Higher education and the Connecticut State College and University system may be undergoing “uncertain and somewhat turbulent times,” but it’s time for CCSU to set out on a “really bold new course to become exceptional.” That surprise declaration came from President Jack Miller at the University’s Opening Meeting in Alumni Hall on August 28.

Challenging the packed crowd of faculty and staff, he said, “It’s not my ambition in life to just survive. We can build on what we’ve accomplished, but we’ve really got to reach for much loftier goals.” With great conviction he added, “We need to set a realistic goal, and I think a realistic goal for us is to be an exceptional, regional public comprehensive university.”

Surviving
While the University’s current financial climate is marked by decreases in state funding and the declining number of high school students seeking higher education, the University has taken control of its destiny and is working to survive, he assured everyone. Some of the steps include retaining a higher percentage of students, increasing the number of private gifts, expanding revenue producing activities, and utilizing grants and contracts to increase resources for new teaching and research.

“We’re doing a lot of those things, so we’ve already proved we are surviving, but well beyond that, we are thriving in many ways,” he declared and then turned to his favorite tool for proving a case: data.

Thriving
He pointed out that during the last seven years, CCSU has changed the way it conducts business, which resulted in successfully moving the full-time graduation rate up 11 percent; financial aid grew 172 percent to $91 M; annual gifts increased 385 percent to $5.3 M; and the number of students going abroad for an international learning experience more than doubled, from 220 students to 457.

Becoming Exceptional
The President’s standard for judging whether CCSU could, in fact, climb the academic ladder, was based on nine universities he had researched during the summer and deemed “good company to be in.” The universities include: Boise State, California Polytechnic State, Eastern Carolina, George Mason, Illinois State, Indiana State, James Madison, Northern Illinois, and Old Dominion. Miller displayed a series of PowerPoint charts to illustrate how...
CCSU stacked up against the “nine,” and using statistics about student selectivity, enrollment, student profile, student success, fees, and cost factors, he presented his case. “In the middle,” he repeated again and again to emphasize where Central landed more often than not. It led the President to ask, “So are we all that different [from the nine]? I think the answer is we are far more like those institutions than we are different from those institutions. It’s not reaching for stars. With a bold course, a firm plan, and the support of all constituencies, we can become exceptional.”

To become exceptional, Miller said, Central needs to grow in numbers and campus size; it’s one of the biggest differences between CCSU and the select nine. CCSU landed in the lower third for overall enrollment; therefore, increasing both student retention and graduation rates are a necessity, according to Miller. He also called for maintaining a “strong commitment to liberally educating our students,” and to expanding graduate programming and increasing enrollment of full- and part-time graduate students. By increasing out-of-state enrollment to 15 percent, revenue would be “enhanced dramatically,” said President Miller, though he was quick to add that CCSU would remain a Connecticut university, “first and foremost.” The endowment, which doubled in size to $38 million, should be “redoubled to $80 million,” challenged the President.

With more students comes the need for additional facilities. “We have to increase our residential space by at least double, probably more,” the President estimated. He recommended establishing small residential living spaces for students with special interests, such as academic or social clubs, and giving Central a range of living options for students—a selection now offered at many universities that can be an effective tool in attracting new students. To increase the number of new living spaces, the President suggested using public-private partnerships.

He also called for building a new school of education and companion magnet school where, together, they would become a laboratory for education change. His vision for an expanded campus also included new indoor athletic facilities and outdoor space for community recreational use. Since the current campus is cramped, he described how the expansion would take place on University land, east of campus and adjacent to the site of a stop along the Hartford-New Britain Busway, now under construction. The Busway could become a central part of the expanded campus, Miller said, and would create a more direct connection to Hartford and New Britain while reducing the carbon footprint.

“We need to expand our presence in downtown New Britain with graduate students and faculty residential space that will be right on the Busway,” the President emphasized. He’d like to see additional classroom space created in CCSU’s Institute for Business Development (ITBD), already located downtown, and expand ITBD’s role in the city’s economic development.

With the Busway comes a new opportunity for Central. The President proposed creating a center in Hartford to more closely connect with Capital Community College, provide graduate programs—especially for those in urban teacher education and social work—and partner with the insurance industry. “There should be a state university presence in Hartford…to help rebuild the city of Hartford,” Miller asserted.

His map to becoming “exceptional” included a call for creating an administrative structure to join the Science, Mathematics, Engineering, and Technology areas, expanding their facilities, and “vastly” increasing the use of technology in teaching and learning.

In wrapping up his presentation, President Miller shared this, “We have to continue to survive, and we are. We have to continue to thrive, and we are. But we have to think bigger. We have to think about what we can be, and how we can become exceptional—not setting our course on survival—but setting our course on exceptional.”

— Janice Palmer
According to Lisa Bigelow, Associate Director of the Center for International Education (CIE), “CCSU is committed to graduating globally competent students, which means equipping them—through on-campus instruction and study abroad—with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes they will need to thrive in today’s increasingly interconnected society and economy.”

The latest issue of the Institute of International Education’s Open Doors Report ranks CCSU among the top 40 institutions in the country for the total number of students sent abroad on all types of programs, an opportunity the University has offered for nearly 40 years.

Central—which is the only master’s level institution from Connecticut listed in the Open Doors Report—has developed a wide range of international education opportunities, including semesters, entire academic years, and courses abroad. Bigelow said, “There is a program to fit all academic interests, budgets, and schedules.”

Over the summer, art and biology students travelled to Australia to take part in a month-long program. CCSU Professor of Biology Sylvia Halkin and ECSU Lecturer of Visual Arts Muriel Miller, who have taken students to study abroad for over a decade, accompanied 12 students to Australia, where they traveled to Sydney, North Stradbroke Island, the desert area of Uluru (Ayers Rock), and Kings Canyon, observing Australian wildlife and landscapes.

Students studied Aboriginal art and culture, and created traditional sand art with guidance from a local artist.

Upon returning to the states, Halkin said, “We were really pleased that students showed significant growth and development in their work in art and biology over the course of the program, had a good time, and learned a lot about Australian culture.”

CIE’s study abroad offerings have increased steadily over the years, as has student participation. Bigelow notes that during the 2010–11 academic year, “23 Course Abroad programs were successfully realized, while in 2011–12, that number jumped to 28. In total,” said Bigelow, last year we sent 457 students abroad to 27 different countries.” Possible reasons for increased participation include the approval of more academically relevant courses; price competitiveness; increased scholarship availability; and increased marketing efforts by the CIE.

Concerns about going abroad for the first time and earning credit at the same time deter some students from considering study abroad options. For those students, Bigelow says, “We offer the non-credit Passport to Global Citizenship programs. Some of these programs are targeted to specific segments of the University’s population, while others are open to all students. They provide a directed international experience that allows students to build skills navigating foreign cities using mass transit, exchanging and using foreign currency, and observing and engaging in a different culture.” The goal of the Passport programs is to help students feel more comfortable and confident out of the country before engaging in credit-bearing study abroad.

With dozens of Course Abroad programs offered each semester, as well as winter and summer sessions, Central students have ample opportunities for exploring the world. “Every time I speak to a classroom full of students,” said Bigelow, “I tell them, ‘Nearly 100 percent of your graduating class will be looking for a job after graduation, yet only one percent of American college students study abroad. Do something to distinguish yourself and your resume: study abroad!’”

— Allison Bernhard

Below, students create sand art with a local Aboriginal artist during a recent course abroad to Australia.
Ask Associate Professor of Educational Leadership Ellen Retelle how her commitment to infuse social justice into her teaching came about, and she casts back to when she was a 22-year-old Peace Corps volunteer in 1982.

“Being a racial minority in some of the Peace Corps locales helps you better understand the challenges of being a racial minority in United States schools and society.” She muses, “Later, I came to the conclusion that we shouldn’t be apprehensive of people who are different from us. Wherever I’ve worked I felt we are a community, and as such the ideal is to help others.”

As a faculty member in the Educational Leadership Department since 2007, she does not preach social justice. Yet her teaching strategies help graduate students acquire content knowledge, skills, and dispositions related to school leadership, and consistently push them beyond technical proficiency. A 2010-11 finalist for the Excellence in Teaching Award, Retelle infuses students with higher values to enable them as school leaders to make a positive impact on social justice.

Retelle’s own cultural proficiency rests on a textured and distinguished vita. A dual citizen of the US and Canada, she completed her PhD at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, a master’s in educational administration at the University of Houston, and bachelor’s in teaching at Salem State College in Massachusetts, her home state.

She’s known first-hand a panorama of school systems, from public to private, inner-city to suburban, under-privileged to affluent. She’s been an elementary school principal at an international school for five years and an elementary school teacher for 11 years. She’s taught in diverse multicultural schools in the US, Antigua, Taiwan, Japan, and Canada. She’s taught adults and children from distinct socioeconomic, cultural, ethnic, and linguistic backgrounds.

When Retelle teaches graduate courses in School Leadership and in Social Justice and School Leadership, she underscores a cardinal principle. She says, “Prospective teachers and administrators need to be aware that some children, those of color or those living in poverty, receive a substandard education because of their social backgrounds. It is essential that administrators become allies and advocates for children who are marginalized in schools and in US society. For example, teachers can advocate for increased funding for inner-city schools.”

As a teacher of adults, Retelle says, “It is critical that I link the class work to the students’ careers, experiences, and knowledge,” she states. Thus, she devises class assignments, activities, and evaluations that are practical, relevant, and linked to the students’ current work and practices.

Retelle infuses students with higher values to enable them as school leaders to make a positive impact on social justice.

Retelle’s students often confront difficult topics such as race, homophobia, and sexual orientation in their own classes. “My School Leadership students invited me to talk to their kids. As a teacher of educators, I must model high-quality teaching. Adult learners deserve to ‘see’ and ‘experience’ effective teaching.” Thus, this year, she conducted two workshops: “Are You a Culturally Proficient Teen?” for Middletown High School students, and a Prejudice Reduction Diversity Workshop for Southington High School juniors and seniors.

Scholarship Linked to Schools/Districts

Social justice and equity in public schools are foci of Retelle’s research along with advocacy and school leadership; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, continued on page 12
In his new book, Professor of Teacher Education Aram Ayalon posits a model to break the cycle of failure for urban, minority, and at-risk students living in poverty in troubled neighborhoods with few resources.

*Teachers as Mentors: Models for Promoting Achievement with Disadvantaged and Underrepresented Students by Creating Community* (Stylus Publishing, 2011) reminds schools that student success, both social and academic, is greatly influenced by student-teacher relationships. Ayalon looks at two schools, Fenway High School in Boston and Kedma School in Jerusalem, which successfully mentor at-risk students. Students in both schools have excelled academically, rarely drop out, and progress to college in significant numbers. Fenway has a 90% graduation rate, with 95% of graduates going on to college. Kedma outperforms comparable urban schools by a factor of four.

How to account for their success? “Both schools use similar teacher-as-youth-mentor and youth advising models,” says Ayalon. “Teachers and students regularly attend a mentoring program through which curriculum is integrated with mentoring. The social, emotional, cultural, and academic needs of students are dealt with. Close mentor-student-parent relationships are supported. The model furthermore includes extensive counseling support for the mentors themselves.”

Ayalon provides a detailed description of their methods, based upon extensive observation and interviews with teachers, students, administrators, and parents.

Carol A. Mullen, the former editor of *Mentoring & Tutoring: Partnership in Learning*, comments: “Culture-building through mentoring capitalizes on relationships between teachers and students within democratic learning environments. Teachers who want to become mentors are given specific suggestions for creating close, nurturing relationships through a range of structure, strategies, and resources.”

Ayalon has conducted research and published in the areas of multicultural education, teacher as a mentor, school-university partnership, and action research. He has been a professor of secondary education since 1989—first in the State University of New York College at Potsdam and then at CCSU since 2001. In 2008 he was a visiting professor at Tel Aviv University where he taught qualitative research and teacher-as-

mentor courses. He now serves as a school board member for the New Britain school district.

Born in a Kibbutz in Israel, Ayalon graduated from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in animal science, and after working as a high school science teacher in Tucson, Arizona, graduated with a PhD in curriculum instruction from University of Arizona.

What was the motivation for writing this book? Ayalon responds: “As a native of Israel now living in the US, I became interested in Kedma High School in Jerusalem, because as an Ashkenazi Israeli who grew up in a relatively privileged environment, I had little comprehension of the challenges facing Mizrahi children. Not until I married a woman from Moroccan Jewish background did I become aware of the disparity between Mizrahi and Ashkenazi experiences at school. It is this sense of social injustice that motivated me to explore initiatives that provide equal education opportunities.”

Ayalon has published his research and made presentations on mentoring at-risk students at several American Education Research Association conferences.

Further, his scholarship has examined rural education. “Does multicultural education belong in rural white America?” he states was the focus of several articles he’s written. He found that rural residents were less tolerant than urban dwellers toward civil liberties, sexual nonconformity, religious and political nonconformity, support of minority office-seekers, and racial and ethnic minority groups. Ayalon maintains, “Multicul-

continued on page 12
After a night of heavy partying, a student smashes some furniture in a residence hall. Was it just a one-time mistake? Or an indication of big trouble brewing?

Another student reports that her former boyfriend is following her around campus and she’s fed up. Does he pose a danger to her? Or is he only having trouble moving on?

What if these incidents both involved the same person?

Assessing whether a person is merely going through a rough time or is verging on a full-blown crisis is the work of two specially trained, interdependent teams at CCSU.

The **Student Behavioral Review Team** and the **Threat Assessment Team** intervene to identify and help resolve problems that could derail or endanger an individual or the campus community as a whole.

**Student Behavioral Review Team**

The Student Behavioral Review Team (SBRT) is composed of professionals in counseling and health, women’s advocacy, residence life, student conduct, alcohol and drug education specialists, and CCSU police, according to Laura Tordenti, Vice President of Student Affairs, chair of the SBRT, and a member of the Threat Assessment Team.

Meeting on a regular weekly basis, the SBRT reviews reports on students whose behavior has become a concern for a faculty or staff member or for another student. The team gathers relevant information, assesses the details for each situation, and then together determines whether and how to intervene. Sometimes, a meeting with a dean or a referral to an appropriate on-campus support service is all that is warranted. Other situations can require more complex interventions to provide more extensive care for the student.

“We do a good job, but we are always learning, always training,” Tordenti said. “There is always a fear that a student could slip through the cracks, and we’re trying to catch them before they fall.”

When the team determines that a student poses an immediate threat to self or others, the SBRT will refer the case to the Threat Assessment Team.

**Threat Assessment Team**

The Threat Assessment Team (TAT) is made up of University administrators and CCSU Police. “The TAT is designed to reduce or eliminate fragmented care and is focused on prevention and early intervention in situations where someone may be experiencing extreme distress, engaged in harmful or disruptive behaviors, or where there is the potential for violence,” explains Richard Bachoo, Chief Administrative Officer and co-chair of the TAT.

When potentially threatening situations become real, significant threats to the campus, the University has a comprehensive Emergency Notification System (ENS) that will deliver critical information via telephone, text message, web, and voice mail, as well as an outdoor loudspeaker system. All registered students and all faculty, staff, and other campus employees are automatically enrolled in the ENS. To review your contact information and add additional contacts, please visit: www.ccsu.edu/ENS.
The CCSU program was developed with the guidance of one of the nation’s top experts on campus-violence prevention, Marisa Reddy Randazzo, PhD, the former Chief Research Psychologist for the US Secret Service. Randazzo has trained more than 10,000 professionals on safety, particularly in school settings.

The TAT reviews information such as police reports or complaints and concerns expressed by faculty, staff, students, or the SBRT. Members question those who report a concern to get a better understanding of the situation. Then the team discusses its seriousness, using an assessment tool developed with guidance from Randazzo.

The team determines an appropriate course of action, which may include referring someone to counseling or for medical help, pursuing criminal charges, or barring someone from campus.

“We have a shared responsibility in maintaining the safety of our campus,” said Chris Dukes, Student Conduct Officer and member of both teams. “Our goal is to be supportive and recognize problems. It is not about ‘getting people in trouble.’ It is about offering them assistance.”

Both the SBRT and the TAT hew closely to FERPA, HIPAA, and other established regulations to ensure the individual’s rights are respected.

“Biggest Challenge: Obtaining Timely, Accurate Information”

“We all learned after the Virginia Tech massacre that the key to a violence-free campus is to have lots of eyes and ears open, and to make sure people communicate,” said Carolyn Magnan, Special Assistant to the President and co-chair of the TAT.

“Usually when there is a crisis on a college campus, there were people who knew something was wrong but couldn’t put all the pieces together,” Bachoo said. “That is the goal of these groups.”

“If You Have a Concern, Let Us Know”

While most people in the campus community would almost instinctively call the CCSU Police Department for an emergency, the potential for violence is not always readily apparent, according to Police Chief Jason Powell.

“An abrupt decline in grades, an alarming Facebook posting, or erratic outbursts—these ‘behaviors of concern’ may be part of coping with college life or they may form a pattern of behaviors that indicate someone needs help,” Powell said. Because any one member of the community is likely “to be privy to only part of the picture,” the wellbeing of students and campus security depend on people coming forward to report their concerns.

continued on page 10
Once a machine gunner in the US Marines, Noah Cass of Enfield now searches for new definitions of manhood. Immersed in the hyper-masculine culture of the military, Cass, an Iraqi war veteran, found returning home and adjusting to civilian life almost impossible and lost himself in alcohol. The cultural pressure to stay silent about personal issues, repress emotions, and deny health concerns may have toughened Cass for deployment, but it left him struggling to re-enter a civilian world that requires personal and emotional flexibility.

Cass entered the Marines right out of high school, toughed it out in boot camp, then went on to the School of Infantry before his first deployment a year later in Iraq. The Somers native remembers “crossing the border into Nasiriya and coming across an Army convoy that had been ambushed.” The vehicles, bullet-riddled and left roadside, were part of the headline-making convoy that PFC Jessica Lynch was riding with when she was taken captive. Moreover, Cass recalls his first battle. “We were aware of heavy casualties in adjacent units and while providing overwatch one evening, my own unit was the target of an organized ambush for the first time.”

According to Cass, “Deployment was intense, and the whole situation was at a high operational tempo.” He reflects, “What I got from this experience was an intense feeling of unit cohesion, the bond with my brothers was so strong that nothing could break it…I only cared about keeping my buddies alive, and getting them home.”

But back home, the lives of veterans often spiral. Some seek help for the first time, help which largely comes from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, where according to Cass, soldiers are put in the familiar position of being treated as “numbers” again, where treatment for medical and/or emotional issues included little or no empathy regarding their experiences overseas. Cass found no reprieve from his alcohol abuse through the VA system and, instead, turned to his family and endurance running for help putting the alcohol abuse behind him.

What Cass couldn’t put behind him, however, was the stark reality that empathy was missing from his after-care. He wanted to address this absence, along with the complexities of adjusting to civilian life. Interested in the psychology of his experience, Cass enrolled at CCSU in 2010 to pursue a degree in that field.

With community college credits already in place, Cass says he “got the most out of Central,” and met Assistant Professor of Psychological Science Jason Sikorski. Sikorski invited Cass to work with others on campus to build an awareness campaign and implement workshops to challenge the “real man” stereotypes that permeate society and show up on college campuses. While Sikorski’s team worked closely with athletic teams on campus, Sikorski says, “Unequivocally, it is very important to note that this stereotype does not merely permeate athletics, it permeates our entire society.”

Sikorski sees Cass’s background as an asset to learning. “Noah’s military experience and adjustment to life after combat has provided him real-world experience in seeing the impact of stereotypes about how ‘real men’ should behave,” Sikorski says. “He has taken his experiences, supplemented them with empirical work in the field, and developed a genuine passion for helping other men come to understand how masculine stereotypes run rampant in society and how we, as men, have a choice to live a healthier and more satisfying life.”

Sikorski notes that “Noah appreciates that ‘real men’ have a choice to make when it comes to how they should live their lives, and these choices can improve the health and wellness of men and women at every level of society. This is how education is supposed to work! Noah has learned how to learn.”

Participating in Sikorski’s research showed Cass that changing age-old beliefs about manhood is possible, not only in himself, but in the larger culture. Inspired, Cass applied to the CCSU Professional and Rehabilitative Counseling Graduate Program and was accepted just days after receiving his BA in Psychology in May.

CCSU’s efforts to encourage men’s health and well-being serve to support Cass’ career intentions. He is looking for systems that are more empathetic. As a future war veteran counselor, Cass feels honored to serve fellow vets with his unique ability to see their issues from both sides—as a veteran and a clinician. Cass began his graduate work at the beginning of the fall semester.

– Kate Callahan
Student Athlete in the Spotlight
Nicole Springer
Determined to Succeed

Nicole Springer started her softball career at age three; with a grandfather, a father, and a brother who played baseball, and a mother and sister who played softball, it was inevitable. Now at 20 years old, she led the Blue Devils softball team to a record-breaking season in 2012. The team won 31 out of 49 games; Springer contributed to the overall success with 10 home runs and 45 RBIs. Not only is Springer an impressive hitter, at the end of last season, she was also recognized as a second team All-NEC Player at first base. To top it off, she spent the summer playing for the Puerto Rican Women’s National Softball Team.

A communication major and a sociology minor, Springer transferred to CCSU at the beginning of her junior year after attending the University of Hartford for two years. As a transfer student, she was nervous about fitting in, but looks back at the transition with a smile. “They [her teammates] become your family; they become your sisters. I didn’t think it was going to happen that fast, but within the first week of school I felt like I was right at home,” she said. When facing her former teammates on the field for the first time, Springer felt such immense support from the Blue Devils, she was able to turn the game around and hit a walk-off home run, ensuring a victory.

Perhaps it is this strong sense of camaraderie that allows Springer to excel as an athlete, despite a serious illness. She began her first season with vigor, but before long, she knew something was wrong. She drank case after case of water and lost 50 pounds in just two weeks. Then, one morning, she woke up unable to see or speak and was rushed to the emergency room. After five days in the hospital, Springer was diagnosed with diabetes. Doctors told her she’d never play softball again and, if she did, she would not excel as she had before.

Instead of letting this stop her, Springer perseveres. The thought that her illness could have ended her softball career has become her motivation; she works hard to excel at everything she does, whether it’s a game or a final exam. She feels it’s this motivator, and the support of her family, that have been instrumental in her success. In that support system, she includes her late grandfather, a 1954 Central graduate, who she now refers to as her guardian angel.

On schedule to graduate in spring 2013, Springer hopes to begin coaching college-level softball players immediately. In the future, she plans to pursue a career as a sports commentator. She seems both excited and sad to leave CCSU. She says that while here she gained confidence, realizing that not only is she good at sports, but also at learning. Springer feels close with the campus, her teammates, her coaches, and her advisors.

Administrative Assistant in the Academic Center for Student Athletes Karen Perezi-Beaudoin has worked with Springer for over a year and describes her as a person of exceptional integrity and character. “She exudes positive karma and that energy permeates those she comes in contact with on and off the field. As a softball player, she is recognized as one of the best hitters and infielders, making a definitive mark on the CCSU athletic program.”

– Alayna James
Historic Nursing Articulation Agreement Signed

In July, CCSU and the Connecticut Community Colleges (CCC) established an articulation agreement between the associate’s degree nursing program at the community colleges, and CCSU’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program (RN/BSN). The agreement grants CCC students admission into CCSU’s RN/BSN program upon successful completion of the associate’s degree program. According to the agreement, enrollment in the CCSU program must occur within two years of completing the associate’s degree.

On hand to celebrate the historic agreement are: front row, left to right, Pat Duclos-Miller of Capital CC, Ellen Freeman from Three Rivers CC, and Sheila Solernou of Gateway CC; back row, Eileen George of Naugatuck Valley CC, Coral Presti from Norwalk CC, CCSU President Jack Miller, Patricia Bouffard from Northwestern CC, Linda Wagner of CCSU, and Linda Perfetto of CT-CCNP.
CSU junior psychology major Ashley Anderson describes her purpose as an Arts and Sciences Advising Place (ASAP) peer advisor: “We offer our services so that students have an additional resource to help them prepare for faculty advisor meetings. Sometimes, students are more open to advice from other students. With our help, students know what they need to bring to their advising appointment so that it is as successful as possible.”

ASAP opened in January to supplement both faculty advising and the services provided by The Center for Advising and Career Exploration (CACE). This new office, run by Assistant Dean of the Carol A. Ammon School of Arts and Sciences Mary Horan and university assistants Laura Minor and Anna Syta, is located in Willard 305.

Although the primary function of ASAP is to advise students and familiarize them with the campus and its departments, they also offer programs throughout the academic year to draw students in. Last semester, the office was packed when alumnus Darren Sweeney spoke about his journey from being a CCSU student to becoming an NBC Connecticut meteorologist.

Additionally, ASAP holds faculty advising workshops, which are geared toward educating new faculty about the basics of general education requirements. Seasoned faculty members are also encouraged to attend to reinforce their knowledge about general education, withdrawal policies, and advising resources.

In addition to Horan, Minor, and Syta, the staff includes seventeen undergraduate peer advisors. These students, all of whom have majors in the Arts and Sciences, assist in the advising process by sharing their experiences with other students and helping to connect students to their departments and faculty advisors.

Minor matter-of-factly explains the peer advising message: “You’re in charge of your education. You, as a student, are in the driver’s seat. Advising is a resource, but you have to know your stuff and know what you’re looking for and know what you’re doing and not depend on other people to plan out your future.”

The peer advisors are doing just this—they are all responsible, involved, and academically outstanding students. Both Horan and Minor believe that students will feel comfortable talking with peer advisors and will open up more easily about what they need help with or about what they don’t understand.

This semester the peer advisors will also host their own programs and workshops. One student is leading a program about registration and another will be holding a workshop about time management tips in conjunction with the Learning Center.

Though the issue of advising is serious, both Horan and Minor have a great sense of humor and seem like they could make anything, even registration, a good time. Horan excitedly says, “We’re hoping to have some fun and some bells and whistles.”

continued on page 16
CCSU Students Present Research at the High Impact Technology Exchange Conference (HI TEC)

Technology and Engineering Education majors Joseph Amarante and Elizabeth Chatis gave presentations of their work at the National Science Foundation’s HI TEC 2012 Conference in Denver in July. The students, sponsored by the New England Board of Higher Education, presented information on building Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Problem Based Learning (PBL) challenges for pre-service teachers. Their presentation brought “real world” problems to participants and demonstrated how to bring STEM PBL methods to the classroom. Amarante and Chatis worked under the guidance of Technology and Engineering Education Professor James DeLaura and Adjunct Lecturer Nicholas Massa.

Ellen Retelle

and Transgendered (LGBT); and the preparation/promotion of school leaders. At CCSU, she received a grant that enabled her to investigate the social justice practices of district and school leaders. Two studies emerged: Social Justice and School Leadership, and Reducing Racial, Ethnic, and Socioeconomic Isolation in Connecticut Schools.

She wrote a technical report in 2010 titled Engagement in Instructional Rounds for the Plainfield School District. “I was interested in how the teachers and the administrators viewed the effectiveness of instructional rounds, a process focused on the instructional core, which is the student-teacher-content connection,” she states. Retelle wrote a report for the school district and presented her findings at Eastern Education Research Association’s annual meeting in February 2011.

At the university level, Retelle, as the program chair for the Faculty Senate Diversity Committee, wrote a report for the forum, “Moving Forward: the Social Justice and Diversity Forum,” which took place in April 2010.

This year under a $15,000 research grant, she has undertaken a project titled “Educational Leadership Graduates: An Investigation of Career Preparation at CCSU and Success in Connecticut Schools,” with Professors of Educational Leadership Penny Lisi and Tony Rigazio-Digilio.

Katherine Field, a high school teacher currently in the second year of the doctoral program in Educational Leadership at CCSU, has put into practice principles learned in Retelle’s classes. “Readings, assignments, and projects for Dr. Retelle’s classes always encouraged us to examine ways to make schools more inclusive organizations where all students have an equal opportunity to succeed,” she says. “In one of her classes, she assigned a social justice project that asked us to examine our own school’s policies and procedures. As a direct result of this project, I was able to demonstrate to the administration and trustees of my school how inequitable some of our special education policies were, some of which have subsequently been changed.” Under Retelle’s masterful tutelage, Field has become a change agent herself.

Aram Ayalon

ural education could become instrumental in rural school reform by sparking examination of teaching strategies, curriculum, staffing, and school organization, and by addressing respect for cultural and ethnic diversity.” Currently, he’s undertaken a project to write a first-ever handbook on rural education as a guide for rural area schools, addressing their unique needs and issues.

– Geri Radacsi
Two of CCSU’s best: an educational visionary who created Central’s first doctoral program and a human resources professional who comes to work during blizzards to ensure that employees get paid have been awarded the University’s 2012 Distinguished Service Award.

President Jack Miller presented the awards to Anthony Rigazio-Digilio and Louise Olszewski during the University’s Opening Meeting on August 28. The announcement of each winner was met with thunderous applause and cheers by the assembled faculty and staff.

“Level-headed, knowledgeable educator”

Among his many distinctions, Rigazio-Digilio, a professor and chair of the Department of Educational Leadership, created the Doctorate in Educational Leadership program. In 2010, he was named the Connecticut State Educational Leader of the Year for his contributions to the field.

He is fondly described by his colleagues in the School of Education and Professional Studies as impeccably honest, extremely sensitive, gregarious, and humble.

In nominating Rigazio-Digilio, James Aseltine, an educator for 52 years wrote, “It can be stated without hesitation that no single educator has had more of a positive impact on elevating the quality of educational leadership in Connecticut in the past two decades than Tony Rigazio-Digilio.”

He spearheaded the creation of a master’s degree program for Jamaican educators, from which 700 have graduated, and he has been honored by Hartford’s West Indian community for his service.

To more than 30 Connecticut school districts, he has loaned his professional expertise in school leadership, instructional evaluation tools, and more—often without pay.

“Tony is known by superintendents as the man to call when situations in districts require an astute, level-headed, knowledgeable educator,” said Betty Sternberg, an adjunct lecturer and former Superintendent of Schools in Greenwich.

Kris Nystrom, chair of the English Department at Coginchaug Regional High School in Durham, recalled how Rigazio-Digilio found a way to engage a quiet teacher, who had previously not participated in discussions. “What I saw from Tony altered my view of an educational leader,” she said.

Doreen Crawford, principal of Jumoke Academy Charter School in Hartford, came from Jamaica to become an educator. “Dr. Rigazio-Digilio…has been one of my cheerleaders,” she said. “As a new principal, I hang on to his every word.”

“Everything right about CCSU”

Olszewski, a 25-year employee, began her career in Continuing Education and is now an assistant in Human Resources, where she manages payroll for more than 500 adjunct professors, coaches, counselors, and librarians.

Her colleagues say she is the person behind the scenes, who ensures that payroll is processed without a glitch.

“I have witnessed firsthand her immeasurable dedication, determination, and professional work ethic,” wrote administrative assistant Michelle Lynes in her nomination.

“I am pretty sure Louise is incapable of uttering a mean word about anyone,” said Karen Beyard, director of the Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership. “I cannot think of a single time in the last 24 years when anyone said an unkind word about Louise. She is that good.”

Olszewski is also an employee who comes through in a crisis, her colleagues said. When
Exciting Study Abroad Scholarship Opportunity for ConnSCU Students

Students of the 17 Connecticut State Colleges & Universities (ConnSCU) now have the opportunity to participate in the Shandong Partner Region Scholarship Program. Students can apply to one of the 17 participating Chinese universities for the fall 2013 semester, spring 2014 semester, or the full 2013-14 academic year. One student who meets the criteria, including good academic standing and a commitment to learn about Chinese culture, will receive a scholarship that will cover most university costs and living expenses. The application deadline is December 1, 2012.

For more information about this program, visit www.ccsu.edu/CTShandong, or contact Maureen Sullivan in the Center for International Education, at 860-832-2044 or msullivan@ccsu.edu.
RECentral Challenges the Campus Community to Make Positive Lifestyle Changes

With obesity and its associated health risks so prevalent in the US, Recreational Director Kenneth Destefanis says emphatically, “We need to be leaders. We need to start educating people.”

His enthusiasm is, hopefully, contagious.

He and his team at RECentral kick-started the Healthy Lifestyle Challenge during the week of September 10, after months of planning. The message is simple: adopt a healthy lifestyle by making positive changes to benefit the mental, physical, and social aspects of your life.

Along with boosting overall health and fitness, there is an additional campus goal to lose 3,000 pounds. To any critics, Destefanis immediately responds, “Weight loss is NOT the goal here. It’s more about what you gain than what you lose.”

The message about the weekly challenges and raffle giveaways is being spread through word of mouth, social media, and an enhanced campus presence.

Nearly 50 fitness classes are offered each week. Destefanis says, “When people take us up on the Healthy Lifestyle Challenge, they can hit us up on Facebook or Twitter to let us know how they’re doing and if they took that week’s challenge. They can write as little or as much as they want. The more they hit us up, the more chances they get to win prizes.”

Despite the strong community outreach, Destefanis is aware that taking that first step toward a healthy lifestyle isn’t always easy.

“It’s embarrassing and it’s intimidating sometimes. We want to make sure people know that they are welcome, and we are here to help them. And sometimes, people just need a little push and a little extra help. We’ll give them that to get them going.”

Fitness classes include beginners-only and gender-specific courses. Destefanis hopes these offerings, and the suggestion to bring a friend along, will help eliminate any jitters first-time participants may feel.

Campus participation in the program has grown steadily, according to Destefanis. “The response has been overwhelmingly positive, which is great.”

RECentral offers recreation, intramurals, club sports, and fitness classes to the CCSU community. Fitness class and intramural schedules can easily be found online. Activities include yoga, kickboxing, Zumba, and spinning.

The Healthy Lifestyle Challenge continues through the week of November 19.

To learn more about the Healthy Lifestyle Challenge or take the challenge yourself, visit:
RECentral Website: www.ccsu.edu/RECentral
Facebook: Recentral At CCSU
Twitter: @RECentralCCSU

— Jillian Jung

A Lesson in Risk and Rewards

The School of Business and SEI Investments Company present a Stock Trading Competition for CCSU students, with tuition scholarship awards of up to $1,250. Trading opened on September 24 and closes on December 21. Participants start with a fictitious cash balance of $1 million, and have the opportunity to improve trading skills, compete with each other, and have fun. For complete information, go to www.ccsu.edu/SEI.
IN THE NEWS

A
djunct Lecturer of African-American Studies Stephen Balkaran was featured in the July issue of *Hispanic Outlook*, in the article, “The Browning of America: Will Latinos Truly Influence the 2012 Elections?”

Ask Professor of Physics and Earth Sciences Kristine Larsen what’s so great about NASA’s recent expedition to Mars, and she’ll tell you. WTIC-1080 talk radio host Ray Dunaway asked Larsen the big question: “We’ve got Curiosity [the land rover] on Mars—so what?” Larsen explained that Curiosity is not only on a mission of discovery, but a practical exploration of brand new technology. According to Larsen, NASA technology brought us household items like battery-operated tools, Velcro®, and the desktop computer. She suggested viewing full color photos of the expedition at www.mars.nasa.gov.

CCSU Professor of Reading and Language Arts Jesse Turner was featured in a recent *Newsday* story on the “Save Our Schools” conference. Turner, a founding member of SOS said he “hopes the conference unifies participants so they can speak with one strong voice.” Key ideas from the three-day conference included equitable funding for schools; an end to high-stakes testing; and curriculum developed by and for local communities. The event was held in Washington, DC in August.

**Dedicated Employees Honored**

continued from page 13

payroll was due but the university was closed due to inclement weather, Olszewski came in, recalled Helene Flaherty, a former co-worker.

“She qualifies as a saint,” wrote Francis Keefe, director emeritus of the Advising Center. “Everyone is treated with dignity and respect. For countless part-time faculty members, she is the first contact with university staff, the public face of the university—a friendly, compassionate, concerned face.”

Olszewski earned a teaching certificate in elementary education from Central; completed a BA in psychology at Charter Oak College and CCSU, and teaches religious education. All three of her children have attended CCSU.

Rita Brann, a retired member of the Continuing Education staff might have summed it up best: “Louise is self-motivated, knowledgeable, engaged, and a perfect example of everything that is right about CCSU.”

– Claire LaFleur Hall

**Arts and Sciences Advising Place**

continued from page 11

Hopefully we’ll make [the office] a destination where you don’t have to have a problem or a question—you could just come and hang out when the peer advisors are in, or just chat with Laura, Anna, or myself about anything.”

The Ammon School of Arts and Sciences is not alone in its efforts to aid the advising process: the School of Business has the Academic Ally program, which runs a series of programs each semester in Vance 466; the School of Engineering and Technology offers the Student Services Center in Copernicus 241; and the School of Education and Professional Studies has an Advising Center in Barnard 201. And CACE, located in Willard 103, is always available to advise first year and undeclared students.

– Alayna James

Full-Service Banking Machine Offers Greater Convenience

This fall, CCSU became one of the first schools in New England to offer a Personal Teller Machine (PTM) on campus. Although the advantages of a PTM over an ATM may not be noticeable at first, users should find added convenience with this advanced technology. Located in the Student Center, the PTM offers voice recognition, photo ID scanning, and a signature capture device, as well as a video chat feature that connects the user to a trained teller for more involved transactions.

Communication major Maxwell Kale (below) uses the new Personal Teller Machine in the Student Center.
Polish Movie Nights at CCSU

The S.A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies, in cooperation with Semp- per Polonia Foundation and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, are hosting a se- ries of Polish Movie Nights throughout the fall semester. Movies are in Polish with English subtitles. Screenings begin at 7:00 p.m., are open to the public, and free of charge.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Movie</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 7</td>
<td>Mala Moskwa (Little Moscow)</td>
<td>Vance 105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 21</td>
<td>80 Millionów (80 Million)</td>
<td>Vance 105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 5</td>
<td>Erratum</td>
<td>Vance 105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 13</td>
<td>Czarny Czwartek, Janek Wisniewski Padł</td>
<td>Vance 105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Black Thursday, Janek Wisniewski Died)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CCSU Arts SCHEDULE • FALL 2012

October 18–November 15
Lois Dodd
1:00–4:00 p.m., Monday–Friday
S.T. Chen Fine Arts Center, Maloney Hall

November 18
Early Stages Children’s Theatre
1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.
Torp Theatre, Davidson Hall

November 29–December 6
Art Educators Exhibit
1:00–4:00 p.m., Monday–Friday
S.T. Chen Fine Arts Center, Maloney Hall

December 6 & 7
Student One Acts
7:30 p.m.
Black Box Theatre, Maloney Hall

November 6
Faculty Recital
Julie Ribchinsky on Cello and Carolyn Halsted on Piano
3:05 p.m.
Founders Hall, Davidson Hall

November 8
High School Orchestra Festival
8:30 a.m.
Founder Hall, Davidson Hall
Welte Auditorium

November 14
Invitational Chorale Festival
10:00 a.m.
Founders Hall, Davidson Hall

November 15
Trumpet Recital with Dr. D’Addio
3:05 p.m.
Welte Auditorium

November 15
Jazz Combo
7:30 p.m.
Torp Theatre, Davidson Hall

November 20
Student Recital Series
3:05 p.m.
Founders Hall, Davidson Hall

November 27
Student Recital Series
3:05 p.m.
Founders Hall, Davidson Hall

November 29
Student Recital Series
3:05 p.m.
Founders Hall, Davidson Hall

November 30
Chorale and University Singers
7:30 p.m.
Welte Auditorium

December 3
Sinfonietta Concert
7:30 p.m.
Founders Hall, Davidson Hall

December 4
Student Recital Series
3:05 p.m.
Founders Hall, Davidson Hall

December 6
Holiday Concert
3:05 p.m.
Founders Hall, Davidson Hall

December 7
Percussion Concert
3:05 p.m.
Welte Hall, Room 019
In August, cross country and track coach Eric Blake won the Mt. Ashland Hill Climb in Oregon. A member of the US Mountain Running Team, Blake finished the 13.3 mile run—which was so steep that runners had to use rocks as handholds—in just under two hours. In September, Blake competed in the World Mountain Running Championship in Italy. He finished 53rd out of 138 competitors, with the team placing 4th overall.

Adjunct Lecturer of Physical Education and Human Performance Carol Ciotto helped pilot a state-wide active classroom program at Halton Elementary School in Southington. In an effort to help kids stay healthy, the program replaces the traditional sitting and listening lesson plan with active participation.

In July, education major Gary Dwyer played the part of Curly in the Newbury Musical Theater Company’s production of “Oklahoma.” Dwyer also played Captain Von Trapp in last year’s production of “The Sound of Music.”

Art Professor Vicente Garcia designed and created a 500-pound bike sculpture and bike racks that were featured at the May event “Bike Walk Simsbury.”

In July, Assistant Professor of Engineering Khaled J. Hammad presented his technical paper titled “Depth of Penetration of a Submerged Viscoplastic Non-Newtonian Jet” at the ASME 2012 Heat Transfer, Fluids Engineering and NanoChannels, MicroChannels, and MiniChannels Conference. Hammad, who helped organize the event, chaired four technical sessions at the conference, which was held in Puerto Rico.

Professor of Computer Science Stanislav Kurkovsky traveled abroad this summer to present research at two conferences: the Second International Conference on Communications and Information Technology in Tunisia, and the 17th annual Conference on Innovation and Technology in Computer Science Education in Israel.

An article written by Professor of Art History Elizabeth Langhome, “Jackson Pollock: The Sin of Images,” was recently published in the book Meanings of Art: Between Nature and Theory from Routledge Press.

Professor of the School of Education and Professional Studies, Emeritus, James Malley led a discussion of the book Beyond Religion: Ethics for the Whole World by the Dalai Lama. The event, part of the One Book One Community series of events, took place at the Lucy Robbins Welles Library in Newington in September.

Professor of Modern Languages Maria Pasaro spoke at the conference “The Poet of Two Lands: Joseph Tusiani” at the City Hall in Brienza, Italy this summer. She read and discussed several of Tusiani’s poems, which she had translated from English to Italian in a published work in 1982.

Sculptor and Adjunct Lecturer of Art Daniel Riccio participated in the Juried Artisan and Fine Craft Show at the Hebron Harvest Festival in September, and was awarded Best in Show. Riccio is known nationally for his miniature sculptures.

In June, junior Stephanie Scoville, a member of Connecticut’s Forbes Flyers Jump Rope Team, was named the national champion in the female single rope freestyle competition in Long Beach, California. Scoville, an Exercise Science major, and her teammates competed against more than 700 other “jumpers” from 25 states; together the team won nine medals.

Mark Smith, who studies Computer Science and Information Management at CCSU, discovered a security bug in Apple’s Remote Desktop Software that made the software fail to encrypt information. Smith’s find was noted by Apple, the Hartford Courant, and news sources nationwide.

Over the summer, Associate Professor of Manufacturing and Construction Ravindra Thamma participated in an externship program to learn about automation design at a local company. The program, funded by the Connecticut Business & Industry Association, gives college professors and high school teachers industry experience which they can relay to their students through work-based learning projects.

Sophomore marketing major Molly Westfall placed in the top ten at the Miss Connecticut Pageant and was honored with the Miss Connecticut Community Service Scholarship Award in June. Westfall, a lifelong resident of Harwinton, is a member of the university dance team.

The CCSU Department of Mathematical Sciences holds a Mathematics Colloquium every Friday afternoon during the academic semester, the only weekly conference of its kind in the Connecticut State University system. Guest speakers from around the country (and even Europe) present a variety of topics to a room of engaged mathematicians. The first meeting of the fall semester, presented by Associate Professor Roger Bilisoly, covered basic graph theory and how it can be applied to chess games and word puzzles.
Thanks in part to a program with CCSU education majors, New Britain’s Northend Elementary School was recognized as a “School of Distinction” by College for Every Student (CFES), a national non-profit organization. The school was honored for its efforts to promote college awareness among its students, which was achieved through the Pen Pals with College Students program. In this program, CCSU students and faculty help Northend students write to college admission offices to request informational brochures and posters to fill their “College Corner.”

The CCSU women’s soccer team has worked with the West Hartford Youth Soccer league for the past ten years holding clinics in the fall and spring. Coach Mick D’Arcy says, “Our goal is to give the young girls an opportunity to spend some quality time with Division I soccer players in the comfort of their own surroundings, and then have the young girls come to campus to enjoy a live college game.” The team has also held clinics in Bristol and Newington.

Over 1,000 Participate in Antietam Commemoration

Connecticut continued to officially commemorate the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War during the weekend of September 22 and 23 with an encampment of 500 Union, Confederate, and civilian reenactors at Manchester’s Wickham Park. CCSU Professor of History Matthew Warshauer is co-chair of the commemoration commission and had a large role in planning and orchestrating the event, which drew more than 500 visitors to the site. In addition to cavalry and artillery drills, firing demonstrations, infantry load-and-fire competitions, and cannon firing, visitors strolled throughout the hundreds of tents where the reenactors cooked by campfire and sutlers (merchants) sold their wares as they did 150 years ago. Four Connecticut Regiments (8th, 11th, 14th, and 16th) fought in the Battle of Antietam in Sharpsburg, MD on September 17, 1862. The Battle was, and continues to be, the single bloodiest day in US history with 23,000 reported killed, wounded or missing, including 695 from Connecticut. More information about Connecticut Commemorates the Civil War is available online at: www.ccsu.edu/civilwar.

Top right, Union soldiers fire upon the Confederates during a reenactment of the Battle of Antietam at Wickham Park in Manchester.

Lower right, Professor of History Matthew Warshauer, Commissioner of Veteran’s Affairs Linda Schwartz, Howard Wright as President Lincoln, and Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman pose with Union and Confederate soldiers, as well as members of the Connecticut National Guard.
The Alumni Association presents the classic film series, Classic Fridays at CCSU, during the fall semester each year. Films this year are tied to the theme of global sustainability with a faculty introduction. King Kong was screened in September, and Mr. Smith Goes to Washington was viewed in October. The series wraps up on November 9 with the 1974 film Chinatown, with a reception at 1:30 p.m., and screening at 2:00 p.m. at Torp Theatre in Davidson Hall.

The 2013 Course Abroad Fair was held in Bellin Gallery in the Student Center in September. Prospective travelers enjoyed international food and music while chatting with professors and students who have studied abroad.

Students are encouraged to attend Drumming@Central at noon on the second and fourth Tuesdays in October and November at Newman House. Drums and other percussion instruments are provided. For more information contact Lila Coddington at 860-832-0078 or coddingtonl@ccsu.edu.

On September 23, CCSU celebrated the second annual National Plug-In Day, coordinated by Plug In America, Electric Auto Association, and the Sierra Club. The event included presentations on converting gasoline vehicles into electric vehicles; a brief history of electric vehicles; and information on charging stations in Connecticut. In addition, electric vehicle users were on-hand to answer questions from the audience of more than 100 attendees. Electric vehicles were on display, including a converted Ford Pinto and Volkswagen Beetle, as well as a factory-produced BMW ActiveE.

The CCSU Athletic Department and Alumni Track Club sponsored the fourth annual Ray Crothers Memorial 2-Mile Race. Seventy-nine people completed the race, which took place in Stanley Quarter Park in September. Alumna Megan Jaswell won the women’s division with a time of 12 minutes and 41 seconds; student Joe Giolielli, a member of the track team, finished with the best time overall at 10 minutes and 40 seconds. Proceeds from the event benefit the CCSU Men’s and Women’s Cross Country and Track and Field Intercollegiate Program.

In September, CCSU celebrated Family Day with an entire day of events. Activities included a harvest fair, inflatables, family field day, novelties, carnival food, and magic and improvisation performances. The day concluded with an evening football game under the lights at Arute Field where the Blue Devils took on Wagner College.

Theatre ensemble HartBeat performed their award winning show Flipside at Torp Theatre in September. Flipside explores the relationship between an urban teen and an undercover narcotics agent and their role in an ongoing war on drugs. The performance was free and open to all students.

The Elihu Burritt Library hosted a talk by Khensur Rinpoche Lobsang Tenzin, as part of the One Book One Community series of events. Rinpoche, a member of the Chenrezig Tibetan Buddhist Center in Middletown, worked closely with the Dalai Lama, who visited WCSC in October.

The CCSU community observed a moment of remembrance on September 11. Members of the Connecticut National Guard placed a wreath at the Student Center Peace Pole. The ceremony included performances by the ACABellas and Ebony Chorale, and speeches by Student Union Board of Governors Chair Erin Murray, Student Government Association President Eric Bergenn, and John Campbell from the Campus Ministry Office.

Throughout September, two exhibits were on display at the Elihu Burritt Library. “Face to Face” featured a series of original photographs taken by Polish photographer, journalist, and documentary filmmaker Czesław Czapliński. Among the photos were portraits of Andy Warhol, Walter Cronkite, and Michael Jackson. “Inferno: The Tumultuous 1970s and 1980s” struck a little closer to home, displaying covers of the CCSU student magazine Inferno. The covers, all published between 1970 and 1985, depict the political, social, and cultural trends of their time.
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.

**Deepening Grooves**  
**Ravi Shankar** (English)  
Wednesday, November 7

**Business Driven Data Communications and Business Intelligence Applied: Building Effective Information and Communication Technology Infrastructure**  
**Michael Gendron** (MIS)  
Wednesday, November 28

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.

---

**NEW books**

Physics and Earth Science Professor **Kristine Larsen** recently co-authored the book *The Mythological Dimensions of Neil Gaiman* with Anthony Burdge and Jessica Burke. Published by Kitsune Books in April, the book collects essays written by fans and scholars of the prolific author’s works, which include short fiction, comic books, and graphic novels. Larsen has been a reader of mythology, fantasy, and science fiction from an early age, all of which Gaiman regularly weaves into his storytelling. The book recently received the Gold Medal for Science Fiction/Fantasy from the Florida Publishing Association’s President’s Awards.

The Morning After: A History of Emergency Contraception in the United States, written by Professor of History **Heather Prescott**, explores the evolution of contraceptives in America from the 1960s to the present day. Prescott tells the stories of women who have used them over the years and how emergency contraceptives have gone from a controversial and prescription-only form of birth control to an $80 million industry that now offers over-the-counter options in pharmacies across the country.

---

**Interactive Art Debuts at CCSU Galleries**

Visitors who attended the **Art Department Faculty Exhibit** in September and October were able to access behind-the-scenes information about the art they viewed, thanks to QR (Quick Response) code technology. Using a cell phone with a QR app, viewers could scan the code displayed with each piece of art, which linked their phone to an online video or audio recording. For example, Professor Vicente Garcia generated QR codes for each of his pieces, which allowed visitors to watch a video of the work in progress. Depending on the feedback from this exhibit, the Art Department may include QR codes in future exhibits.
It is hard to imagine that CCSU alum Scott Dolch ‘04, will ever have a busier month than June 2012. The former Blue Devil quarterback and co-captain was preparing simultaneously for two of his life’s biggest events. At work, he was getting ready for what was inarguably one of the most exciting Travelers Championship golf tournaments in recent history. At home, he and his wife Erin (Sacharko ‘05) were awaiting the arrival of their second child.

“Don’t you ever look at a calendar?” his colleagues teased him.

Dolch, 30, used some of the skills that he acquired at Central—including a sharply tuned strategy and a dedicated work ethic—to prepare for the Travelers Championship in June at the TPC River Highlands in Cromwell.

As Marketing and Media Manager, he was responsible for all interviews, media coverage, publicity for special events, and more. As one of only nine paid staff members, Dolch had no time to relax until the last of the 200,000 fans had left the course.

“Once we get inside 30 days of the Tournament, everything is a blur. I’m not even sure what day it is,” Dolch joked. “But that is the fun part as well. You get only one shot to get it right. You can’t say, ‘Oh, we’ll do better next week.’ You prepare all year for this event.”


Australian-born Marc Leishman, 28, won the tournament. “Marc is a really quiet guy and it was great to see him win his first victory at the Travelers Championship,” Dolch said. “He shot a final round 62…and had to wait around nearly an hour and 45 minutes for all the groups to finish before he found out he won.” Dolch said Leishman was very gracious, signing autographs and thanking the event organizers.

The Travelers Championship raised more than $1 million for 120 local charities. Even the 98-degree heat one day didn’t overshadow spectators’ enjoyment of the event, he said.

“I don’t get to watch any of the golf myself. If I’m lucky, I’ll see the closing ceremonies,” said Dolch, who has been part of the last three tournaments. “Because of the media attention, I feel like I’m in charge of the Royal Wedding—only it lasts seven days.”

Meanwhile he and Erin—a third-grade teacher in Avon and a former CCSU lacrosse player whom he met in Sheridan Hall freshman year—were preparing for a new teammate at home. Their daughter, Teagan, arrived two days after the tournament ended. She joins a 3-year-old brother, Mason.

“I didn’t know what was more stressful,” Dolch said. “Getting ready for closing ceremonies or making sure Erin, who was at the tournament on Sunday, was in the air conditioning.”

His colleagues, he said, had all kinds of contingency plans in case the baby came early and Dolch had to leave. “We were even more prepared than ever, and that will be helpful in future tournaments,” he said. They’ve already begun planning for 2013.

One highlight of this year’s tournament, aside from the golf, was a military appreciation event called Operation Shower. Some 40 expectant military moms got a baby shower—complete with recognition and gifts, ranging from strollers to designer diaper bags—valued at more than $3,500. More than a dozen of the moms-to-be had husbands on active duty.

continued on page 23
Patricia Charles BS ’97, EdD ’08, has been appointed superintendent of schools in Middletown. Previously, Charles served as superintendent in Westbrook; prior to that she served as principal of two Middletown schools from 1990–02.

Peter Claffey ’05 was named executive director of the Children’s Museum of Southeastern Connecticut. He will oversee the operations of the museum and support the mission of the museum, which is to foster science learning in children twelve and under. Claffey most recently served as director of facilities and exhibits at the Children’s Museum in West Hartford.

Mary Beth Iacobelli, SYC ’01, EdD ’10, was named East Haddam’s Interim Superintendent this fall. Iacobelli was Assistant Superintendent for the New Britain school district for the past three years.

Marie G. Kulesza ’82 received the 2011–12 Reverend John J. Stack Teaching Excellence Award at the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford. Kulesza, an assistant professor of Business Administration at USJ since 2008, delivered the university’s convocation address at the start of the fall semester.

The School of Engineering & Technology recognized Jeffrey O’Meara ’98 and Kenneth Thomas ’95 as 2012 Outstanding Alumni. O’Meara, who earned his BS in Industrial Technology and Manufacturing, is the Director of Achieving Competitive Excellence (ACE), Lean and Supplier Gold at Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation. O’Meara served three years in the US Army and four years in the Connecticut Army National Guard. Thomas graduated from CCSU with a MS in Mechanical Engineering Technology, and works as a Space, Land and Sea (SLS) Technologist at Hamilton Sundstrand (HS). Thomas is a world recognized spacesuit-system technologist, and has been a key contributor to HS-SLS next generation spacesuit development since 1994.


Scott Dolch continued from page 22

“We knew it would be special, but we didn’t know how good it would feel,” Dolch said. “We’ve gotten letters from the recipients, and even the commanders, saying how much they appreciated it."

Growing up the son of a college football coach, Dolch has always loved sports. The Maryland native chose Central, in part, because of the opportunity to play football.

During his senior year, Dolch and his teammates were determined to snap the Blue Devils’ disappointing 14-year streak of losing seasons. Some 30 athletes remained on campus to train all summer, and the starting offense team slept on the field in tents before every home game, in a move designed to “protect the home field.”

That season the Blue Devils captured their first-ever Northeast Conference Championship, after posting an 8-2 overall record. Dolch finished the season with a school-record of 17 touchdowns.

“It was a huge opportunity and I’ll always be proud that we were so successful, and put that pride back into the football team,” Dolch said. Although eight years have passed, Dolch still misses the camaraderie of the football team. His first game as a spectator was rough, he said.

“You remember what it was like in the locker room. You realize you’ll never walk out again for the coin toss. There will never be 10 guys in the huddle looking to me for the play,” he said.

“Football is one of the hardest sports to leave because you can never really play again. Sure, you can play flag football, but you’ll never experience the unity of that team. I hope I’ll always have ties to the sport. I hope my son will play, and that I’ll be involved in coaching him some day.”

– Claire LaFleur Hall
As part of the campus’ sustainability effort, the Courier is printed on FSC®-certified paper. The Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC) is an international, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world’s forests.