The decision to major in history has led to satisfying careers for recent CCSU graduates Mallory Howard and Mike Forino. Howard, a museum assistant at the Mark Twain House, made a fascinating discovery last September while inventorying books at the Hartford home of Samuel Clemens. She examined *Boat Life in Egypt and Nubia*, a travel book by William C. Prime. Suspecting the often sarcastic marginalia was written by Clemens, she consulted top scholars who verified the handwriting. She also uncovered a second book with more of Clemens’s marginalia providing a glimpse into the writer’s thoughts.

“I think back to my Historical Imagination course (taught by Professor Heather Prescott) and how I learned to research, use, and verify sources,” says Howard. “And, I think about Professor (Jay) Berman who would mix humor with history, and here I am at the Mark Twain House where these qualities come alive. The history professors at CCSU were phenomenal, and they fueled my passion for what I’m doing today.”

Mike Forino began CCSU’s graduate program in public history this semester. He finished his undergraduate program last year and, as a result of his internship at the Connecticut State Archives, is now working for History Associates in Washington, DC. Forino says, “I realized for advancement I needed a graduate degree. I chose CCSU because the history faculty challenged me and made me a better undergraduate, and I believe that there is no other school that could prepare me better for advancing in the field. I owe my success to the instructors and to the school; it is truly a great institution.”

The University offers the BA/BS in history, BS in social science, MA in public history, plus graduate certificates in history and in social studies. History department faculty are charged with preserving and transmitting historical knowledge to their students.
Further, they expose students to the methods, skills, and strategies historians employ in evaluating and interpreting historical evidence.

A person with a degree in history can be an educator, researcher, communicator, or editor, information manager, policy advocate, a lawyer, or enter business.

“Our signal strengths are amazing premiere teaching, plus faculty’s remarkable output of scholarly activity,” states History Department Chair Glenn Sunshine. “Our faculty have been nominated and have received the outstanding CSU system teaching award. In the last two years, our 16 full-time faculty published 16 books, and additionally produced articles, book chapters, edited volumes, written encyclopedia articles and book reviews, and presented papers at conferences.”

An important part of the department’s mission is the secondary education program leading to teacher certification. Both the National Council for the Social Studies and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education have given stamps of approval to CCSU’s program as providing prospective teachers with strong content knowledge and classroom skills. Dr. Sunshine remarks, “Associate Professor John Tully’s syllabus has been picked up by the American Historical Association as a model on how to teach history teachers.”

The comprehensive programs for undergraduate and graduate students include a wide range of courses: ancient history, medieval and modern Europe, Africa and the African Diaspora, Latin America, East Asia and the Pacific Rim, the Middle East and West Asia, and the United States.

The department is home to the Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies. A Polish studies minor has recently been inaugurated.

Further, the public history master’s is designed to prepare students for careers in history museums, historical societies, historic preservation, cultural resource management, government agencies, heritage tourism, and other fields in which history is presented to public and client-based audiences. The degree also provides K-12 history educators with tools to energize their classroom teaching. Students receive traditional training in the areas of historical research, writing, and interpretation, along with job specific skills and hands-on experience. This degree is also appropriate for those seeking to pursue doctorates in American history or public history. Associate Professor Briann Greenfield is the public history program coordinator.

A high-profile History department series of events was spearheaded by Professor Matthew Warshauer, who worked on last spring’s much lauded Connecticut Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration involving master’s students. Said Sunshine, “The Civil War commemoration enjoyed tremendous success, drawing a large number of people to the CCSU campus and receiving a great deal of favorable press coverage, as well as the attention of all branches of the state government. We collaborated with a wide range of community partners including historical societies and museums and brought in over $500,000 worth of funding from state philanthropic organizations.” Graduate students published encyclopedia articles on different aspects of Connecticut and the Civil War.

To find out more about the dynamic History department and its programs, contact sunshine@ccsu.edu or call (860) 832-2800.

– Geri Radacsi
Assistant Professor of Psychology Jason Sikorski believes he’s in a unique position to teach. After all, often the behaviors exhibited by “master teachers” include a heavy dose of psychology. He says the best teachers use operant learning procedures (e.g., positive reinforcement), cognitive psychology principles (e.g., critical thinking, problem-solving, metacognition), and even social psychology (e.g., creating an environment conducive to learning gains) in the classroom. “Being passionate, knowledgeable, and approachable sets the stage for students to learn in class, just as developing rapport in therapy could lead to client gains,” he notes. “Thus, the most essential tenet of my philosophy on teaching is to use what I have learned as a psychologist in the classroom.”

Metacognition—“thinking about how you think”—Sikorski states, is a theme woven into all his courses, including General Psychology, Research Methods I and II, Life Span Development, and Abnormal Psychology. “My students consider that my mantra,” he laughs. He wants students to develop a sense of metacognition that promotes critical thinking beyond memorizing definitions to pass an exam.

Of late he has been instilling critical thinking skills into a cadre of students beyond his classes. He’s become passionate about reducing the rates of sexual abuse victimization in society and on campus. Thus, he and a group of his students, who conduct research on hypermasculine men, work to create educational workshops for groups of males on campus in hopes of normalizing the process of thinking critically about the bad parts of the masculine gender role.

“Our thorough review of the literature has informed us as to multiple measures likely to reliably predict hypermasculinity (e.g., lack of humor, impulsivity, negative attitudes toward women, aggressiveness),” he explains. “With this information, my students and I have created a 51-page assessment measure that enables us to collect 1,500 individual pieces of information from each male college student that consents to participate in our study.” Their research has already resulted in Sikorski and his students presenting six of the projects at a regional psychology conference.

As a member of the university-wide Committee for the Concerns of Women, Sikorski has piloted an innovative program to help men make changes in their lives that will likely result in less violence, fewer sexual assaults, and better health habits for men. He has partnered with the CCSU Athletics department, allowing him and his students to pilot a three-session workshop designed to help men critically evaluate the masculine gender role and their future goals. “This pre-test/post-test intervention data is currently in the process of being analyzed, but initial satisfaction data indicates that our male student athletes find the information presented to them to be informative, shocking, and useful,” observes Sikorski.

Graduate student Katherine Chesanek, who plans to apply for a doctoral program in psychology, says, “My knowledge about research has grown tremendously as a direct result of my participation in Dr. Sikorski’s research team. I have been able to achieve high grades in my graduate Research Methods classes, assisted with the creation of a database on hypermasculinity, made numerous presentations at psychology conferences, and conducted a study for possible publication.”

Sikorski, who holds a doctorate from Auburn University in child and adolescent clinical psychology, also directs another research team of students dealing with juvenile offenders. Prior to joining CCSU in 2007, he was a post-doctoral fellow in clinical child psychology at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Undergraduate Marissa Graziano, who has taken three classes with Sikorski, reflects on her experience on the juvenile sexual offenders research team: “Dr. Sikorski always has faith in students. He believes they are capable of pursuing tough goals such as getting into graduate school, doing research projects, and pursing their career dreams. This experience will benefit my future career because of the work ethic I developed by always being pushed to set higher goals.”

Many of the students Sikorski has mentored as part of his research teams have gone on to win a number of prestigious awards including The Barnard Scholarship, The Mary Corcoran Memorial Scholarship, and the Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day Senior Prize.

Sikorski’s scholarship on the teaching of psychology includes co-authoring a very well-received book to help beginning psychology teachers adjust to academia: A Guide for Beginning Teachers of Psychology. In addition, Sikorski and his colleagues in the psychology department have published four widely used research methods tutorials on a website edited by academic psychologists. He contributed significantly to a number of presentations at psychology teaching conferences and continues to collect data pertaining to student success in the research methods sequence at CCSU.

Sikorski reflects, “Almost every time, when students here are challenged, they have responded well. That is why I enjoy teaching at Central Connecticut State University so much.”

—Geri Radacsi
Think of Philip Roth, the iconic American novelist, and what comes to mind are his explorations of Jewish and American identity, his self-contemplating postmodernist bent, and his preoccupations with post-World War II American anxieties. Now CCSU Associate Professor of English Aimee Pozorski presents a fresh view in her new book, *Roth and Trauma: The Problem of History in the Later Works (1995-2010)* (Continuum, 2011).

While Pozorski does not disagree with these claims, she declares, “I wanted to push this reading of Roth further, to argue that he is not simply interested in a post-WWII Jewish American community throughout his fiction, but also in where that community came from, in how it evolved from the promises made at the country’s inception.” Drawing on close readings and trauma theory, she argues that Roth’s later novels grapple with US history in their fascination with America’s “traumatic beginnings” and the legacy of the American Revolution.

Pozorski, who joined CCSU in 2004 and is the current President of the Philip Roth Society, has expertise in primarily American contemporary literature, trauma theory, and poetry.

She says she finds close reading a useful approach to reading important American novels written during the contemporary period for what their repetitions, particularly repeated metaphors, can say about our national psyche or “psychological condition.” She states, “In Roth’s works, I found repeated mentions of the founding of the US in troubling terms, even though Roth purportedly set out to chronicle life in the US after WWII.”

 Critics have welcomed Pozorski’s innovative approach and her conversational writing style. “With an engaging combination of personal warmth and scholarly comprehensiveness, as well as an ear attuned to the poetics of prose, Aimee Pozorski expands the horizons of critical discourse by reading the masterpieces of Philip Roth’s late period as excavations of ‘the darker secrets of American identity,’” wrote University of Florida English Professor Peter L. Rudnytsky.

SUNY-Buffalo English Professor Mark Shechner concurs: “With detailed, penetrating, and vigorous readings of Roth’s late fictions, she finds him to be a writer of broad sympathy, conceptual subtlety, and historical depth, whose instincts for American history are founded on extensive research. Her book is as insistent, passionate, and political as the Roth novels she rereads for us.”

**Roots of Interest in Trauma**

Pozorski holds a PhD in English with a certificate in psychoanalytic studies from Emory University. There she became involved in an interdisciplinary psychoanalytic studies program. “Trauma studies help us to grapple with such things as war, terror, domestic abuse, mental problems, and accidents,” she observes. “Contemporary writers and artists in our society must necessarily deal well with these issues.”

About her scholarly approach, she comments, “I became interested in reading primarily American literature for what its repetitions can tell us about our own cultural concerns—concerns about things that we have yet to confront consciously. Rather than listening closely, however, as an analyst does, I read—at the letter of the text in order to see what the mistakes or repetitions, or struggle to represent something can tell us about our own national psyche.”

Just as she studied repeated references to infanticide in canonical literature during the last decade, Pozorski has recently shifted her focus to the repeated, and often criticized, figure of the falling man in creative work such as mural art, poetry, photography, and novels following the events of September 11, 2001.

She is working on an edited collection titled *Roth and Celebrity*, which is under contract with Lexington Press and forthcoming in 2013. She is also at work on a monograph under consideration at Continuum titled *The Falling Man after 9/11: A Crisis in National Tradition*.

She has published articles in *Philip Roth Studies, Studies in American and Jewish Literature, Paideuma*, *MELUS*, *The Hemingway Review*, and *Connecticut Review*. Most recently, she co-edited, with Miriam Jaffe-Foger, the special issue of *Philip Roth Studies* entitled, “Mourning Zuckerman.”

Pozorski muses, “I have often been asked how I, a woman born in the 1970s to a Catholic family in the mid-West, could possibly connect with the literature of a man born in the 1930s to a Jewish family in Newark. What my readings point out or find valuable is Roth’s American project—from America’s beginnings to its present day—through the eyes of a child of working class immigrants who live in their own isolated communities and understand the changing world through the values of this community. On some level, we are all immigrants in the US. Roth in this way opens up the value of his fiction to all of us; he is, of course, ‘of use’ or ‘of interest’ to a wide array of people.”

– Geri Radacsi
Putting the Quality in Equality for Educational Funding

CCSU hosted a School Funding Equity Forum in December, with the theme “What Will It Take to Provide All Students a Quality Education?” Project Director of the Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Dianne Kaplan deVries (left) delivered the keynote lecture, which was followed by theatrical and musical performances by CCSU pre-service teachers and eighth graders from DiLoreto Dual Language Magnet School. The forum also included a Superintendents’ Panel facilitated by WNPR Senior Editor/Reporter Diane Orson. The panel included Abby I. Doliver of Norwich Public Schools, John J. Ramos, Sr., of Bridgeport Public Schools, and Ron Jakubowski of New Britain Public Schools. Financial support for the forum was provided by the Office of Diversity and Equity and the Dean’s Office of the School of Education and Professional Studies. Sponsors included the Education Club, Department of Special Education, Department of Teacher Education, and the Center for Africana Studies.

Latinos in Higher Education Conference at CCSU

In November CCSU hosted the Latinos in Higher Education Conference. The conference provided an opportunity for participants to engage in a focused dialogue that, while considering the national perspective, focused specifically on the Connecticut experience. Attendees explored the causes of and strategies to address the existing under-representation and not yet fully realized success of Latinos in higher education. Hunter College’s Dr. Tony De Jesus delivered the keynote address, “Tinkering Toward Latinotopia: Higher Education Pipelines, Pathways, and Promises.” Other presenters included Dr. Tim Black, director of the Center for Social Research at the University of Hartford; Dr. Elsa Núñez, president of Eastern Connecticut State University; Dr. Wilfredo Nieves, president of Capital Community College; Dr. Estela López, senior program associate of Excelencia in Education; and Dr. Peter Rosa, senior program officer of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. The event was sponsored by the Latin American Studies Program, Office of Diversity and Equity, Counseling and Wellness Center, Student Affairs, and the departments of Anthropology, English, and Sociology.
Leanne Butler loves languages. This spring she will graduate with her second bachelor of arts degree, after having earned 194 credits and taken 65 classes with 56 different professors. “I love words. I collect them regularly,” Butler says. Her passion for learning languages and her desire to be able to communicate with others led her to a second bachelor of arts degree in German, with a minor in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages). Butler asserts, “I hate the stereotype that Americans only learn English. I’d prefer to break that stereotype and be able to communicate, even if it’s broken, in at least two other languages.”

An advanced student of Spanish, Butler enrolled for a second time at Central, with an English degree already in hand, and started taking courses in Chinese and German. “I loved my German professors,” she recalls, adding that her first courses were taught by Adjunct Lecturer of Modern Languages William McNamara and Assistant Professor of Modern Languages Jakub Kazecki. “I really wanted to go abroad,” says Butler, “and there is a fantastic program called The Baden-Wurttemberg Exchange which offers many German universities from which to choose.”

Butler chose Eberhard Karls Universität in Tübingen because of its size. The small-town school is one of Germany’s oldest universities, and its German Studies program has been ranked first for years among all German universities.

Butler says CCSU prepared her well for the culture change. While in Germany, Butler had weekly e-mail contact with Kazecki, her CCSU advisor, who “always kept me moving forward.” Kazecki states that many students doubt their ability to deal with different cultures so far from home. “During [Butler’s] year in Germany she succeeded in a foreign-language setting—and she loved it. She not only took classes in the German language but in literature, culture, creative writing, and theatre as well.”

When asked how she stayed motivated to study and keep up with the demands of learning an entirely new language, Butler says, “It was really easy because otherwise you’d be sitting in your room!” She adds, “When attempting to learn a language you need to converse with people who speak it. Going out and being social helps you learn. It may not be perfect, you pick up a lot of slang, but it all helps.”

According to a 2001 Gallup poll about one-fourth of the US population can speak a language other than English well enough to hold a conversation. So what compels one out of every four students coming in and out of our home while I was growing up.” The exposure normalized the experience for Butler who enjoys the challenges of learning multiple languages. Kazecki says, “[Butler’s] enthusiasm for all things German is contagious!”

Butler’s graduation in May heralds just the beginning of her life as a language enthusiast. As she explores the possibility of going back to Germany to teach English language programs, she’s also considering a master of arts degree in speech and language therapy at Southern Connecticut State University. “I want to work with languages and I want to work with speech,” she says. “And I’m really good at phonology; I picked up the German accent quickly and easily, so I know I can help people improve their speech as well.”

Listening to the way Butler moves excitedly between English and German, sensing her mastery of foreign accents, and witnessing her passion for communicating with many populations, it’s easy to imagine she will succeed and be fulfilled by any one of her possible career paths. Viel Glück, Leanne Butler! “Good luck!”

— Kate Callahan
Think of a mandala, broad and circular with a vibrant center piece. The bright center radiates ring upon ring of color, texture, and design. The beauty of the mandala lies not in its parts but in how the entire work of art makes people feel connected to something central. In just eighteen months, Community Central, located at 117 West Main Street in downtown New Britain, has become the core of connection among CCSU students and faculty, the Downtown District, and the New Britain School district.

Located in a 1,400 square-foot-storefront, Community Central exists to provide useable space and support for projects, programs, and small businesses aimed at connecting the CCSU and New Britain communities. “This is a permeable and passion-driven initiative,” says original founder, Associate Professor of Management and Organization Sarah Stookey. “Community Central would not have gotten off the ground if it hadn’t been for a close collaboration between CCSU, the Downtown District, and the school district,” which Stookey refers to as “three equal partners.”

The partnership makes Community Central both a destination and a launching pad for CCSU students. The initiative thrives when students like Eric Vargas, a music major interested in helping lower-income kids learn to play instruments, partners with Community Central. Community Central’s full-time director Hannah Hurwitz then partners with the New Britain YMCA to arrange the six-week use of a room and a group of elementary students who are eager to play instruments. Each of these connections helps Vargas realize his dream while gaining real-world experience in the field of music education—all before he graduates.

Any CCSU student or faculty member can reach out to Hurwitz with a project, idea, or skill. She works tirelessly to provide support through networking and resources to help eager people manifest their goals in the greater community. Hurwitz, an Americorps VISTA participant, came to work for Community Central in the fall. “This is my dream job and I have it for a year,” the 29-year-old Connecticut native says. The year-long VISTA grant provides Community Central with one full-time staff person. Hurwitz spent the last six years in New York City working in the fashion industry while volunteering at Sanctuary for Families, an organization that helps women fleeing from domestic abuse. Hurwitz remembers, “It was hard to go from one extreme to the other and made me realize what I truly felt passionate about. That’s what drove me to leave my job in fashion. I knew I would regret it if I didn’t make a change.”

Since her arrival, Hurwitz has forged partnerships with downtown businesses like The Hurricane Dist (New Britain High School store), The Connecticut Cut Furriers, and Trinity-on-Main, each which provide internships for accounting and marketing students interested in getting job experience. Stookey says Hurwitz “is an extraordinarily good networker, can identify resources easily, and makes people see how contributing to Community Central helps the community at large.”

Walls are coming down, literally and symbolically. Last summer Hurwitz found herself painting the building’s outside awning when a New Britain school student walked by and offered help. Hurwitz said “yes,” and he stayed for two hours. Hurwitz is quickly learning how “vital and loyal” the downtown community is to its neighbors. Just inside the storefront, a looming wall needed to be knocked down. Soon Hurwitz found herself talking with Dura Construction’s Charlie Paonessa, a life-long resident of New Britain, who offered to demolish the wall for free and salvage the used materials for his nonprofit called The ReCONstruction Center which resells materials to the public at discounted costs.

As downtown New Britain businesses, the YMCA, and the New Britain school district come to rely on Community Central as a matchmaker, more opportunities surface for students looking to volunteer, intern, teach, and start new businesses. Stookey says, “The idea is not only to assist students in their endeavors, but encourage faculty to do more community engagement with their classes.”

For the next two months, the Nursing department is offering free health screenings at Community Central; specially trained and certified accounting students are giving free tax assistance twice-a-week through April 15. Community Central is coordinating two mural projects with CCSU art professor Jerry Butler. One will be in the pool area at the YMCA, and the other will be installed at Lewis P. Slade Middle School, where lessons learned in the classroom will inspire the design.

If you have interest in learning more about Community Central, please contact its director, Hannah Hurwitz, at centralvista@ccsu.edu.

– Kate Callahan
Theatre Department Celebrates “Early Stages”

In November, the CCSU Theatre Department presented “A Lip Smackin’, Knee Slappin’, World of Wonderfulocity” in celebration of the first decade of “Early Stages,” public exhibits of work generated by the BFA in Educational Theatre. The show brought together the best in theatre for young audiences in central Connecticut and included excerpts from several productions, including “Breakdancin’ Shakespeare: The Tempest” by the Hartford Stage Education Department; “Pinkalicious” by the Hartford Children’s Theatre; “I’m Getting Nothin’ for Christmas” by the New Britain Youth Theater; and “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” by Newington Children’s Theatre. The event also included an original piece written and performed by BFA in Educational Theatre students titled “Tanked,” about the private lives of aquarium fish. Wandering improv puppets were provided by Tim Clarke, creative director of Dr. Phineas’ Magical Emporium.

La Guitarra Latina!

The Latin American, Latino, and Caribbean Center sponsored “La Guitarra Latina!” to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month in October. The evening of music and dance featured guitar virtuoso Daniel Salazar (left) and his ensemble of internationally acclaimed musicians and special guests.

CCSU Hosts International Film Conference

CCSU Professor of History Mieczyslaw Biskupski, holder of the Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies, lectured on “Film as Foreign Policy: The Border between Geopolitics and Entertainment,” as part of The International Film Conference on Borderlands held at CCSU and The New Britain Museum of American Art (right). The conference was funded by the 2011–2012 Faculty Development Grant and co-sponsored by the Center for International Education and the Department of Modern Languages, as well as the Polish Studies, Slavic and East European Studies, and West European Studies programs.

CCSU’s Polish Community Has Busy Semester

Central’s Polish Studies Program held numerous cultural events both on and off campus in the fall. Pianist Corbin Beisner, winner of the Chopin International Piano Competition, performed the works of Chopin, Scriabine, and Beethoven at Torp Theatre. The 100th anniversary of the birth of Polish poet and Nobel Laureate Czeslaw Milosz was also celebrated on campus—first in October when Yale University Professor Tomas Venclova lectured on “A Poet of Both Nations” and again in December with the screening of The Magic Mountain: An American Portrait of Czeslaw Milosz. The Polish Studies Program also hosted its annual Christmas Concert, presenting festive renditions of carols and classic Christmas music.
CT Gay and Lesbian Film Festival Digitization Project at the Burritt Library

CCSU’s Elihu Burritt Library is digitizing its collection of films from the Connecticut Gay and Lesbian Film Festival Archives. According to its fall newsletter, the Library has become “the depository of a unique and very comprehensive collection of GLBTQ films and associated paraphernalia thanks to the hard work of Shane Engstrom, director of the CT Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.” This adds to the collection of GLBTQ and film festival materials collected by retired Associate Library Director Frank Gagliardi. Library Technician Norman Ferriere has produced trailers for many of the films in the catalog.

Police Brutality during the Civil Rights Movement

In December, Police Chief A.C. Roper of Birmingham, Alabama, spoke candidly about the 1960s civil rights movement—specifically the violent policing employed by southern officers and its impact on modern civil rights. A guest of Central’s Adjunct Lecturer Stephen Balkaran, Roper, who is only the second black police chief in Birmingham’s history, noted the difficulty of policing with officers who are too young to remember the struggles of the civil rights movement.

The CCSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION presents

Classic Fridays at CCSU

Torp Theatre, Davidson Hall, CCSU — 2:00 p.m.

IM-AGING

All films to be introduced by faculty from CCSU’s Gerontology program.

February 10

Goodbye, Mr. Chips (1939)

March 8

Picnic (1955)

November 18

Harold and Maude (1971)

A pre-screening reception starts at 1:30 on each Friday.

Amusing Obituary Keeps Professor’s Humor Alive

When CCSU Professor of English, Emeritus, Robert Spiegel died at the end of November, his son wrote a humorous obituary that charmed friends, family, and former students. The obituary was so funny, in fact, that it soon went viral, with strangers posting it on Facebook and Twitter. The Associated Press picked up the national reaction to the obituary and interviewed CCSU Professor of English, Emeritus, Kevin Lynch for an article. Lynch noted that Spiegel “was a very humble man and reaching some level of postmortem fame would really please him. I’m sure he would have been delighted by it, and surprised.” CCSU is planning a memorial service with Spiegel’s family for the spring.
When Selina Nieves traveled to England in January on a CCSU-sponsored international program, she loved visiting Abbey Road, the Platform 9¾ at King’s Cross Station from the Harry Potter books, and having her picture taken in front of Big Ben.

But her favorite memory is probably having high tea and scones at a restaurant in Harrods department store.

“Everything was very elegant, and served on fine china. A pianist played in the background. I felt very fancy, and drank my tea with my pinky up,” said Nieves, a senior and psychology major. “It was one of the best experiences I had. I may have looked like an American, but I felt British!”

Nieves is one of 86 students who enrolled in the University’s winter Study Abroad program and spent part of January break in a new and exciting land. Although no two students had identical experiences, the vast majority—close to 100 percent—give the program very high marks.

And they aren’t the only ones. For the third consecutive year, CCSU has been recognized by the Institute of International Education as one of the top universities for international study because such a large number of our students study abroad.

Each year, more than 500 CCSU undergrad- and graduate-students take part in the short- term Study Abroad programs offered by the Center for International Education (CIE).

“When students come back, they tell us it was the most amazing experience they ever had,” said Nancy Birch Wagner, CIE Director. “They say it has changed their lives, helped them get better jobs or assisted them in selecting a field they want to study further. They’re not only enjoying these experiences personally, but are also benefitting from professional and academic growth.”

That is true for Carly Huffman, 21, who is planning a career as a teacher. She went to Montego Bay, Jamaica, to study in January.

“Visiting the elementary school kids was the highlight of the trip for me,” Huffman said. “They were so excited to see us.” She visited four elementary schools, a high school, and Sam Sharpe Teacher’s college.

“Because of my experience abroad, I think when I become a teacher I will be able to connect with students who come from other countries, and have a better appreciation that their experiences are not the same as their classmates,” Huffman said. “It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.”

The Course Abroad programs are so successful because they cater to the needs of CCSU students, many of whom are on a budget or cannot, for a variety of reasons, spend a semester or a year abroad, said Lisa Marie Bigelow, Associate Director of the CIE. Most classes are open to students from different majors, programs vary in duration, and all students, including freshmen, are eligible to go.

“Many of our students haven’t travelled outside the country, and for some it is their first time on a plane,” Bigelow said. For that reason, they appreciate the “safety net” of traveling on a university-sponsored program, she said.

“They are going with a faculty member, maybe with some friends. It is a ‘planned’ experience. If there is a glitch in the arrangements, for example, a flight gets re-routed, the faculty member is there to guide the students,” Bigelow said.

Professor of Communication Ben Tyson and his wife, SCSU Professor of Public Health Christine

Jamaica? Australia? Brazil? Take your pick! Studying Abroad Combines Learning, Adventure, Career Enhancement
Unson, accompanied 14 students to New Zealand in January, and taught a course in environmental and health communications.

In addition to academics, the course featured co-curricular activities including a night hike in an ancient forest and a welcome ceremony with the Maori, the indigenous Polynesian people of the country. Students enjoyed a Hangi, which is a luau-like barbeque, and a field trip to the northern tip of the Tazman Sea. They also met the great-great grandson of a native chief and toured Waiotapo Park, a geothermal park reminiscent of Yosemite.

“In every picture I have, you’ll see the students grinning from ear to ear,” Tyson said. “Everything is new. It is like being a child again and experiencing new foods, new scenery, a new culture.

“As you get older, you tend to lose that sense of wonder, but when you travel to a new place, you can reclaim it,” he said.

Emily Janecek, a music education major, went on the 14-day Course Abroad in New Zealand.

“The scenery was gorgeous, the culture was European but laid back, the country was so green, and the air so fresh,” she said. “I miss it. I hope I can go back. We only saw the northern half of the north island, so there is more to explore.”

Janecek had traveled to Rome and Spain before, but this was her first course abroad. It was a good balance between exploration, culture, and classroom, she said.

The dance and music of the Maori people will be something Janecek believes she can incorporate into lessons when she has her own classroom.

“It is absolutely something I will remember for the rest of my life,” she said. “I would encourage other students to take a Study Abroad course. It isn’t like a regular class. It is more interactive, hands-on, and more fun. You absorb so much more when you’re there,” said the 20-year-old junior.

Alexa Rivera had never traveled outside the US when she signed up for the study abroad trip to New Zealand.

“I always wanted to travel, and this was the way to kick-start it,” she said. “Now I’m excited to do more.”

She quickly made new friends among her fellow travelers. They’ve planned a summer reunion barbeque.

“It was awesome. It was good to get away, enjoy the warmer weather, and try something different,” she said. Rivera, a public relations major, hopes to represent an environmental company some day.

CCSU has had a study abroad program since the early 1970s, when students had the option to study in Jamaica or China, something that was very forward-thinking at the time, Bigelow said. “Since then, promoting international experiences for our students has been a personal passion of most of the CCSU presidents,” she added.

And while everyone wants the students to have fun, the University has firm guidelines that ensure the Courses Abroad meet educational expectations as well. Before being approved, professors must outline specific educational goals, which might include: communicating effectively using a foreign language; developing awareness of ethnic and cultural differences; or demonstrating knowledge of world history and/or geography.

Having the experience of international study is a tremendous advantage when interviewing for a job, because almost every large Connecticut company engages in some form of global business, Bigelow said.

“Ninety percent of our CCSU graduates stay in Connecticut,” she pointed out. “Anything you can tell a future employer about relating to or working with people in other countries, will undoubtedly help you get a job. We tell our students that studying abroad leads to better starting salaries.

“I tell students, ‘This is the best additional expense you will incur at CCSU,’ ” Bigelow said. “Instead of spending your money on something that will be out of fashion in six months, spend it on an experience that will last you a lifetime.”

– Claire LaFleur Hall

CCSU Study Abroad students stop for a photo in front of a Kauri tree in New Zealand. The Kauri are among the world’s mightiest, growing up to 164 feet, and can live for more than 2,000 years.
CCSU and New Britain Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day

CCSU and the New Britain community celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 16th with memorial events and charitable work. The day began with speeches about King and the Civil Rights movement by CCSU Adjunct Lecturer Stephen Balkaran and New Britain Mayor Timothy O’Brien at the New Britain YWCA, and Reverend Dale Shaw of the Bethesda Apostolic Church at Angelico’s restaurant on East Main Street. Students from CCSU, E.C. Goodwin Tech High School, New Britain High School, and DiLoreto Elementary School came together in New Britain to volunteer their time cooking food for the homeless at the Friendship Center, playing with children at the YMCA and the Boys and Girls Club, and spending time with the city’s elderly. The day of service exemplified Dr. King’s beliefs about community involvement.

CCSU Helps ‘Welcome Home Vietnam Vets’

Do you know a Vietnam veteran? If so, let them know they will be honored on Saturday, March 31 at Connecticut’s Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans event and are invited to attend.

Central Connecticut State University’s Veterans History Project and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs are organizing this one-time event to show support to a group of veterans who, in many instances, received a less than heroic homecoming.

“In organizing this Welcome Home our mission is simple,” says Commissioner of Veterans’ Affairs Linda Spoonster Schwartz. “Let’s give our Vietnam veterans a hearty ‘thank you’ and an enthusiastic welcome home many of them never received.”

Approximately 80,000 men and women who served in the military during the Vietnam era (February 1961 through May 1975) live in Connecticut. There were no cheering masses greeting them at the airport when they returned from combat; many of them faced angry war protestors and citizens confused and sometimes afraid of the vets.

With the intent of giving Vietnam veterans a long overdue show of respect, Connecticut has officially designated March 30—the day the last serviceman left Vietnam in 1973—as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.

“Since the legislation was passed last year, my office has been receiving inquiries about what, if anything, we were going to do to commemorate the day,” the Commissioner says. “Working with Eileen Hurst and CCSU, we hope our Vietnam veterans will enjoy the camaraderie and the show of support the Welcome Home event is meant to deliver,” she adds.

Hurst, director of the Veterans History Project, heads a small group of volunteers who have been working since early fall to plan and organize the March 31 activities. The Governor William A. O’Neill Armory in Hartford will be the event site, and doors will open at 6:30 that night, with the show beginning at 7 p.m. The New York City based USO Liberty Bells will perform patriotic and Vietnam era songs. Radio personality and DJ Mark the Shark has volunteered his services to provide era appropriate music. Additional entertainment and a buffet are also planned. William J. Begert, four-star general of the US Air Force (retired) who is Pratt & Whitney’s vice president for Military International Programs and Business has been invited to speak.

Committee members are raising private funds to support the event so Vietnam veterans will receive a free ticket; their guests and supporters will be charged $10 each. So far the group has raised nearly $30,000. Pratt & Whitney’s donation of $10,000 has earned the jet engine-maker the title of cooperating sponsor. Farmington Bank and the History Channel have each given $5,000 to the cause earning them the title of associate sponsors.

“We are also receiving quite a number of gifts from veteran organizations and individuals who want to support this effort,” says Hurst.

Tickets must be reserved before the event, Hurst says. “We can’t stress that enough,” she says Hurst. “We hope to pack the house, which means about 1,200 guests.”

Event information is available at www.ccsu.edu/welcomehome. For tickets or donations, please contact: Eileen Hurst, 860.832.2976 or hursteim@ccsu.edu.
New Britain Freshmen Now Regular Visitors to Campus

When Jazmine Stewart, a 9th grader at New Britain High School, talks about becoming a nurse, there’s a sparkle in her eye.

“I really like the idea of taking care of somebody,” she said. “I would feel good about it.” Stewart said she has good grades and plans to go to college. On a recent visit to CCSU, she and a number of other 9th graders had a chance to ask questions to more than a dozen college professors and learn more about the daily life of a college student.

“I never knew what college was like until I came here,” she said. One thing that surprised her is that college students spend fewer hours in the classroom than she does in high school, but have more homework.

CCSU and New Britain High School have created a program that brings students to campus at least three times during their freshman year. The program, now in its second year, appears to be very popular. When a bus problem postponed a planned visit, students were very upset, New Britain educators said.

The goal of the partnership is to get high school freshmen to think about their futures, to be more focused in their studies, and to consider attending college after they graduate, said Paulette Lemma, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies.

“The New Britain school district’s mission is to have their students graduate and be ready to attend college,” she said. “Supplementing their high school experience with trips to campus may help them achieve that.

“We’ve had a longstanding partnership with individual schools in New Britain, but now it is exciting to be working with the entire school district,” she said. “We have a commitment to the well-being of the New Britain community.”

Although it is only 3 miles from New Britain High to CCSU, for some students it is like visiting a new land, said Damon Pearce, Associate Principal in charge of New Britain’s 9th Grade Academy. Many of the 600 freshmen at New Britain High School live in low-income households and would be the first in their families to attend college.

Even with advance preparation, one girl jumped off the bus, looked around and said, “What is this place?” Pearce recalled.

During their first visit, students tour campus and eat in a dining hall, which proved to be very popular, particularly the ice cream bar. On their second visit, students worked on a high-school research project at Burritt Library, with hands-on help from 10 librarians. And, most recently, they attended a program called “Major Exploration” where they met with professors in small groups and learned about selecting a college major and career.

At the same time, the University is conducting research to see if coming to campus in the 9th grade will impact the number of students who ultimately pursue higher education. The freshmen are given pre- and post-visit questionnaires to gauge their interest in college. Currently only about 5 percent of the graduating students from New Britain High enroll at CCSU.

Although the New Britain educators are thrilled to see their students pursue higher education anywhere, Pearce said, “Why not here? Why pay room and board if you don’t have to?”

Christian Yelling, a New Britain High freshman, wants to become a lawyer, like her uncle.

“At first I wanted to be a doctor, but then my uncle talked to me about how much lawyers help people,” she said. She can envision herself in the courtroom, defending clients. Although becoming a lawyer will require extensive schooling, Yelling said “it is going to be worth it.”

“The professors I met today really worked hard to become where they are. They never gave up,” said NBHS 9th grader Christian Yelling. Her visit to CCSU made her want to work harder and “be more focused and go for my goal.”

James Mulrooney, chairman of the Biomolecular Sciences Department and a New Britain resident, is passionate about CCSU’s role in breaking the cycle of poverty in New Britain by offering this generation of high schoolers the chance to attend college.

“There is such a tremendous disconnect for some students. They come here not knowing what it means to go to college. They think you go to college to play football,” he said.

continued on page 17
The CCSU Bookstore, the Offices of the Provost and Institutional Advancement and the Media Center present Central Authors, CCSU’s cable television show featuring members of the Central family (faculty, staff, and alumni) talking about their books and airing on some 20 cable outlets throughout Connecticut. Check your local listings! All tapings are at 12:15 p.m. in the CCSU Bookstore.

Hermann Goring — Fighter Ace
Peter Kilduff (University Relations, Emeritus)
Wednesday, March 7

Black Women and Religion in the Diaspora
Felton Best (Philosophy)
Wednesday, March 28

Dementia Care with Black and Latino Families: A Social Work Problem Solving Approach
Delia Sanders (Social Work)
Wednesday, April 4

Transformative Learning Through Engagement: Student Affairs as Experiential Pedagogy
Jane Fried (Counseling & Family Therapy)
Wednesday, April 18

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

NEW books

Professor of Mathematical Sciences Thomas Roman’s new book Time Travel and Warp Drives, co-authored with Tuft University’s Professor of Physics, Emeritus, Allen Everett, has been published by University of Chicago Press. The authors explore the nature of time and space, explain Einstein’s theory of special relativity, and discuss the theoretical connection between going back in time and traveling faster than the speed of light. The authors also cover wormholes and warp bubbles and imagine the paradoxes that could plague a world where time travel was possible.

CCSU Reference Librarian Nick Tomaiuolo’s latest book, Ucontent: The Information Professional’s Guide to User-Generated Content, has been published by Information Today, Inc. Touted as thorough and easy to read, Tomaiuolo’s text considers the reasons behind the popularity of user-generated content and makes strong arguments for cultivating it.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 3</td>
<td>Senior Flute Recital</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Founders Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 8</td>
<td>Forum: Composer Judith Shatin</td>
<td>3:05 p.m.</td>
<td>Founders Hall</td>
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<td>March 9</td>
<td>Women's Composer Festival Guest Composer</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>March 10</td>
<td>Bellas’ “The Sing Off: CCSU Style” Fundraiser</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Welte Auditorium</td>
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<td>March 12</td>
<td>Jazz Band</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Torp Theater</td>
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<td>March 15</td>
<td>Kelet Duo Performance</td>
<td>3:05 p.m.</td>
<td>Founders Hall</td>
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<td>March 15</td>
<td>Wind Symphony</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Welte Auditorium</td>
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<td>March 29</td>
<td>Student Recital #1</td>
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<td>April 3</td>
<td>Cello and Piano Recital</td>
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<td>Founders Hall</td>
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<td>April 10</td>
<td>Student Recital #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>Student Recital #3</td>
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<td>Founders Hall</td>
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<td>April 15</td>
<td>The Connecticut Trio Trios of Schumann, Judith Shatin, and Piazzolla</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Founders Hall</td>
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<td>April 17</td>
<td>The Connecticut Trio Concert</td>
<td>3:05 p.m.</td>
<td>Founders Hall</td>
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<td>April 18</td>
<td>“A Little Night Music” Concert Series</td>
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<td>Founders Hall</td>
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<td>April 19</td>
<td>Student Recital #4</td>
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<td>April 19</td>
<td>Central Electric Acoustic Recital Series</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Founders Hall</td>
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<td>April 21</td>
<td>Graduate Flute Recital</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Founders Hall</td>
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<td>April 22</td>
<td>University Singers Concert</td>
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<td>Founders Hall</td>
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<td>April 24</td>
<td>Trumpet Recital</td>
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<td>Welte Auditorium</td>
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<td>Percussion Recital</td>
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<td>April 28</td>
<td>Choral Concert</td>
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<td>Torp Theater</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 29</td>
<td>University Singers Spring Concert</td>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Founders Hall</td>
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<td>April 30</td>
<td>Sinfonietta Concert</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Welte Auditorium</td>
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<td>Student Recital #5</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Wind Symphony</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Welte Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Student Recital #6</td>
<td>3:05 p.m.</td>
<td>Founders Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Flute Recital</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Marcus White Living Room</td>
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In December the Center for Africana Studies Lecture Series presented “African American English through the Years: From Hot Topics and Debates to Linguistic Research.” The lecture, presented by Lisa Green of the Department of Linguistics at UMass-Amherst, was co-sponsored by the Department of English.

In December CCSU hosted the Black and Hispanic/Latino Male Statewide Forum, which focused on improving the education of male minority students in Connecticut.

CCSU’s Religious Studies Lecture Series presented “Can Religion Impact US Presidential Elections?: The Case of Mitt Romney” in October. Panelists included CSU Professor Felton Best and Adjunct Lecturer of Philosophy Robert Prescott-Ezickson. Professor of Political Science Walton Brown-Foster served as the moderator. The lecture was sponsored by the departments of Philosophy and Political Science and the African-American Studies Program.

In October, the Ruthe Boyea Women’s Center presented “Changing the Tide: A Strategy to Reduce Violence in Intimate Relationships.” Director of the Non Violence Alliance Scott Vinci discussed the definition of domestic violence and examined how changes in family structure have redefined gender roles and expectations in modern society.

In October, research biologist Dr. Walter J. Berry of the US Environmental Protection Agency spoke at a biology seminar titled “Chasing Little Brown Birds.” Berry outlined the current investigation regarding the causes of the declining populations of seaside sparrow in Rhode Island salt marshes.

In November, the Student Union Board of Governors brought First Lieutenant Dan Choi to campus to discuss the controversial “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” military policy. Choi, who was discharged from the US Army due to his breach of this policy, detailed his subsequent activism to have the policy repealed.

Dr. Inci Delemen of Istanbul University delivered the lecture “Discovering Perge” in October. Perge is a well-preserved Greek archaeological site near Turkey’s Mediterranean coast. The lecture was sponsored by the English Department, Middle Eastern Studies Committee, International and Area Studies Program, the Center for International Education, and the American Friends of Turkey.

In October the International Studies Lecture Series presented “Employment and Economic Crisis in the USA: What Americans Can Learn from Development Practices in Kerala State, Southwest India.” The lecture, given by Professor of Anthropology David Kideckel, was sponsored by International and Area Studies and the Department of Anthropology.

In October Donna Ferrato, author of Living with the Enemy, spoke with CCSU audience members about her work as a photojournalist and her activism to end domestic violence. The lecture was sponsored by the Ruthe Boyea Women’s Center.

In January the exhibition “Figures” was on display in the CCSU Art Galleries. The show featured works by artists Joy Brown, Mary Close, Dan McCormack, and Eileen Senner, as well as pieces by Milton Rockwell Bellin from CCSU’s permanent collection. The exhibit opened with lectures by the artists and ran through February 23.

In November, the History Department sponsored a lecture by Boston University Professor of History Anna Geitman titled “Fundamentalist Terrorism: Psychohistorical Patterns in the 20th and 21st Centuries.”

Thanks to a $10,000-a-year grant from CCSU’s School of Engineering and Technology (SET), children from the New Britain Boys and Girls Club participated in a Lego robotics program over the summer. The program, which is in its second year, also gave participants the opportunity to visit CCSU and the engineering program’s robotic equipment.

Cultural anthropologist Christine Eber presented a lecture in December on “A Life of Resistance: The Story of a Tzotzil Maya Woman.” The event was sponsored by the Department of Anthropology and International and Area Studies.

CCSU hosted an online voting forum, made possible—and moderated—by the Robert C. Vance Endowed Chair in Journalism and Mass Communication John Dankosky, in October. The forum focused on the obstacles to voting faced by military personnel stationed overseas and on security issues with online voting. Sponsors included the Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences, Political Science Department, Connecticut Citizenship Fund, Connecticut Department of Veterans’ Affairs, Connecticut National Guard, Connecticut Secretary of the State, and State Elections Enforcement Commission.

The International Studies Lecture Series presented a lecture by Lawrence Davidson, professor of history at West Chester University, titled “Palestine and the Arab Spring: The Bid for Statehood.” The lecture, which took place in November, was sponsored by the Office of the Provost, International and Area Studies, Center for International Education, Middle East Studies, and Peace Studies.

In November, Professor of Theatre Josh Perlstein and scholar Erin Mee, editor of the anthology Antigone on the Contemporary World Stage, presented a discussion about his upcoming adaptation of Antigone, which was performed on campus in late November and early December.

CCSU’s Mosaic Center hosted a screening of Precious Knowledge, a documentary about students in the Mexican American Studies Program at Tucson High School, which has been considered a “national model of educational success.” A question and answer session with the film’s producer, Eren McGinnis, followed.

In November, the Elihu Burritt Library hosted the lecture “Stealing Rembrandts: The Untold Stories of Notorious Art Heists,” by author Anthony Amore, who is head of security for the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. The event also featured Treasures from the Special Collections, an exhibit of illuminated manuscripts, rare books, and Elihu Burritt’s letters held by the library.

In December, Deputy Secretary General Council of Italians Abroad Dr. Silvana Mangione gave a lecture on “Women of the Italian Risorgimento and Resistenza.” The event was sponsored by the Modern Language Department in association with the Social Movement and Resistance International Studies Series and the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program.
Building Bridges at Community Central

The New Britain Herald ran an article featuring the work of Associate Professor of Management and Organization Sarah Stookey’s Ethical and Social Issues for Managers classes. According to the article, students presented proposals at Community Central on West Main Street aimed at helping to “bridge the social gap between university and downtown, resulting in a vibrant business community…ultimately transform[ing] downtown into a true ‘college town’.” The article stated that the projects, although hypothetical, “could lead to the kind of revitalization city business leaders have been proposing for more than a decade.” Stookey has been the driving force behind Community Central, since she envisioned the project two years ago.

It was also mentioned that “Community Central opened last month with the objective of connecting CCSU resources and students with New Britain students and community groups... In this first year, Community Central is stressing education, arts and culture, and economic sustainability.” CCSU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Carl Lovitt was quoted as saying “Community Central is a way of supporting the University’s local community while teaching valuable lessons to the CCSU population.” He continued, “Community Central enables students to further their education while helping to improve the quality of life for citizens of New Britain. It affirms the University’s commitment to supporting our local community and to educating responsible citizens.”

NBHS Freshmen Advised To Pick a Career They Love

“New Britain is a tiny city and CCSU takes up a big chunk of land here. Some kids have lived here their whole lives and never stepped foot on campus,” he said. Because of the University’s growing commitment to the city, “it is going to be hard to live here and not be impacted, in a good way, by the CCSU community,” Mulrooney said.

Back at the program about college majors, Professor of English Amy Pozorski was prepared to explain the importance of an English degree but encountered a lot of math fans.

“I knew it was a tough crowd when we asked how many people liked to read and only two raised their hand,” she said with a smile. “So I changed my talk to tell them to choose something they love to do, to major in something they love.”

Alex Swaby’s first career choice would be to play professional football, and his second would be to be a physical education teacher.

“I like coming here,” he said of CCSU. “It makes me want to think about what I want in my life. I want to do something that I really like, not just do something for the money.”

Assistant Professor of Nursing Stacy Christensen tried to steer students to the nursing profession, explaining that there are plenty of jobs at good pay and that it is a well-respected profession. She even brought medical equipment to let the students measure their oxygen levels.

“I wanted to tell the students that the stereotypical role of a woman nurse has gone by the wayside. We really want to see guys in the profession. We want them to consider it,” she said. “The students were excited about nursing and the job market is good. We definitely have some students who are interested in it.”

Economics Department Chair Carlos Liard-Muriente talks with Christian Yelling about careers.

Freshman Carlos Diaz said his family wants him to go to college. In addition to visiting CCSU, he and his family have been to MIT, Yale, and UConn. He was particularly interested in the presentation by the teacher education department. He, too, is thinking about a career as a physical education teacher.

Carl Antonucci, Director of Library Services, said the New Britain High students learned new methods of research and were told they are welcome to use the University’s resources.

“It was a great learning experience for them. They were in awe of the number of books and amazed at our collections,” he said. About 10 CCSU librarians coordinated the research with the educators from the 9th Grade Academy. “The staff enjoyed it as well, so it was rewarding for everyone,” he said. When he met with a small group of students, Department of Economics Chair Carlos Liard-Muriente was direct.

“What’s the plan? What is THE PLAN? This is the most important decision you’ll ever make,” said Department of Economics Chair Carlos Liard-Muriente.

“*What’s the plan? What is THE PLAN? This is the most important decision you’ll ever make.*” said Department of Economics Chair Carlos Liard-Muriente.

— Claire LaFleur Hall
In December, the CCSU Art Galleries presented “The Art Educators Exhibit,” featuring work by students graduating from the art education program. Student artists included Noelia Bonilla, Jayme Keeling, Krista LaBella, Judith Meals Kuhn, Hama Pertab, Roger Pappineau, Natalie Petrushonis, Kaley Ripa, and Hilary Smith.

CCSU senior Jeremy Bradford is the first author of a paper titled “Structure and Dynamics of the Globular Cluster Palomar 13,” published in the December issue of the *Astrophysical Journal*. Over the past year, Bradford conducted research with Marla Geha, assistant professor of astronomy at Yale University, on the galactic globular cluster Palomar 13. Their goal was to evaluate whether Palomar 13 contains a significant amount of dark matter or is being tidally disrupted. Collaborating with other prominent researchers (Ricardo Munoz and Filipe Santana of The Observatories of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, Patrick Cote and Peter Stetson of the Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics, and Evan Kirby and George Djorgovski of Caltech), Bradford found that the cluster’s velocity dispersion is inflated by variable stars and that a dark matter component is not necessary to explain the cluster’s dynamics.

CCSU junior Kate Callahan was interviewed in September on Trinity College’s radio station WRTC about her new album, *Two Doors*, scheduled for release in May. During the interview, Callahan performed six songs from the album, including “Two Doors,” “Yes,” and “Half Moon.” After the interview, Callahan served as DJ, spinning songs by her favorite female artists.

In October, Distinguished Professor of Political Science and holder of the William A. O’Neill Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Practical Politics William R. Dyson participated in a Connecticut Public Television panel discussion titled “Education vs. Incarcerations: A Town Hall Meeting.” The program explored the need for resources to keep youth in school and out of prison.

Head Coach of the Blue Devils men’s soccer team Shaun Green was honored by the Northeast Conference as “Coach of the Year” in November. Green earned the prestigious title by leading the Blue Devils from last place to share the divisional regular season championship.

Associate Professor of Sociology Elizabeth Kaminski’s article, titled “A Very Strong Underlying Message 4 Girls Like Me,” was featured in the international magazine *PopMatters*. The article explored pop singer Rihanna’s controversial song “Man Down” and its message about women’s sexual autonomy.

The New Britain Parks and Recreation Commission honored CCSU’s Amy Kirby, a graduate student in public history, with the 2011 Benefits are Endless...Special Recognition Award. Kirby, who served as researcher, writer, developer, and volunteer coordinator for Timeless Tales of Fairview Cemetery, was recognized for her work, which “improved the quality of life for New Britain’s residents and proved that New Britain is a great city where the benefits are endless.”

Seventy-five Connecticut students were recognized by the Center for Talented Youth in a ceremony at CCSU. As part of the event, Professor of Physics and Earth Sciences Kristine Larsen spoke about the importance of math and science and about living her dream as an astronomer.

Freshman mechanical engineering major Brian Ross served as crew chief for the winning Whelen team at the NASCAR Modified Tour event held this October at Thompson International Speedway. Ross began his career in the pit crew three years ago at age sixteen, and, after just two races as crew chief, has proved a winning asset to the team.

CCSU student Judy Schuelke won the “Best Written Business Plan” in the Fall 2011 Connecticut Collegiate Business Plan Competition. Schuelke, who is majoring in design and minoring in entrepreneurship, received a $500 prize. Her plan called for producing healthy, refreshing flavor packets to apply to ice chips in surgical recovery rooms, chemotherapy units, and birthing centers.

Business Development Coordinator Sue Siton, of the Connecticut Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at ITBD, was named “2011 State Star” in November for her exceptional contributions to the Connecticut SBDC Program. A reception was held in San Diego, CA, during the ASBDC’s 31st Annual Conference, to recognize Siton and all “2011 State Star” honorees.

The artwork of CCSU student Anna Zatorska was featured in the “Trees” exhibit in December and January at a Starbucks in Brooklyn, NY.
The CCSU swim team, along with teams from Duquesne University and Saint Francis University, raised $1,000 each for The American Cancer Society of Pittsburg. Each team held swim-a-thons and earned money by the lap and the yard, as well as by accepting donations. Fundraising efforts culminated in a tri-meet, in which the three schools participated.

Associate Director of the Center for Public Policy and Social Research Eileen Hurst is committed to helping veterans. In addition to her work with the Veteran’s History Project, which is housed at the US Library of Congress and at CCSU, Hurst volunteers for AmericanWarrior, chaperoning World War II veterans on flights to Washington, DC, to visit the WWII Memorial.

In November, Human Resources Administrator Anna Suski-Lenczewski, who graduated from CCSU in 1984, was appointed to the New Britain Police Board by Mayor Tim O’Brien. Suski-Lenczewski, an active participant in the Folklore Group, Polish Saturday School, and New Britain’s fall festival, the Dozynki, was also recognized by the Polish American Foundation for her volunteerism.

The New Britain Herald started the new year with an article on 12 people who will play an important role in the city in 2012, including CCSU alum Michael Foran, BSED ’86, MS ’90, SYC ’92, and Executive Assistant to the President Richard Mullins. Foran, who is principal of New Britain High School and the 2012 National Principal of the Year, has seen improved test scores, increased collaboration between faculty and parents, and increased enrollment in the school’s nursing academy—from 60 to 200 students. He plans to establish additional academies to prepare students for future careers. Mullins, who has been with CCSU’s Institute of Technology and Business Development for 16 years, is the force behind initiatives to increase collaboration between schools and businesses to provide training for current and potential employees.

Bloomberg News tapped Associate Professor of Sociology Andrea Pearson for an article about Connecticut as “home to the widest income gap of any metro area in the US.”
5th Annual Global Environmental Sustainability Symposium

On Thursday, March 29, CCSU will host the 5th annual Global Environmental Sustainability Symposium. The symposium is free and open to the public. Events include movie screenings, lectures, and a Town Hall meeting with Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Commissioner Daniel C. Esty. The campus-wide event begins at 9:45 a.m. with a welcome address by GESAC Board of Directors member and Assistant Professor of Geography Charles Button. For more information and event locations, see www.ccsu.edu/gesac12.

6th Annual Literacy Essentials Conference
Data That Count and Data That Really Count: Focusing on the Whole Child

The 6th annual Literacy Essentials Conference will be held on Saturday, March 31, in Alumni Hall, for students, parents, educators, administrators, and community leaders interested in the most up-to-date research and best practices in teaching and assessing literacy. Speakers include Yetta and Ken Goodman, prominent literacy researchers; Nancy Carlsson-Paige, author and early childhood education expert; and Kevin O’Malley, children’s book author and illustrator. The event also features hands-on workshops, paper presentations, panel discussions, research poster sessions, and activity demonstrations. Register at www.reading.ccsu.edu/literacyessentialsconference.