Chairman Mong-Koo Chung of the Hyundai Motor Company and Kia Motor Company (center), with Vice Chairman of Hyundai Kia Motors Yong Hwan Kim (far left), Vice Chairman of Hyundai Motor Company Euisun Chung (second from left), and Vice Chairman of Kia Motors Hyoung-Keun Lee (far right) greeted CCSU’s Vice President of Institutional Advancement Christopher Galligan (third from left), President Jack Miller (third from right), and Professor of Economics, Emeritus, Ki Hoon Kim (second from right) upon their arrival in Korea.

CCSU Travels Far to Nurture Relationships in Korea and China

In March, CCSU President Jack Miller, Vice President of Institutional Advancement Chris Galligan, and Professor of Economics, Emeritus, Ki Hoon Kim travelled to Asia to nurture relationships very special to CCSU.

Miller and Galligan visited Korea, with Professor Kim, to personally thank Chairman Mong-Koo Chung of the Hyundai Motor Company for the $3 million endowment gift he generously awarded to CCSU in 2005. The Dr. Mong-Koo Chung/Hyundai Motor America Endowment Fund enables Korean and CCSU students and faculty members to study and engage in research.

Chairman Chung was a gracious host to the three visitors. He arranged tours of both automobile assembly line and steel manufacturing facilities, as well as a helicopter tour of the area. Vice Chairman of Hyundai/Kia Motors Yong Hwan Kim, Vice Chairman of Hyundai Motor Company Euisun Chung, and Vice Chairman of Kia Motors Hyoung-Keun Lee also took part in the welcoming festivities.

CCSU has enjoyed a long relationship with Hyundai, dating back to the 1980s. Professor Kim and former New Britain Mayor William McNamara met Chairman Chung in 1986 when he visited the mayor’s office. Professor

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Kim was a special advisor to the mayor at that time and he has kept in touch with Chairman Chung ever since. In 1989 Chairman Chung received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from CCSU in recognition of his exemplary global leadership in the Asian automotive industry.

During a visit with Chairman Chung in 1994, Professor Kim suggested that CCSU host a summer business seminar for Hyundai managerial personnel. He established and directed CCSU’s Global Leadership Program—with the assistance of Associate Director of the Center for International Education Lisa Bigelow—and Hyundai sent some 30 executives, managers, and business leaders to the seminar each summer from 1995 to 1997. These four-week seminars helped participants improve their management skills and provided them with a better understanding of the global economy. Topics included economics, business practices and case studies, globalization and trade relations, marketing, and practical English conversation.

Chairman Chung invited several CCSU personnel and the former CSUS Chairman of the Board of Trustees Lawrence Davidson to take part in the opening ceremony of the $1.1 billion Hyundai automotive facility in Montgomery, Alabama. Former CCSU President Richard L. Judd, and his wife, Nancy, Dr. and Mrs. Kim, and McNamara participated in the program. It was then that Chairman Chung announced the $3 million donation for CCSU. On October 17, 2005, then Vice Chairman of Hyundai Motor Company (and CCSU Global Leadership Program alumnus) Jeon Kap Lee presented a check to Miller during a ceremony at CCSU.

And now Miller has finally had the opportunity to thank Chairman Chung personally for his generosity. During this recent visit Miller showed the University’s gratitude by offering two full scholarships to Hyundai personnel for MS degrees in Engineering Technology. Once these students graduate, Hyundai personnel will continue to be selected to receive the scholarships. During the visit, it was also proposed to re-establish special summer business seminars at CCSU. These seminars for 10-20 Hyundai/Kia managerial personnel will be similar to those hosted previously, but will run for two weeks.

A third project in the works between CCSU and Hyundai is a book about Korea’s tradition and culture. The manuscript will be written by experts in Korea and the US and edited by an editorial board at Hyundai. This publication will be available to Hyundai/Kia employees as well as the general public. It will be presented in a bilingual format in Korean and English to introduce Korean culture to foreigners. The book will cover history, geography, tradition, arts, pottery and crafts, politics and diplomacy, business management, economics, tourism, religion, education, customs and manners, food, and sports. Professor Kim is a consultant to the editorial board and will be writing about cultural differences for the book.

Before going to Korea, Miller and Galligan visited China, where they spent several days expanding collaborative efforts with Shandong Normal University (SDNU) and furthering CCSU’s efforts to establish a Confucius Institute through the Chinese Language Council International, or Hanban.

Miller met with Hanban officials to continue talks on a possible Confucius Institute at CCSU. The institute would promote the teaching of Chinese language, conduct exchange programs with China, and further Chinese cultural outreach in Connecticut. Confucius Institutes have been established worldwide.

Shandong Province, home to SDNU, has been Connecticut’s official sister-state since former Governor William A. O’Neill established the relationship in 1986. SDNU signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CCSU in 2007 “to establish mutually supportive cooperative relationships, which will emphasize the development of collaborative educational projects.” The MOU is administered at CCSU by the Center for International Education.

Miller and Galligan met with SDNU President Zhao Yanxiu and other school representatives to continue nurturing the relationships conducive to a deeper CCSU/SDNU partnership. Miller also met with officials from the Shandong Province Foreign Affairs Office, which oversees Shandong’s sister-state relationship with Connecticut, and officials from the Shandong Province Personnel Office, which awards study-abroad training programs to public officials. The US-China Center has conducted such training, in a variety of policy subject matter areas, at CCSU since 2002 and has also helped fund courses of study in China for Central’s students and faculty. To date, CCSU has sent 39 students and nine faculty members to study at SDNU.

Miller has asked Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Carl Lovitt and Steven Kliger, executive director of CCSU’s Center for Public Policy and Social Research, which oversees the US-China Center, to follow up on his initiatives in China. They will be travelling to Shandong this fall.
Mechanical engineers design, develop, and manufacture practically every kind of machine that you can think of, from simple household equipment to aerospace applications. Indeed, it is hard to find any product or service that has not been touched in some way or another by a mechanical engineer,” according to Associate Professor of Engineering Nidal Al-Masoud. With such a vast need for engineering expertise, CCSU introduced a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering (BSME) program in 2006. Professor of Engineering Peter Baumann, co-coordinator of CCSU’s mechanical engineering (ME) program with Al-Masoud, notes that the ME program has proven to be amazingly popular, growing from 42 majors in 2006 to 177 majors currently.

A large part of the popularity surely comes from the way in which the program responds to the breadth of demands for highly skilled engineers. As Al-Masoud notes, “Mechanical engineers can specialize in areas such as manufacturing, robotics, automotive/transportation, and air conditioning, and they can cross into a variety of disciplines, working in the biomechanical and biomedical industries and nanoscale manufacturing as well.”

Because the discipline is so richly varied, CCSU’s BSME curriculum has been developed to offer a wide range of general courses that will prepare mechanical engineering graduates for many different roles in many different industries.

Majors acquire the general engineering competencies through courses that focus on the ability to apply mathematics, science, and engineering principles to solve mechanical engineering problems. They design and conduct experiments to analyze and interpret data with access to state-of-the-art laboratories (fuel mechanics, heat transfer, materials, instrumentation and control, and aerospace). Since mechanical engineers often design mechanisms using computer-aided design (CAD) programs and then fabricate components using machine shop tools, students have the use of 10 CAD labs. They also develop the ability to function effectively on multi-disciplinary teams within a diverse environment.

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Concentrations in Manufacturing and Aerospace
But what makes CCSU’s program unique in Connecticut is that it is also designed with two concentrations: manufacturing and aerospace studies. Both of these draw on the School of Engineering & Technology’s deep educational and technical resources (which include existing engineering labs and a new engineering lab building currently under construction) and respond to the workforce needs of the large number of aerospace and manufacturing industries in Connecticut.

Internship Requirement
To further prepare for exciting engineering careers, students in the program gain extensive experience in dealing with real-world mechanical engineering problems and projects through 400 hours of internships at area industries, such as Pratt & Whitney, Sikorsky, Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Volvo, Trumpf USA, General Dynamics, Henkel, Whelen Engineering, and Covidien. Those internships have often turned into actual career-starting jobs, as well as providing majors with valuable insights.

Senior Margarita Gudzon has been an intern at Covidien (formerly US Surgical Corp.) since 2008. She’s been able to apply mechanical engineering expertise in developing and executing tests for validations of new biomaterials and existing products and providing comprehensive data to support product development initiatives for surgical devices.

“At Covidien, I’ve continued learning new skills and concepts in the professional practice of mechanical engineering and developing my understanding of the ethical and environmental implications involved in this field,” she comments. “Most importantly, working at Covidien has exposed me to biomedical engineering, a field I would like to pursue as a career.”

CCSU mechanical engineering students graduate with a solid degree—one accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). “This is a significant achievement that is vital for the institution, program, employers, and, most importantly, students and alumni,” states Al-Masoud.

Aaron J. Danenberg BSME ’09 is pursuing a master’s in mechanical engineering at the University of Hartford. Currently a graduate research assistant working under a Department of Energy grant, he is planning a career in geothermal system design, gas turbine analysis, or aerodynamics.

“CCSU presents its students with opportunities to complement their classroom education with various outside research projects,” he observes. “Dr. Al Gates has helped facilitate numerous opportunities for students.”

Baumann remarks “It’s exciting to witness big, extracurricular projects undertaken by our seniors. They’ve taken on the NASA moon-buggy project, designing, building, and racing a moon rover vehicle under the auspices of the student Lunar Exploration Club, advised by Associate Professor Viatcheslav Naoumov. The race takes place in Huntsville, AL, and this year our students placed 22nd in a field of 42.” CCSU engineering students have also participated in the Electric Mountain Bike competition, sponsored by the American Society for Mechanical Engineering—coming in second recently in the Student Performance Development category.

Diverse Faculty Expertise
Matching the program’s diversity of offerings, CCSU’s ME faculty present an array of expertise: Baumann (materials engineering) and Al-Masoud (control systems, thermal fluids); Professor Alfred Gates (Engineering Department chair, specializations include finite elements, thermo fluid design, and fuel cells); Assistant Professor Steven Kirstukas (computer-aided design); Associate Professor Viatcheslav Naoumov (aerospace); Professor Zbigniew Prusak (manufacturing engineering and design); and Assistant Professor Thomas Vasko (finite element analysis).

The Next Generation of Engineering Leaders in Connecticut
When the mechanical engineering program was launched in 2006, The New Britain Herald reported that “industry leaders applauded the program, saying that it was critical to retaining the next generation of engineering leaders in Connecticut.” With an increasing number of majors in the pipeline, CCSU is making good on that promise.

—Geri Radacsi
Growing up in Jordan, Joseph Farhat loved mathematics, and he embraced his teacher’s advice to think of numbers not as static but as “talking” things. Today, as Associate Professor of Finance in the School of Business, he expands upon that lesson. He urges students to understand what numbers are saying about the workings of financial markets and the financing of companies; about how money is borrowed, managed, and invested; about the value of stock; and about why companies merge.

While his natural bent has always been toward the analytical and quantitative, Farhat’s teaching is firmly rooted not only in a passion for his discipline—finance—but in caring about students. He says, “I’ve found during my years of teaching that students who feel cared for are more motivated, engaged in learning, and encouraged to overcome academic problems.”

Farhat manifests his caring in concrete and creative ways, sometimes by using technology in the classroom. Most recently he was selected as the 2011 university-level CSUS Trustees Teaching Award recipient. (See page 17 for more information on this award.) He was praised for, among other things, “using the web to promote experiential and collaborative learning and for creating an online repository for case studies that gives students an opportunity to publish their projects and web-based tutorials and simulations.”

Tina Maria Pereira ’09, a financial advisor associate with Asset Strategies, Inc., explains, “Dr. Farhat created financial calculator video tutorials. He had a website with a virtual financial calculator to help us learn how to use it (very, very helpful).”

Fellow CCSU graduate Miralem Cecunjanin ’09 successfully completed the Chartered Financial Analyst Level I exam this past December. The CFA designation has become the most respected and recognized investment credential in the world. Cecunjanin says, “There are hundreds of formulas to remember. The exam is timed, taking eight hours. Dr. Farhat taught me not only the theory, but how to take the exam, manage the time, and analyze and solve ‘tricky’ questions and problems. Without his help I wouldn’t have been able to pass the CFA exam.”

A teaching aid Farhat uses to emphasize experiential learning is his website—www.FinanceCt.net—which provides students with current financial data and financial news related to the classes he is teaching.

“Mainly, my goal is to provide students with the analytical skills (which are not covered in traditional class settings) they need to succeed in the financial industry.”
Joseph Farhat

With the support of the Department of Finance, Farhat initiated the Finance Preparatory Program (FPP) in 2009. He explains, “As a response to industry demand, the FPP aims to enhance job-readiness of our finance majors for entry into the financial industry and to ensure a better alignment between pre-employment training and the skills that financial-sector employers expect from new graduates. Mainly, my goal is to provide students with the analytical skills (which are not covered in traditional class settings) they need to succeed in the financial industry.”

As part of the FPP, Farhat has volunteered to conduct advanced financial Excel workshops. Furthermore as Patrick Arrigoni ’10, now a senior financial analyst in Corporate Finance at The Travelers, relates, Farhat’s Financial Modeling course was valuable because of its concentration on Excel. “I learned the true potential of the software and its application,” he says. “In the interview for my present job, I discussed the course and I think my hands-on experience helped set me apart.” He remarks, “I will remember Dr. Farhat as the teacher who always wanted to do more.”

“One Step Ahead in the Competitive Financial Job Market”

Erik Lecco, a senior who graduated in May, says of the upper-level Financial Derivatives course, “We employed our knowledge of derivatives by using Stock-Track, an online mock trading platform where we utilized derivative trading strategies in a real-time setting. Such ‘learning by doing,’ puts students one step ahead in the competitive job market for entry-level financial positions. Dr. Farhat put us in the chair of a financial manager, asking us to approach the problem from a managerial perspective. This gave students a good idea of what to expect in a professional setting.”

Farhat, who has repeatedly been on CCSU’s Excellence in Teaching Honor Roll and was a finalist this year, has been expanding his own knowledge in his discipline. He holds a PhD in financial economics, with a specialization in corporate finance and investments from the University of New Orleans; a master’s from the University of Jordan; and a bachelor’s from the Zagazig University, Egypt (both in economics). Prior to joining CCSU in 2006, Farhat taught finance at Southern Connecticut State University, and he held a number of teaching positions in Jordan.

Farhat is the founder and the editor of the Banking and Finance Review (BFR), a bi-annual, peer-reviewed international research journal that provides a publication outlet for theoretical as well as empirical issues in the fields of banking and finance. Pursuing research interests in corporate finance, banking, and quantitative finance, he has been published in a dozen professional journals.

Pereira remarks, “Dr. Farhat is by far the best teacher I ever had. Because of him I had the confidence to land my dream job in finance right in the middle of the economic downturn. He was always patient and kind, and he offered books, extra materials and seminars, meetings, and outside help. He is a practical teacher who teaches real life along with business theory.”

— Geri Radacs

CCSU Students Honored by State Legislators

Two students from CCSU were honored by the Connecticut General Assembly at the State Capitol last semester. Elizabeth Benfield (left) and Kara Noe (right) were recognized, along with six other students from the Connecticut State University System. Each year state lawmakers recognize outstanding students from each of Connecticut’s public and private colleges and universities. Students are selected by their schools for their outstanding academic achievements and extracurricular involvement.
Daniel Wiener
Improv and Psychotherapy

Daniel Wiener remembers his epiphany. It struck in a warm-up session while he was pursuing a hobby—performing in an improvisation troupe. His wife, actress and teacher of acting Gloria Maddox (now deceased), had taught him theatre improvisation. A specialist in couples therapy, Wiener observed a visiting player struggling to create a scene with a veteran actor. “They were disastrous together but worked well with other partners,” he recalls.

Wiener, who now is a professor in CCSU’s Counseling and Family Therapy Department teaching in the graduate Marriage and Family Therapy program, made a breakthrough. As a clinician he had observed people who appeared socially skilled and emotionally balanced when seen individually but displayed considerable dysfunction when interacting with their spouses. “At that moment, I grasped that good improvising has a lot in common with good relationship functioning,” he says. “Both require offering others a clear sense of oneself, cooperation, support, attending closely to others, giving up anxious over-control, and making others look good.”

In 1985, Wiener founded Rehearsals! for Growth (RfG), a drama therapy approach that uses improvisational theatre techniques and focuses on relationships. “By 1990 I had put into practice improvisation exercises frequently useful as interventions in working on such relationship issues as role flexibility, status equality, range of emotional expressiveness, cooperation/competitiveness, mutuality, intimacy, and capacity for play,” he relates.

The main advantages of improvisation techniques over purely verbal ones are twofold. Wiener says they encourage participation from the less verbally facile partner who often becomes bored or feels disadvantaged in “talk-only” therapy. Further, they create powerful learning experiences that often serve as blueprints or models for desirable changes in interaction. “For all its benefits, improvisation technique is not a complete therapy in itself; rather, it may be likened to vitamins which may supplement, but not replace, food,” says Wiener.

Wiener’s Distinguished Experience
Licensed both as a psychologist and a marriage and family therapist, Weiner is a registered drama therapist and a board-certified master teacher-trainer. He joined CCSU in 1999 and has more than 30 years of experience in academic teaching, psychotherapy practice, postgraduate clinical training, and organizational consulting. Since founding RfG, he has offered RfG training to clinicians, educators, and laypersons and has continuously presented this work both nationally and internationally at more than 100 professional conferences.

He has written five books, 22 chapters, and 18 articles on the application of action methods in psychotherapy. Here’s a sampling of his writings:

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Rehearsals for Growth: Theater Improvisation for Psychotherapists (Norton, 1994) captures the attractive quality of improving and shows how to apply more than 150 variations of games and exercises to therapy. Beyond Talk Therapy: Using Movement and Expressive Techniques in Clinical Practice (APA Books, 1999) is a comprehensive guide to practical action methods drawn from therapies using art, music, dance, drama, yoga, and ritual.

Action Therapy with Families and Groups: Using Creative Arts Improvisation in Clinical Practice (APA Books, 2003) introduces clinicians to innovative therapeutic options that can be used with families and groups. It covers action methods or therapy approaches involving physical movement and expressive arts techniques.

Adding to an impressive number of professional awards, Wiener was last year’s recipient of the National Association for Drama Therapy’s Gertrud Schattner Award, given in recognition of distinguished contributions to the field of drama therapy in education, publication, practice, and service.

More than a dozen CSU and CCSU research grants have furthered Wiener’s scholarship. Most recently, he’s applied for a grant to support his latest work looking at the concept of validation from a research perspective. He says, “Validation is a key part of feeling satisfied in a relationship, and improvisation serves as a tool for achieving mutual validation. We plan to look at people’s self-reports on how well they get along. Also, we’ll use consensus Rorschach testing to see how two people come up with one description and negotiate what answer they are going to give.”

Wiener points out a particular benefit of applying the drama therapy approach: “We tend to think of therapy as finding out who we are, but this therapy can help us see who else we might be.”

As Wiener uses RfG to teach marriage and family therapy concepts and hones his students’ clinical skills, he has developed novel ways of training future therapists. His scholarship and teaching are leading the way for his students to develop as effective healing and change agents for both their clients and themselves. “It’s given me continual satisfaction,” he says, “working with clients and my students. I enjoy all my roles as a teacher, therapist, researcher, and performer.”

— Geri Radacsi

His scholarship and teaching are leading the way for his students to develop as effective healing and change agents for both their clients and themselves.

New Director at CCSU

In March Yvonne Kirby joined CCSU as the new director of Institutional Research and Assessment. Previously serving as the assistant director of Institutional Research at the University of Arkansas, Kirby holds a master’s degree from the University of Nebraska. She has held leadership positions in national professional organizations devoted to institutional research and has had several appointments as a research specialist.

CCSU Celebrates Employees

In April CCSU held a Service Awards and Retiree Recognition Ceremony and Reception to honor retirees, as well as faculty and staff with 20, 30, and 40 years of continuous service to the University. As part of the ceremony, the third annual Performance Excellence Award for Support Staff was presented to Secretary of the School of Business Joanne Carroll (above).
Think back to your first experience with disability. Were you in the grocery store or a restaurant? What happened? How did you or the people around you react? Students in Assistant Professor of Counseling and Family Therapy Cherie King’s Introduction to Rehabilitation Counseling course face provocative questions like these on the first day of class. King exposes her students, through self-reflection and sharing, to the often-ignored prejudices that individuals with disabilities face on a daily basis. In King’s graduate-level class students look to themselves to understand how their polite or learned responses often mask unexamined fears about disability.

CCSU’s rehabilitation counseling master’s program is singular to Connecticut and the only program of its kind that is accredited by CORE (Council on Rehabilitation Education). In 2010, thanks to King’s massive grant writing and goal-developing efforts, a significant Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) grant was procured from the Department of Education in the amount of $750,000. Currently, CCSU is the only school in Connecticut receiving this grant. The RSA grant, enabled over five years, supports students like recent graduate Leonore Zacchio ’11, who earned a master’s of science in professional counseling, with tuition and a stipend to help lessen the financial burden of being a full-time student.

Zacchio, who herself has a physical disability, says “I’m glad Cherie took the time to [obtain the grant]. The professors here are very personable; they understand people and know how to work with a wide variety of cultures.” Zacchio’s academic experiences “were life changing.” She reflects, “It’s so important to learn about ourselves so we can see where our judgments lie and be aware of them when we’re working with people so they don’t get in the way anymore.”

Individuals with disabilities are a marginalized population who often need assistance entering the work force or supporting a family. According to King, “Rehabilitation counselors believe that disability doesn’t define a person.” This person-first philosophy does away with identifying someone as “a schizophrenic,” for example, and favors “an individual who experiences schizophrenia.” Rehabilitation counselors help people bridge the gap between being isolated and entering the community.

The rehabilitation counseling master’s program, started at Central in the 1980s by Professor of Counseling and Family Therapy Judith Rosenberg, prepares students for work in a variety of rehabilitation, human service, and community agencies, assisting individuals with emotional, mental, social, and physical disabilities and challenges. Today, war veterans returning from deployments with injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder account for a large percentage of individuals who seek services from rehabilitation counselors.

Rehabilitation counseling is the only profession that has been legislated. The Rehab Act of 1973 established that the need for qualified counselors to work with people with disabilities was imminent. That need still exists with today’s economy. King remarks, “individuals with disabilities are more likely to be underemployed.” The legislation determined that in order to attract the most qualified counselors, scholarships and opportunities for higher education should be provided.

Students who benefit from these opportunities — called RSA scholars upon graduation — promise to work for two years in the public RSA sector or nonprofit sector for every one year of funding they receive.

The RSA grant is expected to fund 35-40 students seeking master’s degrees. Prospective grant recipients who are focused on rehabilitation counseling careers must apply for the funding and meet academic requirements. King says, “The RSA has always been able to show that if we spend this money to fund higher education for prospective counselors, it makes sense for everyone economically. People with disabilities become independent, self-sufficient, employed tax payers and consumers.” Counselors benefit as well, receiving the training and support that enables satisfying careers in the field.

King models the compassion and progressive intentions of an RSA scholar. She benefited from the grant as a master’s student at Springfield College in Massachusetts and later in her doctoral work at Boston University.

— Kate Callahan
Last semester alumna Carol A. Ammon ’73 graced CCSU with an $8 million gift; she said it was her way of thanking CCSU for pointing her in the right direction academically and professionally. Her gift—the largest ever given to the University—will be used to fund student scholarships and for academic program support. As a gesture of gratitude, the Connecticut State University Board of Trustees voted to name the School of Arts & Sciences the Carol A. Ammon School of Arts & Sciences.

In May, CCSU celebrated the naming of the Carol A. Ammon School of Arts and Sciences. Following the unveiling of the new name, Dean of the School Susan Pease, Ammon, and CCSU President Jack Miller were all smiles (top photo).

Center photo: Pease (left) and Ammon (center) posed with five of the first eleven scholarship recipients—from left to right, Katia Feliz, Heath Leber, Jennifer Cahill, Rachel Spagnoletti, and Victoria Sepe. Leber is also a recipient of the Fran Libera Scholarship, funded by Ammon three years ago.

Later in the day Ammon received the Presidential Medal from Miller during the Honors Convocation, as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Carl Lovitt looked on (bottom photo).
Student in the Spotlight

Michael Walsh
Getting Involved and Finding His Calling

On any given Monday night last semester, Michael Walsh ’11 could be found in the Student Center, working into the wee hours of Tuesday morning to lay out and finalize content for The Recorder, CCSU’s weekly student-run newspaper. Editor-in-chief since the fall of 2010, Walsh spent 10 to 12 hours on these production days, in addition to devoting many hours during the rest of the week to editing articles written by staffers, brainstorming and holding critique sessions with section editors, keeping the website up to date, and doing his own reporting—he'd even provide live Twitter updates from the Student Government Association meetings. All of this was a labor of love for the senior from Wethersfield, CT, who relished the responsibility and the creative license involved in producing the 12-page weekly with a circulation of 3,000 print copies. “At Central they give us probably as much freedom as any student newspaper in the country,” he said. “It’s really up to me and my coworkers as to what goes in, and what doesn’t, and it’s really exciting to be able to create that.”

One of Walsh’s jobs was to develop ideas for editorials, which were written by him or by his opinion editor. He also wrote his own editor’s column. In his November 15 opinion piece, titled “You Only Get What You Give,” Walsh lamented the lack of student involvement in campus activities—involvement that would benefit students individually and contribute to the community as a whole. The topic became Walsh’s particular campaign during his reign as editor-in-chief. He noted that too many students are quick to talk down the University, while also failing to take advantage of opportunities to enhance their college experiences, develop career-related skills, and make CCSU a more vibrant place. Said Walsh, “It’s what you make of it.”

The truth is, Walsh himself used to be one of those fairly indifferent students a few years ago. It was really his interest in movies that opened the door to journalism. A film aficionado since high school (favorites include the 1978 zombie classic Dawn of the Dead and Ingmar Bergman’s The Seventh Seal), he began doing film reviews for The Recorder in the fall of 2008. He found he enjoyed the writing and, with each successive term, took on greater responsibility, becoming a staff writer, assistant entertainment editor, and ultimately landing the position of editor-in-chief. “I thought it would be a good idea to get involved,” he said. “I didn’t realize it would get to this level, but I’m glad it did.”

Walsh had been a communication major without much of a sense of his ultimate career path, but his work for The Recorder changed all that. Having found his true calling, he switched his major to journalism, with a minor in film studies. He viewed his work at The Recorder as the perfect way to take what he’s learned in the classroom and put it into practice—something he recommended to all journalism students. “It’s one thing when a teacher is the only person who reads what you write,” he notes, “and another when you are held accountable for every word that appears in a publication available to the entire campus community.”

During the spring semester, Walsh gained professional experience with an internship at The Hartford Courant—and stayed on for a paid internship over the summer—although he continued his role as The Recorder’s top boss. Walsh never took for granted the fact that he enjoyed “an elusive and exclusive job.” He mused, “How often do you get to be editor-in-chief of anything?”

— Leslie Virostek
Student in the Spotlight

Casey Casserino
Using the World as Her Classroom

Casey Casserino, who graduated in May, likes to travel by air. She’s flown to Korea, China, and Japan, all via CCSU’s study abroad program, administered by the George R. Muirhead Center for International Education (CIE).

An international studies major whose interests range from international law to journalism and archaeology, Casserino’s interest in Asia began at a young age. “I was one of those kids who would just go and read for hours and hours,” she said, “and I was fascinated with the art and architecture of Asia.” Casserino convinced her parents to let her study abroad during her senior year at Berlin High School—as long as she found a way to pay for it.

“I tracked down some people from the Rotary Club, which has an exchange program,” she said. With their help, she spent her entire senior year in Taiwan. It was her first solo trip abroad. She loved it. Upon her return, Casserino saw CCSU as a means to continue this love affair.

“That is one of the reasons I came to Central,” Casserino said. She didn’t waste much time. “I think it was the first week I was here, I went to CIE, ‘How do you get me to Japan?’ These people must have asked, ‘Who is this cocky little girl? Who does she think she is?’ But I told them I had done this before and this is what I wanted to do.”

CIE Study Abroad Advisor Erin Beecher assists students with all aspects of CCSU’s study abroad programs. She remembers meeting Casserino. “When I first met Casey, she was really young. I couldn’t believe it,” Beecher said. “The way she talks and acts, I thought she was much older—and she had already had such an amazing experience.” Beecher spoke highly of Casserino’s passion and ambition.

Through CCSU, and its sister schools abroad, Casserino moved like a whirlwind throughout East Asia. She attended a two-week course abroad in China in 2007. From there she flew directly to Osaka, Japan, for the 2007 fall semester at Kansai Gaidai University. After a two-month hiatus back in Connecticut, she spent the 2008 spring semester at Northwest University in Xi’an, China. Immediately following that was the one-month Kyung Hee Global Collaborative Program in Seoul, South Korea studying global governance and civil society. She returned to Connecticut for another year before darting back to South Korea to participate in the same program, this time staying for the 2009 fall semester at Kyung Hee University.

When asked if she ever felt apprehensive about entering a new country for the first time, Casserino remarked that, “A lot of people used to say ‘You must be really brave,’ and I would just look at them and say, ‘But I’m not scared. It’s just really exciting. I love it.’”

For Casserino, the most important lessons she learned abroad weren’t on her syllabi. “You learn a lot about yourself and you also learn how to be patient with people.” She commented on the importance of keeping an open mind and learning how to really listen to someone—tools she hopes to use after graduation.

— Taylor Zavattero

CCSU Joins Memorial Day Parade to Honor the Fallen

“The more the merrier” was this year’s call as CCSU President Jack Miller, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Carl R. Lovitt, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Paul Schlickmann, and numerous Central faculty, staff, and students marched in New Britain’s Memorial Day Parade. CCSU spirit was on display with a school banner from the office of Recruitment and Admissions. Various “give-aways” were made possible by the Carol A. Ammon School of Arts and Sciences, the English Department, and the Student Center, among others.
Four CCSU Students Receive Distinguished Honor

Four exceptional CCSU seniors were honored, along with other students from the Connecticut State University System, at the 23rd Annual Henry Barnard Distinguished Student Awards Banquet in May. Rustan Javier Crespo, Lauren Marie Salvia, Mary-Jo Callaghan, and Kathryn Lonczewski all have exemplary records of community service as well as GPAs of 3.75 or higher. CCSU President Jack Miller spoke about each CCSU recipient as he handed out the awards.

Mary-Jo Callaghan, a sociology major with a 3.75 GPA, received a grant while at CCSU to travel to Techiman, Ghana, where she worked in the Ayi Owen International School. Living in a compound with 15 orphaned girls, Callaghan taught math, helped re-write the elementary math curriculum, and participated in a project aimed at empowering girls. She also received the Clinton Innovation Award Grant and is a member of the Phi Sigma Sigma Sorority, Alpha Kappa Delta Honors Society, and CCSU Honors Program. She co-founded and served as treasurer of the Sociology Club and worked with the Girl Scouts and City Year Boston programs, teaching inner-city elementary students. Callaghan was an intern at Jefferson Elementary School in New Britain, where she tutored students in math and reading, and worked with the Vermont Crisis Intervention Network, where she will work full time after graduating.

Rustan Javier Crespo, a mechanical engineering major and mathematics minor with a 3.83 GPA, earned the 21st Century Diversity Scholarship and the Duffy Memorial Scholarship and served as a member of the CCSU Formula SAE team. He informally tutored and assisted other students and served as a leader and role model for student projects and labs, as well as technical student activities. Crespo assisted with engineering projects that provided attention on both the local and national level for CCSU and the School of Engineering and Technology. One of his professors described him as an “engineer’s engineer.”

Kathryn Lonczewski, a sociology major and communications minor with a 3.94 GPA, is a member of the Alpha Kappa Delta Honors Society, served as president of the CCSU Sociology Club, and was a founding member of the CCSU Diversity Advocates. She worked as an intern for the Connecticut Association for Human Services, volunteered with the South Windsor Jaycees, and worked with AmeriCorps to help rebuild the Upper 9th Ward of New Orleans. Lonczewski has presented her work at conferences and traveled to Kauai, Hawaii, as a member of CCSU’s Global Village Habitat for Humanity team.

Lauren Marie Salvia, an international business major and marketing minor with a 3.78 GPA, is a member of the National Scholars Honor Society, the Golden Key International Honor Society, and the Delta Mu Delta Business Honor Society and was Student Athlete Advisory Committee treasurer. She was a member of the women’s NCAA Division I soccer team and received the Central Connecticut Athletic Academic Award and Northeast Conference Commissioners Award. She was named NSCAA Scholar Athlete All-Region and named to the Northeast Conference Scholar Athlete All-Academic Team. She was an intern for Nussbaum Yates Berg Klein & Wolpow, LLP, and for the Travelers Championship and volunteered with the Special Olympics.

Raising Awareness, Saving Lives

CCSU has officially made the AED/CPR training program a part of the office of Environmental Health and Safety. Regularly scheduled programs will be offered to the CCSU community for training in American Heart Association-certified life-saving skills. To underscore the importance of raising awareness of Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) and the use of CPR and AEDs (Automated External Defibrillator) to save lives, a special event will be also be held on Monday, October 10, from 3–6 p.m. in Alumni Hall, Student Center, to honor Connecticut heroes who have saved lives and to recognize the survivors. Local and state officials and community leaders will also be attending. The event is sponsored by CCSU’s AED/CPR training program and the Connecticut chapter of the national Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association (SCAA), as well as by CCSU’s office of the President and the office of Environmental Health and Safety.
International Studies Lecture Series Opens Eyes, Educates Community

During the spring semester, the Office of the Provost and the International and Area Studies Program sponsored a lecture series on issues affecting the global community, with a focus on internally displaced people and refugees. The series began in February with “Sans-Papiers on Strike: Undocumented Migrants and Social Movements in France since the 1970s,” a lecture by Leila Kawar, assistant professor of politics at Bates College.

Chris George (above), executive director of Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) of CT, lectured with Husham Hussain on “Refugee Resettlement—Our Nation’s Proudest Tradition and Best Kept Secret: The Joys and Challenges of Welcoming Refugees to Connecticut.” Hussain, an Iraqi refugee currently employed as a caseworker and interpreter for IRIS, gave the audience a first-hand account of life as a refugee in Connecticut.

Vazira Fazila-Yacoobali Zamindar, associate professor of history at Brown University, spoke about “Drawing Lines in South Asia: Refugees and the Making of Nation States.” Her lecture focused on the drawing of political boundaries for India and Pakistan, making distinct nation-states in the midst of a chaotic time for that region.

Gina Ulysse, associate professor of anthropology at Wesleyan University, recounted conversations with women in Haiti, and abroad, after that country’s devastating earthquake. In her lecture “When the Body Is a Country’s Archive: Some Women’s Stories of Trauma, Stories of Will,” she noted that the body acts as an archive of the nation and its diaspora to make an argument for the continuous significance of feminist methods.

CCSU Professor of Anthropology David Kideckel hosted “State Violence and Civic Resistance in Post Socialist Romania” with guest speakers Catalin Avramescu, a reader in political science at the University of Bucharest, Romania, and Alin Rus, a professor from Assumption College in Worcester, MA. The presentation connected the violence of some 21 years ago to the political unrest currently occurring in the Middle East, especially in Egypt and Libya. Other special guests included Scientific Director Mihail Neamu and Researcher Clara Mare from the Institute for the Investigation of the Crimes of Communism and for the Memory of the Romanian Exile.

Katherine Stitham and Elisheva Cohen delivered the lecture “Iraqi Refugees in Jordan and Syria: Integration and Education,” explaining how Iraqi refugees’ visitor status affects integration into their host countries and discussing the implications this has on the education of Iraqi youth. Another lecture on the Middle East, “The Good War: Liberal Intervention and the Promotion of Democracy in Afghanistan,” was delivered by Michael Williams, a fellow of the Inter-University Seminar on the Armed Forces and Society and managing director for Caerus Europe.

Wenona Rymond-Richmond, assistant professor of sociology at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, gave a talk about internally displaced people in Sudan, titled “Racism and Dehumanization in the Darfur Genocide.”

The final lecture of the series was delivered by Cawo Abdi, assistant professor of sociology at the University of Minnesota. In his lecture, “The Newest African-Americans? Somali-Americans’ Struggles of Belonging,” Abdi examined the perspective of Somali refugees in America.

— Erica Bliss
Wasting no time in kicking off Women’s History Month, the Ruthe Boyea Women’s Center sponsored a lecture on the first day of March by Dr. Melinda Rising, who spoke about her book, *Put the Blame on Eve: What Women Must Overcome to Feel Worthy*. An educator and women’s advocate, Rising is a CCSU alum who earned a master’s in 1980 and a certificate for supervision and curriculum development in 1984. In addressing women’s struggles for equal pay and respect, she notes that Eve was blamed for “The Fall of Man,” and the story has been spun to make all women seem to be deserving of being held down or back. Rising discussed how knowing this story can lead toward eventual gender equality.

Later that day, the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program and the Committee on the Concerns of Women sponsored a screening of the film *Iron-Jawed Angels*, starring Hillary Swank and Angelica Houston. Set in the 1910s during the Women’s Suffrage movement, the film focuses on women who sacrificed their health and marriages—picketing and going on hunger strikes—for the right of future generations to vote and run for office. Many were imprisoned and force-fed, earning them the nickname “iron-jawed angels.”

The Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program hosted their Annual Women’s History Month Luncheon a few days later. Keynote speaker Linda Gordon, the Florence Kelley Professor of History at New York University, lectured on “Birth Control and Abortion: A Long Historical View.” Gordon’s first book, *Woman’s Body, Woman’s Right: The History of Birth Control in America*, later revised and republished as *The Moral Property of Women*, is considered by many as the “go to” book on the history of birth-control politics in the US. The luncheon was also sponsored by the Committee on the Concerns of Women and the Women’s Center.

The following week, Barbara Sicherman, the William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of American Institutions and Values, emerita, from Trinity College, spoke about “Well Read Lives: How Books Inspired a Generation of American Women.” During her lecture, Sicherman spoke about young women who gained insight about themselves while lost in their reading and her hope that contemporary readers are able to do the same. The event was sponsored by the Committee on the Concerns of Women, the Women’s Center, and the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program.

On International Women’s Day, the Women’s Center screened three international films that gave audiences a better understanding of the backgrounds of the female filmmakers. In the first film, *Salata Baladi (An Egyptian Salad)*, award-winning Egyptian filmmaker Nadia Kamel embarks on a personal journey to Israel and Italy with her mother and nephew, confronting fears and prejudices along the way. Kamel was inspired by her mother to challenge the boundaries between cultures, religions, and nationalities that divide people in Egyptian society. Her mother, half-Jewish, half-Christian, converted to Islam when she married Kamel’s half-Turkish, half-Ukrainian father. In the second documentary film, *Senorita Extraviada, Missing Young Woman*, Lourdes Portillo uses the stories and testimonies of victim’s families to search for the truth behind the kidnapping, rape, and murder of hundreds of young women in Juarez, Mexico. The third film, *Africa, Africas*, is a three-part series exploring the social and cultural realities in Africa today. Agnes Ndibi’s *Fantacoca* focuses on the cultural phenomenon of skin bleaching in Cameroon and on issues of Black pride and identity. *The River Between Us*, by Maji-da Abdi, documents the effects of war on a community of Ethiopian women and children who were forcibly relocated to refugee camps. *Laafi Bala*, by Fanta Regina Nacro, investigates the causes of wide-spread unemployment and economic hardship.

Keynote speaker Linda Gordon (left) addressed attendees at the Annual Women’s History Month Luncheon in March. In her talk, “Birth Control and Abortion: A Long Historical View,” Gordon gave an historical perspective on the controversial birth control debate. Gordon’s books have received two Bancroft Prizes and the Berkshire Prize.
poverty in Burkina Faso and their debilitating effect on women and youth.

Another event, sponsored by the Women’s Center, featured Board Certified Sexologist, ACS, and Certified Sexuality Educator, AASECT, Megan Andelloux, who gave a lecture titled “Sexual Intimacy! College Campus Style.” Andelloux talked to the audience about how sexual intimacy and safe sex can happily exist together.

The Women’s Center also sponsored the making of a 2011 Take Back the Night Quilt. The Take Back the Night organization works to “shatter the silence” of abuse, domestic violence, and rape by bringing people together to have their stories and voices heard.

At the end of the month, Lilly Ledbetter spoke at CCSU about gender discrimination in the workplace. Ledbetter started working for Goodyear in 1979. Nineteen years later, after retiring early, she sued the company, claiming pay discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Equal Pay Act of 1963. Due to a policy at Goodyear forbidding employees from sharing salary information, she was unaware that she had been making less than her male colleagues. In 2007, she lost her case before the Supreme Court when justices ruled that the law required discrimination to be challenged within 180 days. In 2009 President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, reversing the effect of the Court’s decision and allowing plaintiffs to seek compensation for ongoing discrimination. Ledbetter will be inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame in September. Her visit was sponsored by the Women’s Center and the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program.

— Erica Bliss

Double Honors for Educational Leadership

Professor of Educational Leadership Tony Rigazio-Digilio and his department are being lauded for their significant achievements. Students of CCSU’s administrator preparation program out performed all others on the Connecticut Administrator Test, and Rigazio-Digilio has been selected as Connecticut’s 2011 Education Leader of the Year.

This past spring, the Connecticut State Board of Education and its Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development presented Rigazio-Digilio with a plaque and official state proclamation stating that he had brought “great honor to his community, his state, and his profession.”

Dean of CCSU’s School of Education and Professional Studies Mitchell Sakofs describes the honoree as “One of the most talented and best known school administrators in the state.”

“He is the go-to person for many districts when they need professional development or school administrator coaching,” says Sakofs, who adds, “He possesses a great depth of knowledge and skill, and he is approachable—a combination that has contributed to his success as an educator.”

As chair of his department, Rigazio-Digilio was instrumental in developing the EdD program in educational leadership. In its 10 year history, the program has contributed to the number of highly qualified principals and superintendents in the state—an accomplishment supported by the recently released analysis of the Connecticut Administrator Test (CAT).

To be certified, aspiring administrators are required to take the test, and the state requires a first-time pass rate of 80%. CCSU was #1 on the 2009–2010 list with a 97% pass rate.

“We have historically out-performed all of the other public institutions, including the University of Connecticut,” says Rigazio-Digilio. The evidence is supported by Western Connecticut State University’s second-place performance with a 93% pass rate, and UConn’s fifth place ranking with 88%.

“We have a collaborative program with Western Connecticut State University to prepare their doctoral students interested in the administrator certificate, so the percentage reported for WCSU also reflects the quality of our program,” says Rigazio-Digilio.

— Janice Palmer
Two members of the CCSU faculty have been honored by the Connecticut State University System for their exceptional teaching and research. Associate Professor of Finance Joseph B. Farhat (right) and Assistant Professor of History Matthew G. Specter (left) were recognized—along with six colleagues from the system’s three other universities—for their work at a meeting of the Board of Trustees in April.

Farhat, who received the CSUS Trustees Teaching Award, employs extensive use of assessment and feedback to improve instruction and learning in his courses. His intensive use of technology to promote experiential and collaborative learning includes web-based tutorials and simulations, an online repository of case studies where students publish their projects, and online tools, such as Blackboard Vista, to promote interaction and engagement with course content. He also established a webpage where his students, as well as all students and faculty in the School of Business, have access to all of the teaching aides and electronic enhancements created for his courses. (See page 5 of this issue for a profile of Farhat.)

Specter, the recipient of the CSUS Trustees Research Award, focuses his research primarily on the development of political thought, ideology, and institutions in 20th-century Germany. Specter has expanded his research to encompass modern European and global dimensions of the history of human rights, humanitarianism, and international law after spending three years as a scholar in Berlin, Frankfurt, and Vienna. His first book, Habermas: An Intellectual Biography, was recently published by Cambridge University Press and has received positive reviews from scholars in history, political theory, and law, both in the US and Germany. Specter has received numerous fellowships and grants to conduct research and participate in lectures, conferences, institutes, and workshops in the US and Europe. He is a member of many professional associations and is a reviewer for Modern Intellectual History and the Journal of Contemporary History.

CSUS Trustees Teaching Awards are given to nominated faculty members who have distinguished themselves as outstanding teachers for the past five years and have a minimum of a two-year track record of promoting instructional improvements in their programs or departments. Faculty members who are conducting research work of exceptional promise can be granted a Trustees Research Award. Nominees are expected to demonstrate substantive contributions or achievements and scholarly activities in their academic fields of study during the last five years.

— Erica Bliss

In honor of the 20th annual Polish Day celebration, Professor of History Mieczyslaw Biskupski, holder of the Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair of Polish and Polish American Studies, addressed an audience of nearly 200 at the State Capitol in May about CCSU’s Polish Studies Program. In addition, Adjunct Lecturer of Modern Languages Jonathan Shea, along with seven others, were honored for the difference each has made to the Polish-American community.

In May, CCSU welcomed former Polish Deputy Prime Minister Leszek Balcerowicz, who gave the commencement address during the undergraduate ceremony at the XL Center in Hartford. Another visitor to campus, author and editor James Pula, spoke about his new book The Polish American Encyclopedia, which is the first published encyclopedia focusing on the Polish experience in the US. The past spring was filled with opportunities for students, faculty, staff, and the public to enjoy Polish culture on campus. Biskupski presented six programs, including the Alex M. Rudewicz Musical Event conducted by Adrian Sylveen Mackiewicz; The Annual Fiedorczyk Lecture given by prize-winning journalist Alexander Storozynski; Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry Guy Crundwell’s lecture on the 100th anniversary of Maria Sklodowska-Curie’s Nobel Prize in Chemistry; the Godlewski Evening, featuring liturgical artist Marek Czarnecki; and a screening of the American documentary film The Nine Days that Changed the World, in honor of the beatification of Pope John Paul II.

— Kate Callahan
Connecticut’s Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman joined Commissioner of Veterans’ Affairs Linda Schwartz (top left) and Professor of History Matthew Warshauer (bottom left) for “Remembering War: How and Why Do We Remember War,” held in CCSU’s Alumni Hall in March. Nearly 200 veterans gathered for the event.

Warshauer discussed the state’s many Civil War monuments (more than 130 still exist). He explained that the monuments were created so future generations would understand the sacrifices that were made to save the Union and so those who made those sacrifices could come to grips with the war’s devastating loss of life. Some 620,000 Americans perished in the conflict.

Warshauer’s presentation was followed by dramatic readings given by CCSU students working on the Veterans History Project. Readings of letters from Civil War soldiers were interspersed with video clips from the history project. Many veterans featured in the videos also attended the event. The Veterans History Project, sponsored by the Library of Congress, is managed by CCSU’s Center for Social Research and Public Policy. Associate Director Eileen Hurst works with CCSU history students, who tape interviews with veterans and collect documents and photos related to the wars.

Schwartz discussed the state’s plan to build a war memorial across the street from the state Veterans Home in Rocky Hill. Connecticut does not have an official state memorial dedicated to military service where commemorative events can be held.

Doctor Continues His Quest for Peace

The Middle East Studies Lecture Series presented a talk by Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish (right), who is from Gaza, at the end of March. Abuelaish was born in a refugee camp, grew up in poverty, and used education as a means of escape. He has devoted his life to medicine and to the reconciliation of Israelis and Palestinians. In 2009 during Israel’s invasion and bombardment of Gaza, an Israeli rocket hit his house, killing three of his daughters and a niece. Instead of reacting with hatred and violence, Abuelaish has continued his humanitarian efforts for peace. He spoke to members of the CCSU community about his life and his book, *I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor’s Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity*. The talk was sponsored by the Center for International Education, Department of Political Science, Middle East Studies, and Peace Studies.

Students Honored for Working toward Personal Goals

During the Man Enough Support Initiative awards ceremony last semester, student Eric Vargas (center right) was among 22 men presented with the Ebenezer D. Bassett Achievement Medal. Vargas posed for a photo with (left to right) Assistant Counselor in the Counseling and Wellness Center William Fothergill, Vice President of Student Affairs Laura Tordenti, and President Jack Miller. The other medal recipients nominated by faculty and staff were Timothy Aiello, Richard Allen, Rameez Benjamin, Lester Bowen, Michael Condron, Jamel Cooper, James Demar, Andrew Halpern, Horace Hamilton, Shawn Jensen, Benjamin Kegler, Kyle Leonard, Marco Marchesano, Andrew McGill, Sylvester Paschal, Dannel Petgrave, Alex Rodriguez, Ghalib Sanni, Kevin Tiernan, Mark A. White, and Robert E. Williams.
The Mythological Dimensions of Dr. Who
Kristine Larsen (Physics and Earth Sciences)
Wednesday, September 14

Escaping Quicksand
David Horan (Alumnus) with
Mary Collins (English)
Wednesday, September 28

Ava Gardner: Touches of Venus
Gilbert Gigliotti (English)
Wednesday, October 5

Data Mining for Genomics and Proteomics
Darius Dziuda (Mathematical Sciences)
Wednesday, October 19

An Overview of the Changing Role of the Systems Librarian
Edward Iglesias (Burritt Library)
Wednesday, November 2

Teachers as Mentors: Models for Promoting Achievement with Disadvantaged and Underrepresented Students by Creating Community
Aram Ayalon (Teacher Education)
Wednesday, November 16

Watch Central Authors daily on CCSU TV, channel 23, at 8:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 7:30 p.m., or online at www.ccsu.edu/centralauthors/programming.htm.
After the Coup: An Ethnographic Re-framing of Guatemala 1954, edited by Professor of Anthropology Abigail Adams, with Timothy J. Smith, revisits the aftermath of the coup that ousted the democratically elected Guatemalan president Jacobo Arbenz. Contributors to the book, published by University of Illinois Press, frame the impact of 1954 in terms of the liberal reforms and coffee revolutions of the 19th century, as well as US foreign policy and the genocides that occurred in the 1970s and 1980s. Highlighting the voices of individuals with whom they have lived and worked, the contributors offer an unmatched understanding of events preceding and following the coup.

Professor of Teacher Education Aram Ayalon’s Teachers as Mentors: Models for Promoting Achievement with Disadvantaged and Underrepresented Students by Creating Community, published by Stylus Publishing in May of this year, describes two successful models of youth mentoring used by acclaimed urban schools: Fenway High School in Boston, Massachusetts, and the Kedma School in Jerusalem. Using similar teacher-as-youth mentor and youth advising models, these two inner-city schools have broken the cycle of failure for the student populations they serve.

Associate Professor of Mathematical Sciences Darius Dziuda’s book Data Mining for Genomics and Proteomics, published last July by Wiley, John & Sons, Inc., describes efficient methods for the analysis of gene and protein expression data. Dziuda demonstrates how biomedical studies can be used to maximize the chance of extracting new and useful biomedical knowledge.

The Mythological Dimensions of Dr. Who, edited by Professor of Physics and Earth Sciences Kristine Larsen—with Anthony Burdge and Jessica Burke—explores the mythological elements predicating the popular BBC television series Doctor Who. The book was published by Kitsune Books last May and contributors include university scholars and the founders of the American Northeast Tolkien Society. Dr. Who is listed in The Guinness Book of World Records as the longest-running science fiction television show.

In a new collection of poems, titled Deepening Groove, Associate Professor of English Ravi Shankar investigates the natural and artificial world, revealing how people alter what they perceive even as what they perceive alters them. There are poems about dragonflies, trees, dust, the dark, gators, and sand, as well as about travel and love in the landscape of the modern moment. Deepening Groove was published by The National Poetry Review Press in March.

Connecticut in the American Civil War: Slavery, Sacrifice, and Survival by Professor of History Matthew Warshauer offers readers a window into the state’s involvement in a conflict that challenged and defined the unity of a nation. The arc of the war is traced through the battlefield, home front, and factory. Published by Wesleyan University Press in April 2011, this book reveals the varied attitudes residents had toward slavery and race before, during, and after the war; Connecticut’s reaction to the firing on Fort Sumter; the dissent in the state over whether the sword and musket should be raised against the South; the sacrifice of those who served on the front and at home; and the need for closure after the war.
In March the New Britain Museum of American Art (NBMAA) and CCSU presented the third CCSU Night at the Museum, “Where Art Meets Water,” as part of the University-Museum-Community (UMC) New Britain Collaborative. It was a night of music, drama, dance, art, poetry, prose, science, and awards. Although the night was one of celebration and collaboration, the theme focused on a serious message. Following CCSU’s “Izzy the Frog” exhibit, which focused on local watershed issues, and preceding CCSU’s Global Environmental Sustainability Symposium: Water, Life, and a Changing Planet, the evening provided an opportunity for those in various disciplines, as well as students and teachers, to work together to showcase their messages, all in one location.

The event—made possible by funding from the offices of the Provost, Community Engagement, and Institutional Advancement—opened with remarks from NBMAA Director Douglas Hyland, CCSU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Carl Lovitt, and CCSU President Jack Miller.

From then on the art did the talking. CCSU students performed The Frozen River, with guidance from Professor of Theatre Thomas Delventhal and choreography by former DanCentral President Nicole Carrano. Gaffney School students re-enacted Izzy the Frog, assisted by their principal, Lisa Eells. The CCSU Theatre Department performed L’Acqua del Diavolo (Devil’s Water), also with the guidance of Delventhal. Honors music majors performed as a guitar ensemble, with Adjunct Lecturer of Music Thomas Schuttenhelm’s assistance, and the University Singers sang Cantos del Agua under the direction of Professor of Music Pamela Perry.

Theatre student Melissa Pelarski choreographed a piece, titled Undercurrents, performed by CCSU dance students, again with the guidance of Delventhal. Professor of Communication Karen Ritzenhoff, Professor of Art Elizabeth Langhorne, and Media Center Director, Emeritus, Roy Temple served as jurors for the Student Creative Arts Competition, in which students responded to one of six previously selected artists displayed at the museum. Following the award ceremony, a performance of Assistant Professor of Theatre Sheila Siragusa’s original play Water was held in the Contemporary Gallery. In the Benton Gallery, Assistant Professor of English Mary Collins and Professor of English David Cappella joined essay winners and poetry students for Water Worlds: Readings in Poetry & Prose. In the Stanley Works Center, New Britain High School string players joined the CCSU Sinfonietta under the direction of Professor of Music Julie Ribchinsky and NBHS’s John Pytel.

The evening was capped off with Hydra, a sound installation and dance performance—the collaborative work of Professor of Art Ronald Todd, Associate Professor of Music Charles

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CCSU Hosts First A Cappella Competition

Performing at CCSU’s first A Cappella Invitational is Divisi, CCSU’s all-male group. Singers (left to right) Kevin Schneider, Mike Brown, Andrew Degan, Nick Rundle, Evan Carlson, and Kevin Walsh performed their rendition of “Grenade” by Bruno Mars. CCSU’s two all-female groups, Too Good For Instruments and Acabellas, also performed. They were joined by a cappella groups from the University of Hartford, Wagner College, University of Connecticut, and Western Connecticut State University.

CCSU: Getting Down with Berimbrown

In April CCSU hosted “Brazil through the Eyes of Berimbrown! The Internationally Acclaimed Brazilian Congo Pop Band,” a capoeira group with Brazilian roots. Audience members had an opportunity to speak with the musicians before a panel discussion with Professors Eric Galm of Trinity College and Mestre Negoativo of Berimbrown. The final event in the daylong celebration was a concert by Berimbrown (left), which had the audience dancing in the aisles. The event was a Connecticut Latin Americanists Partnership Program and was sponsored by the CCSU Committee on Latin American Studies (part of the International and Area Studies Committee); Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program; Africana Center; History Department; Center for International Education; and Student Affairs, as well as the ECSU History Department, Trinity College Music Department, and Yale’s Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies.

[E]FPS: [English] Faculty Presentation Series

Fall 2011
3:10 – 4:10 p.m. — The University Hour
in Willard 203

9/15
Aimee Pozorski

10/6
The Suicide Walk
Steven Ostrowski

10/27
TBA
Stephen Cohen

11/17
“The Annus Horribilis of Bob Gaudio and Jake Holmes (or How Five Jersey Guys Committed Two Classic Cases of Commercial Suicide)”
Gilbert Gigliotti
A commentary written by Professor of History Jay Bergman, focusing on the involvement of President Obama and NATO in Libya, was published this spring in the Providence Journal, the Norwich Bulletin, the Record Journal, and the West Hartford News.

Associate Professor of Political Science Jerold Duquette was interviewed in The New Britain Herald in March about population growth and housing numbers for central Connecticut.

The Journal Inquirer recently featured an article about CCSU graduate student Evan Fable, a South Windsor High School art teacher who exhibited his pop art-style paintings at the town’s public library in April. In the article, Fable, who is earning a master’s degree in art education, stated, “when I was in high school, art was one of those escapes I thought was the best time of my day.”

The New Britain Herald interviewed CCSU Associate Director of Graduate Admissions Patricia Gardner for an article titled “CCSU students prove it’s never too late to get a degree.” Gardner reflected on the increase in the number of people going back to school to prepare for second careers, as well as those seeking teaching certificates.

Emphasizing why children should be exposed to all types of international literature, Professor of Reading and Language Arts Catherine Kurkjian was interviewed by The New Britain Herald in late April. Kurkjian organized the first US Kids’ Lit Quiz which was held at CCSU and involved 40 middle school students from surrounding towns.

Professor of Psychology Laura Levine was interviewed by Parents magazine about curious children who keep asking “Why?” for an article that was published in the March issue. Levine, author of Child Development: An Active Learning Approach, explained that the “third degree” is more about getting a parent’s attention and less about seeking information.

For an article in The Chronicle of Higher Education in February, CSU Professor Timothy Reagan was interviewed about the declining enrollment in traditional language programs at US colleges. Reagan, who has researched and written books on foreign language study, told the Chronicle he fears that “proponents of foreign-language education have focused too much on the purported career benefits of becoming bilingual. That line of defense,” he said, “misses some of the most important values in language education.”

Assistant Professor of Theatre Sheila Siragusa contributed a piece to The New Britain Herald about the Theatre Department’s production of Robert Schenkkan’s The Kentucky Cycle, a three-part play which follows the history of three interrelated families and their struggle to survive in Kentucky over a span of 200 years. The department’s selection of the play was motivated by the recent focus on sustainability at CCSU. Siragusa wrote: “the play’s real power lies in its ability to link the destruction of the land and its resources with the disintegration of hope and trust in the three families.” Siragusa directed The Kentucky Cycle with Professor of Theatre Thomas Delventhal and CCSU senior Gabbi Mendelsohn, winner of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers Fellowship Award in 2010. While each part of the play was performed separately as well, a single performance of the complete trilogy raised over $1300 to benefit the Connecticut Forest and Park Association.

Associate Professor of History John Tully’s opinion piece on “School Social Studies Slipping, Vital Skills Lost” was published in The Hartford Courant on April 2. Tully noted that nearly a decade of evidence shows that “We no longer value the role social studies teachers play in students’ lives.” He encouraged readers to ask how much social studies is being taught in their local schools.

CCSU Night at the Museum

Menoche, and Professor of Theatre and Physical Education and Human Performance Catherine Fellows — at the Art League of New Britain.

On display throughout the event was a “School of Fish,” decorated by various CCSU departments. The fish were auctioned off at the 4th Annual Environmental Sustainability Symposium in April, raising over $1800 for the Mayor’s Work Plan to End Homelessness.

During the first week of April, selected student work from the event, such as posters, photographs, paintings, and 3D objects, was on display in the Elihu Burritt Library. In addition, a reception held in the Library’s Special Collections Room provided guests with the opportunity to hear essay and poetry winners read their pieces.

— Erica Bliss
NOTABLE programs

Benjamin Nugent, author of American Nerd, gave the "3rd Annual Brian O’Connell Lecture" in early April.

In celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Italian Unification, CCSU’s Italian Studies Program presented a spring concert featuring musicians from Italy in Torp Theatre.

Two psychology/gerontology colloquia were held in March. Dr. Becca Levy, associate professor of epidemiology and psychology at the Yale School of Public Health, spoke on “Aging Self-Stereotypes: Obstacle or Pathway to Health?” and Dr. Susan Krauss Whitbourne, professor of psychology, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, presented “Searching for Fulfillment: What It Means for Your Future.”

CCSU showcased artwork by New Orleans natives Rolland Holden and Donald Boudreaux this spring during the "Beyond Katrina" exhibit. In the Inner Gallery, CCSU hosted "Friends from Afar," a collection of photographs, journals, and memorabilia from Connecticut residents involved in the Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts.

“A Conversation over Lunch” continued the theme with Zelma Wooten, a New Orleans native who was there when Katrina hit and for the harrowing days that followed, until she was evacuated to Connecticut. A second conversation, “Nature’s Hand,” featured students from Assistant Professor of English Mary Collins’s Advanced Creative Nonfiction class reading their essays on nature’s ability to destroy and heal.

CCSU students Andrew Haipern, Christopher Marcelli, Eric Bergenn, and Liz Braun debated members of the Cambridge Union Society during the annual Cambridge Debate held in March. This year’s topic was “This house regrets the rise of Facebook.”

CCSU’s Finance Association presented several speakers during the spring semester, including Jeffrey Chaikin, CFA, on “Career of a Hedge Fund Manager;” Bruce Misamore, former CFO, Yukos Oil Co., Moscow, Russia, on “Experiences of a CFO in Russia;” and Commissioner of Banking Howard Pitkin, State of Connecticut, on “Banking and Politics.”

This spring CCSU’s Lunch-time Poetry Hour featured readings by Mark Conway and Wyn Cooper. National Poetry Month was celebrated in April with the English Department’s 6th Annual Poetry Marathon and a reading by Connecticut Poet Laureate Dick Allen.

May’s Celebrating Foreign Languages event at CCSU included art and music by students and faculty, as well as a performance by the University Singers.

In April, the CCSU School of Engineering and Technology hosted the Connecticut CTEA VEX Robotics State Championship. Forty-five middle and high school teams from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire participated; students from three Connecticut schools won awards.

In early April, a new documentary film, titled The Covert US War Against Cuba, was screened in the Vance Academic Center. The film, created by Bernie Dwyer and Roberto Ruiz Rebo, exposes the story behind the lock up of seventy-five “independent” journalists, trade unionists, and librarians in Cuba in 2003.

In February, the Women’s Center sponsored a screening of Jennifer Abod’s documentary The Edge of Each Other’s Battles: The Vision of Audre Lorde, a legendary black lesbian poet and celebrated icon of second-wave feminism.

This spring a Historians Against Slavery event at CCSU featured a screening of Fatal Promises, a documentary on sexual enslavement in Europe, and an appearance by the film’s producer, Kat Rohrer.

Connecticut resident Dr. Michael Williams lectured in April on “The Good War: Liberal Intervention and the Promotion of Democracy in Afghanistan.” The talk focused on whether the promotion of democracy is really the best solution for insecurity.

College Men’s Health Month was marked by numerous events at CCSU in April. A “Healthy Fellows’ College Men’s Wellness & Fitness Expo” included presentations on emotional freedom technique, sexual health, and testicular cancer.

In April CCSU and the Connecticut Center for Nonviolence offered a free presentation on Kingian Nonviolence Conflict Resolution, based on the eclectic philosophy and nonviolence strategies of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Josep Maria Sabate, a leading specialist in the Spanish Civil War and dictatorship, presented a lecture in Spanish, titled “La lucha por la Cultura en la Revolucion y la Guerra Civil Espanola,” at CCSU at the end of March.

A live taping of WNPR’s Where We Live, hosted by CCSU’s Robert C. Vance Endowed Chair in Journalism and Mass Communications John Dankosky, was part of the “Lifting the Veil, Journalism Uncovered” conference, held at CCSU in March. The event featured CCSU’s
Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Philosophy Ned Lamont, NPR’s David Folkenflik, and journalists from ProPublica, CT Mirror, C-HIT, and Independent Media Network.

Artists from various backgrounds participated in the 5th annual New Britain International Mural Slam, which took place on CCSU’s Welte Garage roof at the end of April.

In April, Raymond William Baker, an internationally recognized authority on the Arab and Islamic world and professor of international politics at Trinity College in Hartford, spoke on “Obama and the Arab Uprising” as part of CCSU’s Middle East Lecture Series.

CCSU’s Hillel Jewish Student Organization hosted a Passover Seder and Israeli dance workshop at the end of April in honor of the Jewish holidays.

During Engineers Week in February, Tom Johnson, the F135/F119 Chief Engineer at Pratt & Whitney, addressed students and faculty on “Powering the Next Generation of Tactical Fighter Aircraft: Reflections and Perspective on Engineering the Pratt & Whitney F135 CTOL/CV and STOVL Propulsion Systems.”

CCSU creative writing students filled the Marcus White Living Room in April for a reading and Q & A session with Susan Schoenberger, author of A Watershed Year. Schoenberger’s short story, on which the novel was based, won the prestigious William Faulkner-William Wisdom Creative Writing Competition.

The Romance de la Guitarra concert, hosted by CCSU on Valentine’s Day, featured internationally acclaimed guitarist Daniel Salazar and his band playing original music and a selection of Spanish classics. The Melinda Marquez Flamenco Dance Company and Argentine tango dancer Michele Evans, as well as singer Jose Paulo, also performed.

Children’s author Shirin Bridges spoke at the CCSU Bookstore in March about her book Ruby’s Wish and her life, and about interviewing real princesses for her books.

In late spring the Slavic and East European Studies Program invited Professor of Government Peter Rutland of Wesleyan University to lecture on “Russia at the Crossroads.”

The Peace Studies Program, the Political Science Department, the Honors Program, and Pax Educare sponsored a screening of the film Bringing Down a Dictator, followed by a discussion with Hardy Merriman, a leading scholar and trainer in the field of non-violent civil action.

After reporter Marcus Hatfield of the Journal Inquirer broke the story that the Enfield Town Council banned the town’s library from showing Michael Moore’s controversial documentary SICKO, CCSU responded by holding a free, public screening of the film. A panel discussion, featuring Hatfield and moderated by CCSU’s Robert C. Vance Chair in Journalism and Mass Communication John Dankosky, focused on “The Perils of Censorship in 21st Century America.”

During Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April, the Ruthe Boyea Women’s Center sponsored a lecture by Holly Kearl, a national expert on street harassment, on “Stop Street Harassment: Making Public Places Safe and Welcoming for Women.”

An event, sponsored by the Carol Ammon School of Arts & Sciences Public Policy Committee, the Peace Studies Program, and the Political Science Department, featured Bruce Riedel of the Brookings Institute in Washington, DC, who spoke on “The Surges in Afghanistan and the Situation in Pakistan.”

In February CCSU hosted Teach-in: Understanding the On-going People’s Revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt. The event was sponsored by CCSU’s Middle East Studies and Peace Studies programs and the Department of Political Science, along with We Refuse to Be Enemies, a local coalition of Muslims, Jews, and Christians, working for peace and justice in the Middle East.

In April a panel discussion, titled “To Be Here or Not To Be Here: Questioning US Immigration Policies,” was held in CCSU’s Torp Theatre. The discussion was followed by the Northeast premiere of the film Tony and Janina’s American Wedding.

A recent addition to campus programming is the University Hour. Classes are not scheduled during this block of time—which runs from 3:10 to 4:10 p.m.—in order to allow students, faculty, and staff to attend campus events, schedule meetings and conferences, and work on group projects. The English Faculty Presentation Series hosted four speakers during the University Hour last semester. Assistant Professor Heather Urbanski spoke on “Red Shirts and Blue Lightsabers: Description as Visual Signs within a Rebooted Science Fiction Narrative,” Assistant Professor

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International Mother Language Day at CCSU

CCSU celebrated International Mother Language Day with a number of events. A symposium was held in Torp Theatre and included presentations on endangered languages (funded by the Endangered Language Fund), the Mohegan language (funded by the International Studies Program), the Mayan language (funded by the Latin American, Latino, and Carribean Center), and two endangered Nigerian languages (funded by the Center for Africana Studies and a CCSU Diversity Grant). A screening of the film Languages Lost and Found: Speaking and Whistling the Mama Tongue was funded by the Endangered Language Fund. In addition, the Elihu Burritt Library hosted an exhibition, funded by the English Department, on “Endangered Alphabets” and a talk by artist Tim Brookes (right), author of the book Endangered Alphabets. Another exhibition, titled “Books on Endangered Languages,” was also funded by a CCSU Diversity Grant.

CCSU Students Present at Linguistics Conference

In February, Assistant Professor of English Seunghun Lee (left) joined students (left to right) YunJeong Lee, Philippa Howe-Ivain, Nicola Joeckel, and Karen Saadeh as they presented their work at the 32nd Applied Linguistics Winter Conference at Columbia University. Joeckel’s talk “A Study of Vocabulary Acquisition: Which Method Is More Effective, Reading in Context or Learning Vocabulary in Isolation via Text Messages?” was the first of the CCSU student presentations. In the afternoon the remaining CCSU students presented their posters—Saadeh on “Acquisition of the Definite Article by Polish L2 Learners;” Howe-Ivain on “Ultimate Attainment of English Phonology by Speakers of Lebanese Arabic;” and Lee on “Exploring Two Methods for Acquiring Vocabulary.” Two additional CCSU students were accepted to the conference but could not attend due to scheduling conflicts: Laura DeMonte (“Lexical-Derivational Choices of Second Language Learners of English”) and Klaudia Sienko (“The Use of English Articles by Native Polish Speakers”).

CCSU Hosts Linguistics Olympiad

CCSU hosted the fifth annual North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad (NACLO) on campus this winter—one of 30 host universities in the US. During the event, middle and high school students competed to solve linguistic problems in two rounds—an Open Round and a more challenging Invitational Round for students selected to advance from the first stage of competition. Problems involved translation and phonological questions, as well as analysis of writing or calendar systems. The program’s goal is to expose students to the differences and consistencies found among world languages. Above, CCSU Assistant Professor of English Seunghun Lee poses with students after the competition.
CCSU took part in College Goal Sunday, a statewide volunteer program to provide free information and assistance to students, and their families, applying for financial aid for post-secondary education. Financial aid professionals from colleges and universities and other volunteers held workshops on college admissions and the FAFSA forms required to apply for financial aid. At CCSU, students Eric Vargas, Antoinette Kinard, Patrick Wilkinson, Jodi Joseph, and Barrington Hunter assisted participants. Also volunteering were administrative staff from Pre-Collegiate and Access Services Shirami Barcelo, Oneda Lamont, Carmen Medina, Harry Pacheco, and Awilda Reasco; as well as Gladys Colon-Lawson, Keri Lupachino, and Dennis Williams from Financial Aid; Leah Skinner of Recruitment and Admissions; and Andrew Froning ’10, a CCSU alumnus working on campus through AmericCorps/VISTA. This is the second year CCSU has participated in the event, which also took place at 12 other Connecticut high schools and colleges.

Over 120 local middle-school girls attended the third annual Girls and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Expo, held by CCSU’s School of Engineering and Technology in April. The expo’s main purpose was to introduce the seventh graders to careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, all heavily male-dominated fields, to which they might not otherwise be exposed.

CCSU: Keeping the Community Clean

In April CCSU participated in Global Youth Service Day, sponsoring three service projects in New Britain and providing transportation to Hartford-area service sites. One of the service projects involved cleaning up A.W. Stanley Park in New Britain, where Andrew Froning ’10 (right), a CCSU alumnus working on campus through AmericCorps/VISTA, and CCSU student Christopher Murphy (left) picked up hundreds of pounds of garbage with the help of students from Central and New Britain High School. The two-day event was sponsored at CCSU by the Office of Continuing Education and Community Engagement, Center for Public Policy and Social Research, and Governor William A. O’Neill Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Practical Politics.

A Productive Spring Break? CCSU Students Find Alternatives to Partying

“Alternative Spring Break” is a new trend at colleges and universities as students choose to volunteer for community service or enhance their educations through conference experiences. Last year 40 students from three CCSU clubs took part in these alternative spring break programs. The CCSU chapter of Habitat for Humanity travelled to Concord, NC, to assist in building affordable homes for those in need. Sixteen students in the Friends of Earth club, an organization that promotes interest and activities in the earth sciences, attended a five-day conference of the Geological Society of America’s Northeastern Section in Pittsburgh and participated in a mentorship program with professionals in their field. For the last four years, members of the Newman Club have helped in the revitalization of New Orleans. Students have worked on a variety of projects, such as spending the day at a community center in the Lower 9th Ward, planting irises around the ponds at City Park, and renovating homes. The Newman Club plans to return to New Orleans for spring break next year to continue aiding in the city’s recovery.
This tax season, **50 CCSU accounting students** received training by the IRS and became certified to prepare federal and state income tax returns. Volunteering with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, these students completed tax returns, by appointment on campus or at Community Central, for taxpayers with incomes up to $50,000.

CSU Professor of Philosophy **Felton Best** gave the 2nd Annual CSU Professor Lecture at Southern Connecticut State University in April. Best’s lecture was titled “Paul Laurence Dunbar: America’s First African-American Poet Laureate.”

During the Greater New Britain Arts Alliance’s annual meeting two members of the CCSU community were presented with awards. Assistant Professor of Art **Jerry Butler** received the Individual Contribution to the Arts Award for his exceptional work within New Britain’s schools and community. The GNBA’s Lifetime Contribution to the Arts Award was given to Professor of Theatre, Emerita, **Lani Johnson** who was instrumental in the formation of New Britain’s Hole in the Wall Theater.

New Britain Mayor Timothy Stewart presented five members of the CCSU community with an award at the Annual Commission on Youth and Family Services Awards Breakfast. Receiving the award for their support of the New Britain Youth and Family Services Holiday Mitten Tree were Assistant in Human Resources **Irene Childs;** Professional Development Specialist, ITBD, **Rachael Davis;** Operations Coordinator, Facilities, **Rene Karas-Johnson;** CSU Administrative Assistant, President’s Office **Courtney McDavid;** and Registrar **Susan Petrosino.**

Professor of Manufacturing and Construction Management **Bob Emiliani** gave the keynote speech, “How to Get More Out of Your Lean Efforts,” at the Lean and Green: Next Generation Careers in Technology Expo, held early this spring at Manchester Community College.

CCSU students **Brooke Ferguson and Brandon Fisette** directed pieces in Second Stage: Student-Directed Projects performed in February. Ferguson, a sophomore, directed DMV by Christopher Durang, and Fisette, a junior, directed a scene from Sarah Ruhl’s Eurydice, along with his own piece, The Interview. Associate Professor of History **Briann Greenfield**’s HIST 511 students collaborated on a class project exhibited at the Connecticut Historical Society. The installation depicted an imagined 1941 dinner meeting of the Walpole Society, an influential collectors’ society, and was titled “Dining with a Society of American Collectors: Their View of the Past.”

CCSU student **James Grendzinski**’s three package designs for a natural bath soap, Body Sense, were featured on the popular website thedieline.com as a student spotlight. Thedieline.com promotes package design and provides the international design community an opportunity to review, critique, and stay updated on the latest trends.

Two CCSU nursing students were honored with scholarships from the Visiting Nurses Association HealthCare Inc. at the Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing gala. **Steve Korb** and **Sabrina Rogers** each received $500 to encourage and support their careers in nursing.

Assistant Professor of English **Seunghun Lee** has made several trips to the University of Venda, in the Limpopo Province of South Africa, to conduct field research on the sound systems of Xitsonga, the local language. First there in January 2010, he returned last December for a month.

Adjunct Lecturer of Educational Leadership **Robert Lindgren** was honored with the 2010 West Indian Foundation Outstanding Community Service Award at a reception held by CCSU’s Department of Educational Leadership in April.

Assistant Professor of Physical Education and Human Performance **Mike Voight** was a guest on ESPN Radio 710 in Los Angeles on April 30 to talk about sport psychology, as well as overinvested sport parents and their impact on youth sport and its participants.

Professor of History **Louise Williams** was a guest commentator on Fox Connecticut on April 29 during local coverage of the Royal Wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton.
Seunghun Lee on “Peculiar Tonal Patterns in Xitsonga Nouns,” Associate Professor Matt Ciscel on “Foreign Language Learning in Romania,” and Associate Professor Susan Gilmore on “Everybody Likes Me Better Dead: Restaging Anne Frank through Rinne Groff’s Compulsion.”

This year’s CCSU production of The Vagina Monologues, sponsored by the Ruthe Boyea Women’s Center, featured Associate Director of Health Services Marisol Aponte, Associate Librarian Susan Slaga, and Associate Professor of English Susan Gilmore, as well as students Elizabeth Mongrello, Elizabeth Gionfriddo, Aquia Davis, Vanessa Kantor, Raven Turner, and Kayla Teel. Community members Lenise Smith, Tracy Caldwell, and Darlene Brandon also took part in the event which focused on the women and girls of Haiti.

The Ruthe Boyea Women’s Center, the Center for Public Policy and Social Research, and the Department of Athletics sponsored a free performance of Wide Open: A One Woman Show, hosted by CCSU alum June Archer ’94, in Torp Theatre in April.

In April, the Global Women’s Issues Forum and CCSU presented a discussion on “Women and War in Afghanistan.” Panelists included Shamim Jawad, founder and president of the Ayenda Foundation; journalist Christina Lamb; and Uzra Azizi, an Afghan student studying in the US. Mary Jo Meyers, vice president of the Board of Directors of the Aschiana Foundation, served as moderator.

During a faculty development workshop on Writing within the Disciplines, Susanmarie Harrington, professor of English and director of the Writing in the Disciplines program at the University of Vermont, led participants in exploring how writing helps draw students into ways of thinking and communicating that are particularly important in different disciplines.

Gail Rutz and Frederick M. Gladstone Awards Announced

Senior student-athletes Clio Tregear and Pat Epps were awarded the Gail Rutz and Frederick M. Gladstone Awards, respectively, as the top senior athletes.

Clio Tregear was a three-time captain of the women’s soccer team and helped lead the Blue Devils to a Northeast Conference Tournament title in 2008 on the road at Long Island. She posted 20 goals and 15 assists in her four seasons as a midfielder and helped guide the Blue Devils to the 2009 NEC Regular Season title with a 9-0-1 league record. She had 55 total points in her career. In her three seasons as a captain, the Blue Devils posted a home record of 17-1-2.

Pat Epps is among the all-time leaders in school history in batting average, hits, home runs, doubles, games played, runs batted in, and total bases. He batted over .360 for his four-year career and was the NEC Tournament MVP last season when he helped lead Central to the 2010 NEC Championship and a berth in the NCAA Tournament. He holds the single season RBI (74) and home run (18) records and is also the school’s all-time leader in home runs with 29.

— CCSU Sports Information
Photos by Steve McLaughlin
Representative Chris Murphy, D-5th District, announced earlier this year that CCSU’s Institute for Technology and Business Development (ITBD) would receive a $150,000 grant award from the US Small Business Administration (SBA) to support Connecticut manufacturers to achieve continual improvements in productivity and process in order to retain jobs and grow small businesses in the state. ITBD will deliver progressive manufacturing training programs through multiple methods of instruction over a three-year period, beginning this year. These programs will allow Connecticut’s manufacturing workers to learn productivity improvement skills and enhance much-needed manufacturing skills. Federal assistance will provide partial funding to various companies for technical and business skills training.

In other news, ITBD is now the home of a $60,000 3G human simulator. A dummy with personality, the simulator is wirelessly connected to a laptop which controls a range of symptoms that might be observed in traumatic scenarios, including spasms, strokes, bleeding, pupil dilation, and pulse rate, among others. Many departments, including Nursing and the athletic training program in Physical Education and Health Performance, plan to use the simulator to train students.

Above: US Representative Chris Murphy, D-5th District, announced the $150,000 grant award to CCSU’s ITBD at Admill Machine, as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Carl Lovitt looked on. Murphy helped secure the grant through the Small Business Development Administration and said the grant will help keep Connecticut’s manufacturers competitive by providing training to increase worker productivity and to develop and refine manufacturing skills.

Right: From left to right, Athletic Trainer Thomas McCarthy, Paramedic Lindsay Adelson, Head Athletic Trainer Kathy Pirog, and EMT Patrick Turek treated the 3G human simulator during a mock head sports injury demonstration held at ITBD.

NorthStar Wealth Partners (NSWP), a wealth management firm in the West Hartford area, was recently named the 2011 Best of Hartford for Financial Advisory Firms by Hartford Magazine readers. Founded by CCSU alumni Robert Laraia ’86 and Brandon Marinelli ’01, NSWP’s services include providing advice and strategies for retirement, investment, estate planning, and charitable giving.

The Record-Journal interviewed CCSU alumna Anne Jellison, MS ’75, SYC ’79, about her decision to leave her district-level position to serve as a principal. Jellison stated that she wants to work closely with students and their families because she believes that a principal can have more of an impact on students.
CCSU alum Michael Foran, BSED ’86, MS ’90, SYC ’92, has had a busy year. Foran, the principal of New Britain High School, won the 2011 Connecticut Association of Schools Principal of the Year Award and was also chosen as one of three finalists in the 2012 MetLife/NASSP National Principal of the Year Program. In July, Foran travelled to Washington, DC, where he was interviewed by a panel of judges who will determine, by September, if he is the National Principal of the Year. Since beginning his tenure as principal at NBHS in 2007, Foran has been credited with improving the work environment, raising test scores, reducing the dropout rate, and establishing the New Britain Academy for Health Professions at the school.

East Hartford High School’s Michelle Marion, the 2011 Connecticut Assistant Principal of the Year, was honored in Washington, DC, along with assistant principals from around the US. Marion, who was chosen by the Connecticut Association of Schools to represent the state, received her master’s degree in educational leadership in 2002 and sixth-year certificate in educational leadership in 2004 from CCSU.

CCSU alumnus Jonathan Mulhern was recently sworn in as deputy police chief for the town of North Haven. A graduate of the FBI National Academy, Mulhern received a degree in criminal justice management from CCSU in 1998.

CCSU alumna Kate Mullen ’78 was recently inducted into the Connecticut Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame. Of the seven individuals inducted in April, Mullen was the only college-level coach. Mullen, who will coach for her 20th season at Wesleyan this year, also serves as an associate director of athletics and adjunct professor.

Historic Nomination for CCSU Alumna

Governor Dannel P. Malloy nominated Superior Court Judge Carmen Espinosa ’71 to the state Appellate Court. Espinosa, a former FBI agent, is the state’s first Hispanic judge. Pictured at left are (left to right) Malloy, Espinosa, and Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman.

Travelers EDGE Program Produces Results

The first group of Travelers EDGE scholars, including four students from CCSU, graduated in May. Through the Travelers EDGE (Empowering Dreams for Graduation and Employment) program, CCSU is receiving a $130,000 grant to cover program expenses and tuition for Greater Hartford-area students who qualify. Program resources are used to mentor undergraduates, as well as to increase their awareness of future career opportunities. CCSU’s Travelers EDGE graduates are finance majors Juliet Asafo and Dunnia Ulloa, graphic design major Ricardo Carlos, and human resources major Sandra Walker.

Bill, Meet Tony

CCSU alum Bill Berloni was presented the Tony Honors for Excellence in the Theatre during the Tony Awards ceremony in June for his work as a professional animal trainer. His training credits include the original “Sandy” in the musical Annie and “Chico” in the play Legally Blonde, as well as other Broadway hits such as The Wiz, Nick and Nora, and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. He has also trained animals featured in the ballet, movies, television shows, and commercials. The animals Berloni works with have all been rescued from shelters and humane societies, and, when they are ready to retire from the bright lights, they clock out and head back home to Berloni’s farm in Connecticut. Berloni received his BFA in theatre from CCSU in 1989.
CCSU Alumni Association Awards and Athletic Hall of Fame

In April, the Alumni Association Awards were presented to several alumni in recognition of their outstanding service to CCSU, or the Alumni Association, and to the community, as well as their professional excellence. Leonard F. Gengel ’87 was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Service Award. Robert F. Skinner ’55 received the Kaiser Alumni Service Award, and Alexander F. Cortes ’00 was the recipient of the Young Alumni Service Award. After the award presentation, five alumni were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame—Corsley Edwards II ’01; Jacqueline C. S. Hadden ’00, MS ’03; Marcin Kaczmarek ’02; Jane M. McFarlane ’01, and former CCSU Swimming and Diving Head Coach Ray “Jack” Suydam (posthumously). Pictured above, from left to right, Skinner, Cortes, Gengel, McFarlane, and Hadden pose for a photo following the ceremony.