function,” says Walsh. He contends studying genetic variation in the context of different environments will help us learn why some individuals are predisposed to disease, why some individ-

continued on page 6
als don’t respond to an exercise stimulus (or respond very well), why some people can improve diabetes with diet and exercise while others require drug therapy. “In other words, both the environment (what you do and what is done to you) and your genetic make-up affect how your body will function. I’m out to study both, especially in the context of exercise,” he says.

Walsh’s research is in collaboration with Dr. Linda Pescatello, professor of kinesiology at the University of Connecticut who was a co-principal investigator on a National Institutes of Health-funded multi-site clinical trial, “Functional Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms Associated with Human Muscle Size and Strength” (FAMuSS) from August 2001 to August 2005. FAMuSS examined the influence of genetic variation on the muscle size and strength response to resistance training. Now the task is to analyze data collected from 1,000 subjects as part of the large study.

Walsh notes that “The goal of our work is to examine the associations among physical activity phenotypes (observable traits) and relevant genetic variants. Findings from the proposed research will provide insight into genetic explanations for the propensity to be physically inactive, with the long-term goal of developing new strategies to increase the physical activity levels of sedentary people.”

Walsh was inspired and mentored by his undergraduate exercise physiology professor, Dr. Dan Switchenko, at Eastern Connecticut State University. Then he was encouraged to study exercise genomics by his advisor Dr. Stephen Roth when doing a graduate internship toward a doctorate in exercise physiology at the University of Maryland. He had already earned a master’s in sport and exercise science at Ohio State University and a bachelor’s in physical education from ECSU. “In 2003 the final sequence of human DNA was identified and this opened up an exciting area for research,” declares Walsh. While in Maryland, he focused on the study of muscle and exercise genomics. “Muscle mass and strength are highly heritable phenotypes with genetic factors contributing significantly to the variation in lean body mass and muscle strength,” he says.

Walsh’s research has been published in numerous professional journals, and he has made a dozen national presentations on his scholarship at annual American College of Sports Medicine conferences. Most recently, Walsh co-authored a study focused on the gene leptin and its variations—discovering they were associated with different levels of vigorous weekly physical activity. Walsh and his colleagues also have looked at one gene that may influence the muscle strength response to a resistance training program. “We concluded that this gene or variation within this gene is only responsible for a small portion of the variance observed,” he says.

Walsh foresees a time when, based on scores of studies probing physical activity, new strategies will be tailor made for individuals to enjoy good health throughout their lives.

— Geri Radacsi

Robert Gates to Speak at CCSU

Former US Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates will deliver the Robert C. Vance Distinguished Lecture on November 8 in Welte Hall. The Vance Distinguished Lecture is free and tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis on the University’s website: www.ccsu.edu/vance2011. Due to the level of interest in this event, there is a maximum of two tickets per request for the lecture. The deadline to request tickets is October 25, 2011.

Anyone interested in attending a reception and dinner prior to the lecture may register online. Tickets for the reception and dinner are $125 per person and include admission to the lecture. Proceeds will benefit the Robert C. Vance Endowed Chair in Journalism & Mass Communication. The Vance Lecture Series honors the late Robert C. Vance, a widely respected journalist, editor, and publisher of The Herald in New Britain from 1951–1959.
A scholar of reading, language arts, and teacher education, Helen Abadiano is also a master of multitasking. She has to be. The depth and breadth of her involvement in the University and community, in addition to her teaching and research, is why the chair and professor of reading and language arts has earned the University’s 2011 Distinguished Service Award.

Her entire department nominated her for what is one of the University’s highest honors. “To describe Helen as a quintessential multitasker would be an understatement,” the faculty wrote.

During the University’s Opening Meeting in late August, President Jack Miller presented Abadiano with the award, noting that her outstanding contributions and exemplary service were too numerous to list.

“Professor Abadiano has become a champion of diversity in education at all levels, and her energy has no bounds,” said Miller. “While her colleagues describe her as ‘a petite dynamo,’ former students say she is ‘a good role model’ and ‘incredibly knowledgeable.’”

For Abadiano, the award and recognition came as a complete surprise. “This is just awesome,” she said in amazement. “Thank you. Thank you so very much,” she told the audience, explaining that the honor is especially memorable for her because it comes as she begins her 20th year at Central.

“When I first came in ’92, I thought I would stay for three to five years tops, but Central has that way of growing on you,” she said. Abadiano talked about how “fortunate” and “blessed” she has been during her years at CCSU.

For the past decade she has served as chair of the Reading and Language Arts Department, and last year she took on an additional leadership role as director of CCSU’s East Asian Center.

“What is truly impressive is her inspiration, passion, time, and energy to sustain a healthy balance across teaming, scholarship, and service to the University and community—a rare combination,” according to the Reading and Language Arts faculty nomination letter.

Abadiano has served on some 30 University committees, including the Faculty Senate for which she served two terms as vice president. Within the School of Education and Professional Studies she has been involved in dozens of committees, projects, and initiatives to improve the culture, climate, and education of students. In this, her faculty says, she “stands apart from other colleagues in her unique and strong record of service and leadership in the promotion and support of the School’s diversity efforts.”

Outside the University, she worked with the Opportunities Industrialization Center of New Britain for seven years to enhance the lives of the city’s working class residents. As a volunteer, she provided professional services to the New Britain school district, served on the Alliance for Youth board, and held a key leadership role in the development of the New Britain Campaign for Grade Level Reading. For many years she has served as a member of the Connecticut Emergency Medical Services Instructor Training Institute.

Abadiano has served with distinction on NCATE International Reading Association accreditation teams reviewing teacher preparation program at universities in the state and throughout the nation. In addition to this work, she has received more than 20 research grants and awards, authored or co-authored over 36 journal articles and reports, and presented at more than 40 regional, national, and international professional conferences.

In 2007 she earned the 2Celebrate Literacy Award—for exemplary service in the promotion of literacy—from the International Reading Association and the Connecticut Reading Association, and she was inducted as a Lifetime Ambassador of Literacy to the Literacy Volunteers of Central Connecticut, Inc.

— Janice Palmer
While most of her high school classmates were making their weekend plans, Sara Larkin was signing up to serve her country. The anthropology major and three-season athlete at Central joined the National Guard during her senior year at Ellis Tech High School in Danielson. “The military not only teaches you to follow orders, it also teaches you how to be a leader, and that’s important in every aspect of life,” says Larkin, who is now using those leadership skills at CCSU.

Larkin saw the military as an opportunity to serve her country, better herself, and obtain a college education. She signed up in August of 2002 for eight years—six years of active duty and two years of inactive duty.

Now 26 years old, Larkin was first deployed to Germany in February 2006. She remained in Germany for 18 months. Reflecting on the hardships of being deployed Larkin notes, “When you’re away, your life basically stops.”

After returning to the states Larkin saw CCSU Professor of Anthropology Ken Feder on television in a National Geographic special. Larkin had been in the process of researching colleges in Connecticut and was especially interested in anthropology. “I knew immediately that I had found my school after listening to Dr. Feder,” says Larkin. She became a student at Central in spring 2008.

It wasn’t until the following semester that Larkin first tried out for the CCSU cross country team. She had not participated in sports during high school but was determined to make the team. “I was the kid who walked the mile in gym class,” she notes. Larkin first got interested in running during her time in boot camp at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, where she ran her first 5K. Larkin is now on the cross country and indoor and outdoor track teams.

After three productive college semesters Larkin received military orders in the mail. Despite her inactive duty status, the letter informed her that she would be deployed once again. This time she was headed to Iraq, where she spent the last year of her military contract. It was one of the most difficult periods of her life. “The military forces you to push yourself and it also teaches you to just do stuff,” states Larkin, who attributes her mental strength and confidence to her military background and her experience in Iraq.

Not surprisingly, she excels in the classroom as well. Larkin was recently inducted into the Anthropology Honors Society, which requires members to maintain a 3.70 GPA in anthropology courses and a 3.50 GPA overall. She is also regularly on CCSU’s Dean’s List.

“I positively adore the Anthropology Department at Central—it’s like a family,” says Larkin, who has nothing but good things to say about her professors. “They are amazing people and have really guided me.”

Larkin feels that her professors genuinely care about their subject and their students. “Dr. Feder even used his connections to get me an internship this summer,” she notes. Her internship at The Institute for American Indian Studies, in Washington, CT, was a hands-on experience working at a Native-American pre-historic archeological site.

For professors who have had Larkin in their classrooms, the respect is mutual. “It’s great to have a student in class who you can’t get anything by,” says Feder. “Sara thinks, and her questioning causes me to think too.”

In addition to being a leader she is simply a great friend and teammate. Speaking of her teammates, Larkin notes, “I have had life experiences that they haven’t had, and I love to help them in any way I can.”

Larkin is on track to graduate next May and plans to go on to study human evolution and pursue a PhD in archeology. Larkin reflects, “I know I made the right decision by coming to Central. I have truly found myself and what I want to be.”

— Michael Souer
Student in the Spotlight
Courtney Chute
Embracing the Age of Technology

Courtney Chute envisions her own elementary school classroom teeming with children showing off their latest missing teeth, comparing mismatched socks, and trading contents of bag lunches. Kids will be kids—whether it’s the 1950s, the 1980s, or this millennium.

Chute, however, sees today’s school children as different. “Kids today are not the same as children who were in the classroom 10 years ago,” she notes. Pinky swears—the bonds of yesterday—have been replaced with “friends and family” cell phone networks. A hand-written report about China, with an illustrated map, now takes a backseat to a Microsoft Word document, enhanced by a link to an aerial view of downtown Beijing, courtesy of Google Earth.

While some are leery of the technological interface, Chute, an elementary education major, says “there are so many creative things you can do nowadays thanks to all of these wonderful technological advances.” Chute’s junior year honors thesis, titled “Digital Literacy Beyond the 21st Century,” presents research on teachers who effectively use media sites like Facebook and Twitter in the classroom. Students navigate these sites with ease and are assigned tasks, such as making a Facebook profile for a favorite character in the book The Tale of Despereaux and then acting out a chapter in the book with classmates on Facebook. Combining education with technology encourages children to use the popular social media sites in a safe and productive way.

Chute’s honors thesis identifies today’s students as “digital natives.” According to Chute, “Digital natives are surrounded by technology from the day they are born. They eat dinner, text their friends, and read books all at the same time. Their brains process information differently than those of students in the past, which means they also need to be taught differently.”

Chute’s vision for the classroom includes using a SmartBoard and the technological multitasking that kids gravitate to in their free time. She writes in her thesis, “Teachers can create a separate Facebook account just for their classroom and use it to post homework assignments, share interesting stories and videos, [and] keep students and parents up to date with school events.”

Keeping lines of communication open with both students and their parents is a skill Chute has honed as a CCSU campus tour guide. Additionally, her campus involvements with the Education Club and SALD (Student Activity Leadership Development) further support her aspiration to teach. You can also see Chute in the CCSU Video Tour linked on the homepage of the University’s website (www.ccsu.edu).

“I’ll be ready when I graduate and feel confident in my ability to be a teacher. Someday maybe I’ll be Teacher of the Year. That’s what I’m going to strive for.”

As a first-year student, Chute knew she wanted to teach. She regards CCSU’s elementary education program as the best around, noting that Central “gives you a lot of opportunities to experience a classroom before you get to a point where there’s no turning back. So far I’ve loved everything.”

Chute’s relationship with her academic advisor, Professor of English Christine Doyle, demonstrates the confidence the veteran teacher has in Chute’s ability to teach. Doyle’s impressions of Chute are deservedly positive. “She’ll be a teacher her students will not only learn from but look up to as someone who loves learning for its own sake. Elementary-level students need that foundation. They need to learn that learning is a joy—just as much as they need to learn to read and write. Courtney will be able to teach both of those things. We need more like her,” she remarks.

According to Chute, CCSU has gone beyond her expectations in preparing her to teach. She says, “I’ll be ready when I graduate and feel confident in my ability to be a teacher. Someday maybe I’ll be Teacher of the Year. That’s what I’m going to strive for.”

– Kate Callahan
CCSU’s School of Business held its second annual Hall of Honor Awards Gala in May. Jeffrey D. Butler (left), President and C.O.O. of Connecticut Light & Power, and Anthony Torsiello (right), Vice President of Financial Planning and Analysis at The Travelers Companies, each received a Corporate Partner Award on behalf of his company. Others awarded for excellence in business were alum Kelley Hadley ’97, Phyllis W. Haynes of Southern Relishes, LLC, CCSU student Jessica Schweitzer of Campus Connect, and CCSU Professor of Management and Organization David Fearon.

In Two Minutes or Less...
This spring, the Elevator Pitch Competition, hosted by CCSU’s entrepreneurship program, involved 60 students from eight disciplines pitching ideas to panels of expert judges for $500 in prizes. There were three winners. Best Personal Venture went to Donald Allen for his plan to expand his existing fish tank maintenance business. Best Large Venture went to Tamara Simone for her plan to put rent-by-the-hour sleep pods in airports with high rates of flight cancellations. The Judges’ Prize went to Zack Allen for his Arachnassasin Spider Catcher.

Grad Students Share Creativity and Knowledge
CCSU’s tenth annual Graduate Research and Creative Presentation event took place in May and included over one hundred presentations on topics such as body dysmorphic disorder, metacognitive reading strategies, and music’s effect on achievement in mathematics. The event inspires on-going interaction and communication among faculty and students who share a commitment to the advancement of knowledge through innovation and research.

Students Honored for Research
On May 12, CCSU held Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day (URCAD), a campus-wide showcase of student research and creative activities. This year’s winners included Raven Cohen, who presented a project on “Deviant Sexual Arousal and Callous Unemotional Traits as Predictors of Sexual Recidivism in Juvenile Sexual Offenders;” Emily Newbury on “Personality Profiles of the Most At-Risk Juvenile Sexual Offenders;” Justin Babey, “Hiding Information in Digital Images;” Kenneth Boling, “Mapping and Analysis of Connecticut Drumlins Using LiDAR and GIS Technologies;” and Candace Corbeil, “Righteous among Nations: Altruism, Gratitude, and Literature of the Holocaust.” Also honored at the event were Undergraduate Library Research Award winners Christy L. Basconi for her research project, titled “Still Suffering: Young Adults Targeted by School Bullying in Adolescence,” and Raven C. Cohen for her research paper on “Effects of Brief Prevention Programs on Alcohol Expectancies in College Students.”
A new era has begun for the Central Connecticut State University Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. On Wednesday, August 10, the Blue Devils launched a new branding initiative, highlighted by 11 unique marks, a new Blue Devil mascot, and a custom font developed for the department.

“It is a very exciting day because I believe this is a critical step in honoring our rich athletics tradition and our history of success, and in reestablishing and defining who we are and who we aspire to be—the premier program in the Northeast Conference,” said Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Paul Schlickmann.

“The visible results are a representation of the department’s core values: competitiveness, pride, and passion. A very powerful but less visible aspect of this effort is the unifying and galvanizing impact that this logo will have on the spirit, pride, and identity of all members of CCSU athletics and the University family, including our student-athletes, student body, faculty, staff, alumni, and fans.”

The process began over a year ago. The new logo and font were designed and developed by Rickabaugh Graphics, an Ohio-based company with extensive experience in collegiate athletics branding. Rickabaugh used input from many members of the campus community to create an array of potential designs, while also ensuring that CCSU’s new brand was unique.

“When I first arrived at CCSU a number of months ago, it was quickly apparent that everyone on campus had tremendous pride for their University. In addition, the athletic programs boasted a rich history and a future full of great promise,” said Eric Rickabaugh, owner and creative director at Rickabaugh Graphics. “The Rickabaugh Graphics staff realized that the new look for CCSU athletics must portray that same pride, history, and promise.”

Following the initial stages of development, Rickabaugh held focus groups to gather feedback and information on a few potential concepts. The groups included CCSU student-athletes, coaches, alumni, fans, and other members of the CCSU community. The information gathered through these sessions was used to put the final touches on the new Blue Devil.

“This collective effort has created a bold logo and design of which we can all be proud. It’s a great day to be a CCSU Blue Devil.”

The new logos include 11 total marks that can be used in full color (blue, white, and a new gray) or in classic CCSU blue and white. CCSU teams will start wearing the new logos this fall on practice gear and uniforms.

“Our partnership with Presto Sports is another positive, critical step in promoting our program and our new brand identity,” Schlickmann said. “And with our new relationship with the Pack Network, our fans will now be able to follow our teams online and on their mobile devices with ease.”

— Tom Pincince

“The New Blue Devil Arrives!”

“This collective effort has created a bold logo and design of which we can all be proud. It’s a great day to be a CCSU Blue Devil.”
“Call for Photos” Calls for Remembrance

During a news conference held at CCSU, Connecticut residents and teachers were urged to help honor Connecticut’s Vietnam War casualties by taking part in the “Call for Photos” project sponsored by CCSU and the Connecticut Department of Veterans’ Affairs. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund began the “Call for Photos” campaign in 2009 with the goal of attaching faces to the more than 58,000 names memorialized on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. The CCSU Veterans History Project and the state’s Veterans’ Affairs department have organized a statewide effort to collect pictures and remembrances of the 612 Connecticut service members killed during the war. CCSU President Jack Miller (above) spoke about his high school classmates who never made it back from the war while standing in front of four of the photos that have already been collected for the “Virtual Wall.” Anyone who would like to submit a photo may call Associate Director of the Center for Public Policy & Social Research Eileen Hurst, the director of CCSU’s Veteran’s History Project, at 860-832-2976.
Dealing with a Time of Change

Layoffs, budget cuts, and the reorganization of higher education in Connecticut have contributed plenty to the stress levels of CCSU faculty, administrators, and staff, but during President Miller’s Opening Meeting, held in late August, he presented a strong argument for why change can be good for both the institution and students.

Recounting the University’s recent achievements, Miller told faculty and staff that there is nothing to fear about change. “We are not changing because we’re broken,” he said. “We’re making changes from a position of strength. We are doing well,” he emphasized and added, “Demonstrably, provably well.”

According to the President, external validation, by way of honors and financial support, is proof that CCSU is moving in the right direction, and he gave examples to demonstrate his point.

First, CCSU has been honored by the Princeton Review in each of the last two years for being among the most environmentally responsible colleges in the US and Canada. Second, the University was named to President Obama’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for “engaging its students, faculty, and staff in meaningful service that achieves measurable results in the community.” The third distinction comes from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Community which designated CCSU as a Carnegie Engagement Institution—one of 115 US colleges and universities selected for “exemplary practices of community engagement.”

“Those are people from the outside, who are judging institutions and saying that you are doing a good job,” Miller told the audience.

Financial funding and gifts are a show of faith in the University, and the President highlighted the largest three: the $8 million gift from Carol A. Ammon, nearly $5 million from Anthony Bichum, and $3 million from Hyundai Motor America.

Rather than fearing change, Miller suggested the audience consider the data.

During the past three years, in preparation for the state’s forecasted budget crisis, the maintenance staff was cut by 12 percent and management by 11 percent, while faculty positions have been reduced by just two positions.

“‘We have accomplished a lot together. We need to be proud of those things and not be afraid of making changes.’

“Our goal always has been to preserve academics and teaching first. This is a university that is about teaching and students before anything else,” he said, and added, “Students are not here to give us a job. We are here to give them an education.” Referring to his newly developed report card, the President pointed out that student successes actually increased while those staff reductions were being made.

The report card is a progress report on each of the 47 goals set three years ago with the University’s Strategic Plan. Some of the areas that earned an “A” from the President include the retention of first-year students, the six-year graduation rate, the graduation rate of transfer students, and the Academic Progress Rate—a measure set by the NCAA—all of which showed significant improvement. He also gave high marks to the development of courses and programs in response to workforce needs and increases in the diversity of faculty, staff, and students, as well as noting a big boost in the number of students participating in co-curricular activities.

Striking improvements were also seen in the area of financial support. The endowment more than doubled in value, and external funding through grants and contracts increased by about 70 percent.

Some of the areas in which the President wants to see more improvement include funding of research and experiential learning opportunities for students, reduction of credit hours taught by part-time faculty, redefinition and distribution of faculty workload, multicultural training for faculty and staff, and increased space for academics.

Cost containment is also in need of improvement. Miller conceded that keeping the cost of attending CCSU affordable is a “delicate balancing act,” and urged assistance from every sector of the University to help keep costs down. He argued against claims that low-income students are being priced out of a college education.

“Our head count has grown minimally, and the number of full time students has gone up 5.6 percent. So more students are working towards their degrees. Financial aid is up by over 50 percent, and a vast majority of that is for low-income students,” he said.

Miller wrapped up his presentation by saying, “We have accomplished a lot together. We need to be proud of those things and not be afraid of making changes—because we are not broken.”

The entire report card and updated strategic plan are available online at www.ccsu.edu/strategicplan.

— Janice Palmer
Campus Dining Serves Up New Options

Dining Services now offers improved and more convenient meal and snack options for those employed on campus or enrolled in classes.

After gathering and analyzing student feedback over the past three years, Dining Services’ provider Sodexo implemented some changes during the summer. Survey responses suggested that a sandwich shop and more grab-and-go options were widely desired on campus.

The new Sub-Connection, located in the Devil’s Den, offers a wide variety of sandwiches and plenty of bread and topping options. Soups and salads are also available there. The Sub-Connection is open Monday through Thursday until 10 p.m. to accommodate students who take night classes.

F’Real, a state-of-the-art milkshake machine, has also been added to the Devil’s Den and allows customers to choose the thickness of their shakes. Looking for something a little lighter to quench your thirst? The Student Center has added a water bottle filling station near the entrance to the bookstore. The water is filtered, and, best of all, it is free.

Pandini’s has changed its menu to become more convenient and affordable for students. Rather than ordering an entire pizza, customers can now grab a slice or two and be on their way.

The Southwest Dining Hall received a facelift over the summer and is now an open, spacious dining option for students. New carpet, freshly painted walls, and a new ceiling have given Southwest an upscale dining feel.

Jazzman’s Café in Burritt Library is now located on the newly renovated first floor, making the coffee shop more accessible and convenient for those walking by the library and for those studying inside.

The Blue Devil Grille is still serving all of its classics as well as one highly anticipated newcomer—the veggie burger.

Students with meal plans can enjoy all of the retail dining improvements, as well as upgrades to their resident dining. Aspreta, a new coffee shop, and a Hydration Station containing fresh spring water with natural lemon flavor are now available with meals or for take out, in eco-friendly bottles provided by CCSU.

Commuters, faculty, and staff now have a new option at Memorial Hall. The Nutmeg Room, located on the north side of the ground floor, now offers a selection of grab-and-go options and is open weekdays 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. In addition to its traditional and vegan entrees, Nutmeg is offering a variety of to-go salads, freshly made wraps, and panini.

For information on menus, hours, and prices, go to www.ccsudining.com.

— Michael Souer

Reading Program a Home Run!

Children from Connecticut and Western Massachusetts packed New Britain Stadium for three consecutive games in mid August to root for the Rock Cats. For the second year, CCSU co-sponsored the Reading Books in Summer (RBIS) program, along with the Rock Cats and Connecticut Library Consortium. The program is designed to encourage children to read over the summer months in order to avoid reading-level loss while away from the classroom. August Guglielmo (right) of Branford was one of hundreds of children who participated in the program and earned a voucher to attend a Rock Cats game for free. He was lucky enough to be selected to throw out the opening pitch. Future Blue Devil?
The New Britain Herald asked Professor of Teacher Education Aram Ayalon, who is also a member of the New Britain school system’s Board of Education, for his views on the system’s switch to the Common Core State Standards. He explained in the article why support for the standards has been a mixed bag.

The Washington Post looked to CCSU’s resident Polish expert for an article about the parallels between current politics in the US and those of Old Poland. Professor of History Mieczyslaw Biskupski, holder of the Stanislaw A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies, explained in his August article that in Old Poland if anyone in the Senate forbid a bill, it would immediately be dropped and the Senate could go home. When the US almost went into default over the summer because it seemed no one in Congress could come to agreement, it held an eerie resemblance to Old Poland, which eventually became so weak and poor that neighboring countries took over the land.

Readers of The New Britain Herald were greeted with photos of CCSU’s Hoop Troop on the front page of the paper in July. The Hoop Troop was photographed while performing at the World Block Party in New Britain.

Professor of Criminal Justice and Criminology Stephen Cox shared his expertise with the Meriden Patch for an article in June about the town’s drop in crime due to a neighborhood initiative program. Cox said community policing is very reminiscent of the beat cop from the 20s and 30s, when officers were on the streets, instead of in cars, and knew the people in a town.

The International Business Times conducted a two-part interview in August with Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice and Criminology Susan Koski, who spoke at length about why violent crime in the US is on the decline.

Executive Assistant to the President for Community Business Programs Richard Mullins was quoted in a July article in The New Britain Herald about manufacturing in the 21st century. He said that employers need to provide employees with tools for success, including updated technology and constant training. Mullins was also quoted in an August article in the Herald about the importance of a program, run by the ITBD, that places German students in summer internships with New Britain companies, such as Peter Paul, and provides opportunities for CCSU professors to teach in Germany.

Policy Assistant at CCSU’s Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy Robert L. Painter wrote an article for The Hartford Courant titled “Why Lock up Nonviolent Offenders?” Painter suggests that “Those who are not a threat to public health or safety, but have committed a crime traditionally subject to incarceration, would be placed in a new, rigorous, tightly managed ‘community sanctions’ program...[which] would require participants to spend a full, unpaid workday at a job assigned by the court.”

The Republican American asked Office of Alcohol and Drug Education (OAD) Coordinator in CCSU’s Counseling and Wellness Center Jonathan Pohl for his opinion about the possibility that CCSU will relax its marijuana policy in light of new laws. Pohl said administrators would most likely review the policy but was concerned that students might go too far and smoke on campus. “Minors caught with the drug can lose their driver’s licenses or see other major impacts on their lives,” he noted.

In July, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice and Criminology Zachary Shemtob co-authored an article in The New York Times titled “Executions Should Be Televised.” According to Shemtob, “a functioning democracy demands maximum accountability and transparency. As long as executions remain behind closed doors, those are impossible.” While Shemtob and co-author David Lat express feeling deeply conflicted about the death penalty, their article is a call for a “citizenry informed as possible about the costs and benefits of society’s ultimate punishment.”

The Valley Advocate ran an article about the Chester Theatre Company, where Assistant Professor of Theatre Sheila Siragusa was the director of one of four shows this summer. Siragusa’s production featured three actors retelling Dostoyevsky’s Crime and Punishment.

Professor of History Matthew Warshauer was interviewed by the CT Mirror in May about young students’ lack of knowledge concerning their national government. Performance in history, social studies, and civics is declining in elementary and secondary schools, or, as Warshauer stated, the three subjects “are getting demolished in the schools.”

In June The Hartford Courant tapped Professor of Nursing, Emeritus, Mary Jane Williams for her opinion on the problems LPNs are facing after receiving their degrees from for-profit schools. She says students from many for-profit schools don’t get the general education credits necessary to obtain a registered nursing degree, so it comes as a shock to them when they need to invest even more time and money to get where they want to be. The transition from the LPN program at a for-profit school to an RN program becomes more difficult for these students because often they are not eligible to enter an RN program without these courses.
The Center for Africana Studies held its annual banquet in May. “Alumni Success Stories: Navigating though the CCSU Campus as a Student” featured Naa Sackey ’08, a research assistant at Yale School of Public Health’s Community Alliance; Shamsuddeen Muhtar ’08, from Sikorsky Aircraft; Astou Seye ’06, a resident at the UCONN Health Center; and Chinekwu A. Obidoa MS ’07, a post doctoral research associate at the Institute for Community Research.

A lecture by Vijay Prashad, professor and director of International Studies at Trinity College, about “The Arab Spring and the Libyan Storm” was sponsored by CCSU’s Peace Studies Program and Connecticut United for Peace.

This summer CCSU and Lime Rock Raceway sponsored the Connecticut Electrathon Engineering Challenge to encourage research and engineering at the high-school level and increase the public’s awareness of alternative electric vehicles.

In May, the Physics and Earth Sciences Department, Physics Club, and CCSU Peace Studies Program sponsored “Earthquake,Tsunami in Japan: The Fukushima Daichii Event and Dominion’s Response,” featuring Director of Safety and Licensing Richard MacManus and Director of Engineering Martin Sartain, both from the Millstone Power Station.

CCSU held a screening of Nine Days that Changed the World, a documentary about Pope John Paul II’s visit to his native Poland in 1979 and how it influenced the Solidarity movement of Polish workers. Professor of History Mieczyslaw Biskupski, holder of the Stanislaw A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies, delivered the opening remarks. An exhibit commemorating the movement was on display in the Elihu Burritt Library in June.

CCSU’s Teacher Education Department and the Consolidated School District of New Britain teamed up as students from DiLoreto Dual Language Magnet School held a day of performances to express pride in their cultural heritage and language. Assistant Professor of Teacher Education Jacob Werblow led students toward an understanding of the importance of bilingualism and language diversity.

In August, CCSU hosted “Training the Mind: Preventing Police Suicide and Promoting Mental Wellness,” conducted by the Connecticut Alliance to Benefit Law Enforcement and sponsored by CCSU’s Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy and the state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Held in response to four suicides by police officers earlier in the year, the seminar provided police departments with resources to help officers properly deal with the stress that comes with the job and emphasized the importance of developing an environment in which seeking help is not only acceptable but recommended.

Fall Art Exhibitions

CCSU ART GALLERIES PRESENTS:

“East/West: Contemporary Prints,” an exhibition of over 100 prints by printmakers from universities around the country—from the east to the west—will run through October 14. Many types of printmaking techniques will be on display, including monotype, lithography, etching, silkscreen, woodblock engraving, and photo techniques.

From October 20 to November 18, the gallery will feature the exhibit “Philip Pearlstein: Paintings, Drawings, and Watercolors.” Pearlstein is best known for his representational landscapes and frank and unromantic visions of the human figure. He uses figures as mere props—equal in status to the antique statuary surrounding them—and eliminates narrative from his paintings. This exhibition will be generously loaned by the Betty Cuningham Gallery, which represents Pearlstein.

For more information, visit www.art.ccsu.edu/gallery.html.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>October 17</strong></td>
<td>Jazz Band Concert</td>
<td>Torp Theatre, Davidson Hall</td>
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<td><strong>October 23</strong></td>
<td>University Singers with CONCORA</td>
<td>Church of St. Thomas the Apostle, 25 Dover Road, West Hartford</td>
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<td><strong>October 25</strong></td>
<td>The Connecticut Trio</td>
<td>Founders Hall, Davidson Hall</td>
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<td><strong>October 26</strong></td>
<td>Sinfonietta and Chamber Music Concert</td>
<td>Founders Hall, Davidson Hall</td>
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<td><strong>November 8</strong></td>
<td>Chamber Music Master Class</td>
<td>Welte Hall, Room 019</td>
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<td><strong>November 17</strong></td>
<td>Student Recital</td>
<td>Torp Theatre, Davidson Hall</td>
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<td><strong>November 22</strong></td>
<td>Student Recital</td>
<td>Torp Theatre, Davidson Hall</td>
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<td><strong>December 1</strong></td>
<td>Student Recital</td>
<td>Founders Hall, Davidson Hall</td>
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<td><strong>December 6</strong></td>
<td>Holiday Concert</td>
<td>Torp Theatre, Davidson Hall</td>
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<td><strong>December 7</strong></td>
<td>Jazz Ensemble Concert</td>
<td>Torp Theatre, Davidson Hall</td>
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<td><strong>December 8</strong></td>
<td>Percussion Concert</td>
<td>Welte Hall, Room 019</td>
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<td><strong>December 8</strong></td>
<td>Wind Symphony Ensemble Concert</td>
<td>Welte Auditorium</td>
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**CCSU Arts Schedule**

Through October 14
East/West: Contemporary Prints
1–4 p.m., Monday–Friday
S.T. Chen Fine Arts Center, Maloney Hall

October 20–November 18
Philip Pearlstein: Paintings, Drawings, and Watercolors
1–4 p.m., Monday–Friday
S.T. Chen Fine Arts Center, Maloney Hall

December 2–9
Art Educators Exhibition
1–4 p.m., Monday–Friday
S.T. Chen Fine Arts Center, Maloney Hall

October 18–22
The Last Days of Judas Iscariot
7:30 p.m.
Black Box Theatre, Maloney Hall

November 5
Early Stages Children’s Theatre
1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.
Torp Theatre, Davidson Hall

November 29–December 3
Antigone
7:30 p.m.
Black Box Theatre, Maloney Hall

October 21–22
Dancentral performs in 5x5 Dance Festival
7:00 p.m.
Carol Autorino Center for the Performing Arts
1678 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford, CT

November 4
Fall Student Showcase
7:30 p.m.
Welte Auditorium

December 1
Children’s Nutcracker
Welte Auditorium
Ticket Info: 860-232-8898

December 2–3
Raven: A Contemporary Dance Theatre Performance
Performed by Dancentral and Philadelphia’s Between Movement Contemporary Dance Company
Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts
15 Vernon Street, Hartford, CT
Ticket info: 860-292-0437

December 2–3
Albano’s Nutcracker
Welte Auditorium
Ticket Info: 860-232-8898
CCSU Helps Improve Early Literacy

Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Carl Lovitt and members of the CCSU basketball and football teams were among those who read stories to kids during the “New Britain Reads” read-a-thon, held in July on the New Britain Public Library lawn. The read-a-thon was part of an on-going campaign to get all New Britain students to read at grade level by the end of third grade. The campaign also promotes the library’s collection of over 35,000 children’s books—an important resource for those children without many books at home or the resources to purchase them. “New Britain Reads,” a joint initiative of the New Britain Early Childhood Collaborative and the New Britain school district, is already showing promising results. Last year third graders scored better on the CMTs than the class before them.

Other members of the CCSU community also collaborated with New Britain schools as part of the “New Britain Reads” initiative to help teach young students how to read during summer school programs. Professor of Reading and Language Arts, Emeritus, Barry Davies brought the graduate students from his summer RDG 596 Clinical Practices in Reading and Language Arts course to the Smalley Academy to help with reading lessons for over 200 fourth- and fifth-grade students. Professor of Reading and Language Arts Elene Demos and her RDG 596 graduate students also took part in a similar program at DiLoreto Magnet Elementary School, and, on campus, Associate Professor of Reading and Language Arts Jesse Turner and his RDG 596 graduate students taught kids from surrounding communities. CCSU students provided “Tier 3” literacy tutoring services, which, according to Turner, is the gold standard for literacy intervention. Some of the graduate students worked one-on-one with the children, while others met with small groups. Davies said it is imperative to deal with the problem of illiteracy early so students are able to read at their grade levels as they get older, and summer school programs help students retain what they have learned throughout the school year. The CCSU Literacy Center is planning fall and spring read-a-thons for the coming year in collaboration with the New Britain Reads Campaign.

CCSU provided the largest group of volunteers for the read-a-thon held in New Britain over the summer—(back row, from left to right) CCSU track member Amanda Asaro and graduate students Dorota Dziedzic, Amy Gallo, Silvia Agosto, and Rosalina Monarco; (front row) Angela Buccheri, Janet Bayer, Frank Domanic, and Brenda Ballard.

A young student buries her nose in a good book during one of “New Britain Reads” initiative’s summer programs.
Professor of History Matt Warshauer continued to focus on the Civil War this summer. In the beginning of June, he discussed his new book, *Connecticut in the American Civil War: Slavery, Sacrifice, and Survival*, at the Gunn Memorial Library in Washington, CT. A few days later he spoke at the exhibit “Chester Voices of the Civil War,” and, in July, Warshauer led a five-part series of reading and book discussions at the Avon Free Public Library called “Let’s talk About It: Making Sense of the Civil War.” The program was made possible by a grant from the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

In July, the *New Britain Herald* reported that the *Art League of New Britain* is working with CCSU to obtain grants for programs to reach out to the city’s young people. The endeavor is a response to the current decline in funding for the arts in schools. The Art League’s partnership with Central aims to give “children and their families a place to unleash their artistic side,” writes Robert Storace.

**CCSU Volunteers Help the Homeless**

In May, volunteers from the CCSU community took part in Homeless Connect 2011, coordinated by Central’s Office of Continuing Education and Community Engagement, the Faculty Learning Group on Homelessness, and the Mayor’s Work Plan to End Homelessness. The event connected homeless individuals to resources, such as churches and community centers, as well as an abundance of service providers, who helped with budgeting, financial literacy, preventing eviction, and housing. Webster Bank donated $5,000 that was used to provide personal care items, socks, bus passes, and other support to homeless citizens in the area.

Professor of Theatre Thomas Delventhal and CCSU’s improv troupe Schlock Therapy took part in the musical/comedy marathon “Laugh with Purpose” at Trinity-on-Main in May. The event raised money for New Britain Mayor Tim Stewart’s Plan to End Homelessness and the AIDS Project Hartford.

**A River’s Lessons in Life**

Professor of Anthropology Kenneth Feder (right) points out early Connecticut civilization sites during an Archeology Canoe Trip on the Farmington River this past summer. The trip was open to the public and was sponsored by the Farmington River Watershed Association. Over the years, Feder and CCSU students enrolled in his summer course, Archeology Field Study, have conducted excavations that have uncovered evidence of past settlements. One of those sites, labeled a State Archeology Preserve in 2009, is known as The Lighthouse Community of Barkhamsted. Feder is passionate about sharing his experiences with students. “Giving students direct contact with these projects makes the content really come alive,” Feder said.

Professors of Modern Languages Gustavo Mejia and Antonio García-Lozada delivered lectures on world literature at the New Britain Public Library in April as part of The Big Read, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts. Mejia spoke about an anthology of Mexican short stories—*Sun, Stone, and Shadows*, edited by Jorge F. Hernandez—and about the genre of the short story. García-Lozada discussed “Diles que no me maten” (“Tell Them Not to Kill Me!”), by Juan Rulfo, from the anthology.
In June Professor of History Jay Bergman was reappointed to another two-year term as a member of the Connecticut Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights. State Advisory Committees conduct civil rights reviews and investigations and report to the US Commission, which then advises the President and Congress.

In April the CCSU chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators received the Most Outstanding Student Organization award by the Student Association of Leadership Development (SALD). Over the past year, chapter members worked to enhance their business communications skills, coordinate workshops on campus, carry out community service projects, attend national and international conferences, and participate in case competitions.

CCSU student Krisztina Dearborn ran her way to a spot on the US Junior Mountain Running Team. Dearborn’s experience with mountain running includes finishing with the best time among junior women at the 2011 USA Mountain Running Championships held at the Cranmore Hill Climb in North Conway, New Hampshire.

Anthropology knows no boundaries and neither does Professor of Anthropology Kenneth Feder’s book Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries: Science and Pseudoscience in Archaeology, which has recently been published in Chinese.

In July the Windsor Historical Society hosted an illustrated lecture on African American Genealogy featuring Assistant Counselor William Fothergill of CCSU’s Counseling and Wellness Center.

CCSU senior Jeff Kaprielian received a $3,000 scholarship from The Persbacker Family Scholarship Fund for consistent community service in his hometown of Bridgewater, CT.

Adjunct Lecturer of Music Christopher Ladd collaborated with other accomplished classical guitarists to host the 2011 Hartt School Guitar Festival in July.

Associate Professor of Finance Christopher Marquette presented his paper “Bidder Gains on Acquisition Announcements: The Case of Instantly Completed Deals” at the Academy of Business Research Conference in March. The paper, coauthored by Christine Harrington, T. Williams, and S. Ghosh, won the Journal of Applied Financial Research Best Paper in Finance award at the conference.

CCSU’s Head Football Coach Jeff McInerney was an honored guest at the 26th Annual Franciscan Sports Banquet in June. McInerney and his team were recognized for winning the Northeast Conference Championship for the past two seasons. And it looks like the winning is expected to continue. CCSU was picked as the preseason NEC frontrunner in the NEC coaches’ poll held in August. This is the second year in a row that CCSU has been picked for first place in the preseason.

CCSU student Josh Therriault spoke with students at a symposium sponsored by the Madison Alcohol and Drug Education (MADE) Coalition in July about how to develop public service announcements on the subject of alcohol and drug abuse. Attendees at the conference were also encouraged to challenge peer pressure and speak up for themselves.

Among the 9,000 or more educators and parents who turned out in Washington, DC, in July for the Save Our School March was CCSU Associate Professor of Reading and Language Arts Jesse Turner. An organizer of the event, Turner also served as a master of ceremonies for the rally, which included many notable speakers, such as actor Matt Damon, prominent educator Linda Darling-Hammond, and author Jonathan Kozol. The rally and march to the White House were efforts by participants to protest what they say are flawed education policies, including student and teacher assessments that are developed without the input of teachers and parents in a culture that Turner refers to as “test-happy.”
ITBD Inducted into Business Hall of Fame as Incubators Thrive

This spring, Central’s Institute of Technology and Business Development (ITBD), along with four other Connecticut businesses, was inducted into the Business Hall of Fame. In The New Britain Herald, Ron Dresner, director of the Business Hall of Fame, remarked, “This year we are honoring a diverse group of talented companies and business leaders that have proven themselves, year after year, to be very strong industry and community leaders.”

Executive Assistant to the President for Community Business Programs Richard Mullins noted, “This truly is a recognition of the University’s strong commitment to community engagement and making life better for the people of Connecticut.”

For more than 20 years, Central’s ITBD has been providing Connecticut’s businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs with the tools to start and grow successful companies — through technical training, skill development, industrial modernization, marketing, and financial and networking opportunities.

In March, Victory Energy Solutions, one of ITBD’s incubator companies, moved to a new location in New Britain after growing from two to 20 employees. Other incubators are increasing in size and considering moves as well. According to an article in The New Britain Herald, “Mullins views a start-up moving out like a proud father with an ambitious son or daughter.”

The ITBD “parents” many ambitious startups. LiveProud, a new incubator company located in ITBD’s downtown New Britain building, sells sporting, sailing, and yoga apparel made primarily from recyclable materials. According to Businessweek, “LiveProud uses fabric from recycled plastic bottles and other waste, such as corn husks and coconut shells...each shirt saves about 5.5 pounds of carbon emissions.” Babson College graduates and suitmates Phil Tepfer and Charles Bogoian brought their eco-apparel business to ITBD a little less than a year ago.

Bogoian enthuses, “All of the staff has been very supportive and willing to help in whatever way they can, whether brainstorming ideas or providing great networking opportunities. The fact that ITBD houses a variety of businesses provides even greater benefit. Although the company next door might be in a completely different industry, you usually find you are dealing with the same core obstacles. The ability to talk with others and gain a fresh perspective has helped Phil and myself come up with more well-rounded solutions for our own customers.”

Combining the expertise of a professional staff, academic experts, private sector advisors, and government resources, ITBD turns ideas, like those of LiveProud, into ventures. ITBD also aids the growth of existing businesses and helps Connecticut’s business community succeed in today’s challenging domestic and international market.

Some businesses seek specific support from ITBD. According to The New Britain Herald, “Jack Crowley, principal of JC Special T, a distributor of promotional products, recently hosted a trade show at ITBD...a new client placed a $1,200 promotional item order. The client told Crowley that without the show he would not have thought of JC Special T as a possible provider.”

That same article in the Herald also mentions Integral Storage Solutions, which uses “ITBD’s advisory services to help define its business model.” Additionally, “Tamion Corp., a company that facilitates business and government transactions, is finalizing the development of an innovative Internet search engine. Tom Psillas, president of Tamion, believes the program can create as many as 1,000 jobs.”

From local job creation to assisting “green” business development, ITBD has proven itself a vital bridge for new and existing companies to meet and exceed visions of productivity, sustainability, revenue, and expansion.

— Kate Callahan
CCSU alumna Leah Blayney ’10, a member of the Women’s Professional Soccer League’s Boston Breakers, was recently interviewed by bostonmusicspotlight.com.

The Branford Patch and The New Haven Register ran articles in June about the naming of the basketball court at Hammer Field in honor of Dominic Buonocore. The former first selectman, who received his master’s degree at CCSU in 1968, was thrilled at this recognition of his work in politics and in his community.

In June The Enfield Patch reported that Jeff Golden, who received his BA at CCSU in 1997, was promoted from lieutenant to captain of the Enfield Police Department.

The Freehold Patch printed a proclamation from Mayor Michael Wilson and the Freehold Borough Council honoring Rabbi Kenneth Green upon his retirement. Green received his master’s in secondary administration and supervision from CCSU in 1981.

The New Britain Herald featured a piece in June about the retirement of Linden Street Elementary School Principal Suzanne Greenbacker. Greenbacker graduated from CCSU in 1968 with a BSED and returned for her master’s in 1990.

In June The New Britain Herald ran an article about Libor Koznar’s journey to challenge the Israeli blockade of Gaza. Koznar, who graduated from CCSU in 2008 with a BS in marketing, joined some 35 Americans and 20 journalists on a ship that was one of a group of vessels from around the world.

Waterford’s Clark Lane Middle School Principal Michael Lovetere BS ’74, MS ’79, retired in June after a 36-year career in education, according to The Day.

CCSU alumnus Jason Newman ’95 was named one of Hartford Business Journal’s ‘40 Under Forty’ winners in August. The winners, who were from a wide range of backgrounds, all had a history of giving back to their communities.

In July The West Hartford Patch featured an article about the retirement of CCSU alumnus Ted Orzech ’56, who coached several sports during his long tenure at Farmington High School.

CCSU alumnus Brian Sarkozy, BA ’10, MAT ’11, was the subject of an article in The Hartford Courant this summer. Sarkozy, the only Central student to have earned a cross-endorsement in social studies and math, is taking what he learned at CCSU to the tiny Republic of the Marshall Islands in the Pacific where he will teach social studies at the Majuro Cooperative School.

According to The New Britain Herald former CCSU baseball standout Evan Scribner made his major league debut as a San Diego Padres pitcher in April against the Atlanta Braves. In June, he pitched in front of friends and relatives who came to watch his team play the Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park.

Tara Scrivano ’05 was one of three breast cancer survivors highlighted in a Hartford Courant article focusing on participants in Hartford’s Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure whose faces were featured on posters promoting the event.

CCSU alumnus Saragrace Tramont ’10 received some publicity in The Farmington Patch in July. Tramont, who quit her job to follow her dreams and love of fashion, opened Stile Boutique and Consignment on Farmington Avenue in Unionville at the end of June.
In June CCSU alumnus David Albrycht ’86 was named the first chief investment officer of Virtus Investment Partners, Inc., in Hartford. Albrycht, a veteran senior portfolio manager and Wall Street commentator, will be managing some $5.2 billion of Virtus’ fixed income assets.

Scott Allen ’85 was named Post University's Chief Financial Officer in July. In his new position, Allen, who holds a BS in management from CCSU, will be managing many facets of the university, from finances and budget to human resources and facilities.

In July, CCSU alumna Beverly Annello rejoined Murtha Cullina LLP as director of human resources. Annello received her BS in business education in 1984.

Jessica Bruenn ’99, a fifth-grade teacher at Strong Elementary School, is the 2011–2012 Southington Teacher of the Year.

Alumnus Michael Croft, who received his Sixth Year Certificate from CCSU in 2011, was hired as the new principal at the Cornwall Consolidated School over the summer.

In July Montville’s Board of Education named CCSU alumna Amy McCarty Espinoza as the principal of the Dr. Charles E. Murphy School. Espinoza received her bachelor’s degree in early childhood education in 1989 and her master’s in reading and language arts in 1992.

CCSU alum Michael Foran, BSED ’86, MS ’90, SYC ’92, was named the 2012 MetLife/National Association of Secondary School Principals National High School Principal of the Year in August. Foran is the first Connecticut principal to win the award, which includes a $5,000 grant for New Britain High School, where he serves as principal.

CCSU alumnus Justin Gusy was recently named the assistant principal of Rockville High School by the Vernon Board of Education. Gusy received his Sixth Year Certificate in 2009.

CCSU alumnus Jeffrey C. Kitching ’93 was named superintendent for Plainville by the town’s Board of Education in July. Kitching was also an adjunct lecturer of special education at Central.

Alumnus Andy Lee ’87 was inducted into the Norwich Sports Hall of Fame in June. He was a two-time batting champion while playing for CCSU.

Angela Miller, who received her master’s in mathematics in 2003, has been named as one of the two finalists for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Miller, who teaches math at Haddam-Killingworth High School, will be recognized in a ceremony in Hartford on October 17. The winner will be announced next year.

In August the Waterbury Board of Education named CCSU alumna Kathleen Ouellette MS ’87 as Waterbury’s new superintendent.

Judith Palmer is the new president of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents for 2011–2012. Palmer, who received her MS from CCSU in 1990, is the superintendent of Regional School District #7.

Former CCSU football standout Josue Paul signed a free agent contract with the Kansas City Chiefs in July.

Jaime Pitkin, BS ’01, MS ’06, a math teacher at East Hartford Middle School, was named East Hartford Teacher of the Year.

CCSU alumnus Patrick Sellers ’91 was recently appointed as the assistant coach of Hofstra University’s men’s basketball. Sellers served as the assistant coach for CCSU’s men’s team from 1999 to 2003, helping the team earn NCAA Tournament appearances in 2000 and 2002.

Jan Verderame, who graduated from CCSU in 1983, was promoted this summer to principal of Derynoski School in Southington. Verderame served as the assistant principal at the school since 2008.

Good News About Jobs and Grads!

In a July New Britain Herald article titled “CSUS grads finding success in workplace,” CCSU graduate Melanie Russell ’11 credits much of a recent promotion to Social Media Marketing Specialist to her business major, “I think the background in finance really helped me.” In the same article, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Carl Lovitt spoke about the school’s strengths, “CCSU has tried to impart as much practical experience as possible... We try to be responsive to work-force needs.”
Breaking Ground!

Governor Dannel P. Malloy (center), CCSU President Jack Miller (right), and DAS Commissioner Donald J. DeFronzo (left) showed high spirits as the three broke ground for Central’s new academic building on August 24. The building will house classrooms and offices for the Sociology, Anthropology, Political Science, Geography, and History departments and is expected to be completed by the summer of 2013.

A Day of New Beginnings at CCSU

Minutes after the ground-breaking ceremony for the new academic building (left to right), Governor Dannel P. Malloy, CCSU Library Director Carl Antonucci, and President Jack Miller led the ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of renovations to the first floor of the Elihu Burritt Library.