Knowledge, Skills, and Freedom to Explore
New Gen Ed Curriculum Approved After Two-Year Review

After two years of research, discussion, and recommendations from faculty and students, CCSU is poised to significantly revamp the General Education curriculum.

“There was a perception that the General Education program had become overly complex,” said Professor of History Robert Wolff, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee for General Education, which devised the plan.

“We were looking for a way for students to have the breadth of knowledge that a university should provide, but also the ability to dabble a little bit,” he explained.

The new curriculum will impact students entering in Fall 2014 and beyond. Many other colleges are making similar changes, Wolff said.

Students will be required to take at least six credits in each of the following categories:

- Artistic and Intellectual Expression (including the arts and humanities);
- Self, Community and Society (including social and behavioral sciences);
- Scientific Inquiry (natural and physical sciences, technology and engineering); and
- Mathematical Reasoning (mathematics and statistics).

They will also take a mandatory Critical Inquiry Seminar, designed to give entering undergraduates greater exposure to research, writing, analysis, and critical thinking.

Professor of English and outgoing Faculty Senate President Candace Barrington thinks the revisions have great potential. She has witnessed first year students—and even juniors and seniors—struggle with research and writing skills.

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Even during the summer lull, CCSU Chair of Mathematical Sciences Jeffrey McGowan juggles many sets of problems at top speed. Students arrive at his office with academic requirement conundrums; his land-line and cell phone ring constantly. He maintains a cheerful aplomb living up to the advice printed in boldface on all of his syllabi: “Please interrupt me. Come in. Don’t be shy.”

For a pure mathematician only tangentially concerned with the practical applications of the brain-jolting formulas he constantly wrestles, McGowan adeptly masters the practicalities of administration. “In the past three years as chair, I like to think the best thing I have done is to help keep the department very collegial. I’m also proud of our work improving our service to underprepared students, with things like the Summer Institute,” he observes.

The Summer Institute remedial intervention program, according to Adjunct Professor Karen Santoro, coordinator for the past two years, “has already put CCSU ahead of the curve,” because beginning next year, new state law requires students to take such a course to improve skills. “After the intervention course, if they score high enough in the final assessment exam, they are exempted from the Math 099 remedial requirement,” he explains.

McGowan oversees a large department—32-full-time faculty strong—vibrant with initiatives. These include a weekly Mathematics Colloquium, drawing visiting speakers from distinguished universities; the Bridges Program with New Britain, Bristol Eastern, and Bristol Central High Schools, to improve mathematical preparation of students transitioning from high school to college level work; and the Connecticut Association for Mathematically Precocious Youth (CAMPY), bringing middle school students to campus for a day of workshops. Also, a state grant project continues to test a model Algebra I curriculum for the State of Connecticut as part of a law mandating secondary school reform.

McGowan’s teaching philosophy is a grounded one. “I believe if you want to learn something, you have to do it,” he asserts. “You can’t just watch it.” He acquired this outlook, he says, while earning a bachelor’s in mathematics, physics, and computer science at Hampshire College, known for its alternative curriculum focused on narrative evaluations instead of grades. He went on to earn a PhD in mathematics from City University of New York, The Graduate Center. “I try, even in straight lecture classes, to get students as involved as possible,” he muses. “I think people learn best what they have to at least partially work out on their own. I’m just a guide.”

Former student Zackary McGuirk, who is currently studying Analysis and Number Theory at CUNY, The Graduate Center, declares McGowan “was pivotal to my pursuit of graduate study. He was responsible for the creation of CCSU’s undergraduate Introduction to Real Analysis course, without which I would have been totally lost in any graduate math course.”

He views McGowan’s teaching style as an extension of his personality. McGuirk says, “In the classroom he is very relaxed and creates a warm and inclusive environment. He presents material in a plain format by avoiding extreme abstraction while still maintaining the overarching philosophical feeling of being deeply connected to permeating truth.” McGuirk recalls how his passion for pure math blossomed: “My most vivid memory is probably his proof that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^{-s} = \prod_{p \text{ prime}} (1 - \frac{1}{p^s})^{-1}$ in the senior capstone seminar. It was a very lucid moment.”

“I try, even in straight lecture classes, to get students as involved as possible. I think people learn best what they have to at least partially work out on their own. I’m just a guide.”
Associate Professor of History Leah Glaser, whose research is distinctive for shedding new light on the historical development of natural resource use and energy issues in the American West, this year garnered top awards: both the University-wide and ConnSCU-wide Norton Mezvinsky Research Awards.

In her latest book, Glaser studied the process of electrification in three demographically diverse rural regions of eastern Arizona to detail how technology impacted these places, economies, and lifestyles. She concludes that a national goal of rural electrification may have been government supported and promoted as a tool for modernization and thus social and economic equality—but it was locally directed in terms of systems design and energy use.

Glaser says, “I wanted to focus on ethnically diverse communities, in the case of the West, those including Mexican and Native Americans, and see how each accessed, adapted to, and incorporated electricity and electrical systems. What I argued was that Native Americans as rural westerners had some degree of ‘agency’ in accessing the grid and using electrical power. They are part of and survivors of the complex history of the modern West, not just simply victims of American expansion and aggression.”

Her approach in Electrifying the Rural American West: Stories of Power, People, and Place (University of Nebraska Press, 2009) explores this topic in a new way. Her method, grounded in public history, was to look at the process on a local level and at diverse communities reflective of the regional characteristics of American Western communities. “I indeed found that rural electrification was not just a benevolent government New Deal program, as historians have often characterized it, but that the process was a locally initiated and directed process where communities enlisted modern technology to sustain themselves in the twentieth century,” she said.

Andrew Gulliford of Fort Lewis College in the American Historical Review, writes, “Much history of the New West has focused on environmental issues, and recent American Indian history addresses cultural continuity and change, but the prosaic application of electricity, of “a light in every hogan,” has not been comprehensively studied until the publication of Leah S. Glaser’s book, which is a synthesis of Western history, public history, and Native American history.”

Inspiration for her research interests in public history, historic preservation, and the American West stems from Glaser’s graduate studies at Arizona State University, where she earned a master’s in public history and a doctorate in American history. She has published steadily in a variety of journals, written a chapter for a book entitled Indians and Energy with the Clement Center for Southwestern Studies at Southern Methodist University, and helped organize professional conferences on these subjects.

Glaser joined the History department at Central in 2006 to help build the growing Public History program, specifically in historic preservation. She had taught at Quinnipiac University, Arizona State University, and in the Maricopa County Community Colleges. Her public history experience includes work with the New Haven Preservation Trust, Virginia Center for Digital History, the United States Bureau of Reclamation, and the National Park Service.

In her current research, Glaser continues to be interested in how people of the past have enlisted natural resources for development (specifically in Connecticut), and how public historians can interpret those practices within this modern concept of environmental resource use known as sustainability.

Further, this research hooks into the idea of eastern industrialization influencing western expansion and settlement in the American West. “In Connecticut, a lot of the people who initially made the decisions about the development of the state forests and parks also helped shape policy on a national level and in the national parks and forests of the American West,” she observes.

She states, “I am working on a paper now in which I am trying to understand the historic roots and perceptions of what we consider today continued on page 19
Connecticut State Colleges & Universities
Board of Regents Honors Two Central Professors

The Board of Regents for Higher Education honored two members of the CCSU faculty for their teaching and research at the State Capitol in May. Associate Professor of History Leah Glaser (left) was the recipient of the University-Level ConnSCU Norton Mezvinsky Research Award and the ConnSCU-wide Norton Mezvinsky Research Award. The latter is awarded to only one professor in the entire ConnSCU system each year. Glaser was recognized for her research on public history, 20th-century United States, and the history of energy and sustainability in the American West. Assistant Professor of Psychology Jason Sikorski (right) received the University-Level ConnSCU Teaching Award for his exceptional record as a professor and motivator. Sikorski leads research projects with his students on subjects such as hyper-masculine men and juvenile offenders.

Distinguished Barnard Scholars 2012

CCSU honored Enisa Alanaj, Jeremy Bradford, Nicole Cloutier, and Kaylah Smith (above, left to right) with the 2012 Henry Barnard Distinguished Student award. Alanaj, an engineering major, left Albania and her family behind at 16 years old to immerse herself in US culture. Last year, she received the Departmental Honors Award from the Department of Engineering. Bradford, a double major in physics and mathematics, holds a 3.95 GPA. He is the recipient of numerous scholarships and awards, including the CCSU Physics and Earth Science Departmental Honors Award in ‘11 and ‘12. He will be joining Yale University’s Astronomy PhD program as a Gruber Fellow where he will focus on theoretical and observational cosmology. Cloutier has been a member of the Honors Program, holding a 3.77 GPA while majoring in elementary education with a concentration in mathematics. She has held at least one intern or cooperative education position each semester since Fall 2009. Smith recently completed an inter-university degree in Spanish at the University of Salamanca, Spain. A member of two honor societies, she has maintained a 4.0 GPA while pursuing dual majors in anthropology and Spanish.
CCSU “Pins” Its First Nurses

The Department of Nursing welcomed students, faculty, family, and friends to its Class of 2012 Pinning Ceremony, a source of pride and tradition as a new nurse begins his or her career. This was the first BSN class to graduate from the University, with 46 students earning their degrees. Another 16 students, registered nurses completing the RN/BSN program, were also honored. The pins were presented by Chairperson of the Nursing Department and Professor of Nursing Linda Wagner, and Associate Professor of Nursing Shelley Bochain. The keynote speaker was Nurse Director of Neuro-Trauma-Orthopedic Services at Hartford Hospital Maria Tackett.

President’s Citation Awards

The President’s Citation Awards, presented in May, is an annual event honoring students who demonstrate outstanding leadership and community engagement. Communication major Curtis Porter, III was an active member of Lambda Theta Phi Latin fraternity, becoming its chapter president and CFO. Porter also served as the Finance Association’s executive advisor and volunteered annually for the Special Olympics Summer Games. Ashley Santana rose through the ranks to become Central Activities Network (CAN) president and encouraged students to get involved on campus. Santana also volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, building houses in multiple locations around the country. Sherreida Reid was involved in many campus organizations, including The Learning Center, SALD, Women Involved Now, and the ConncAS Mentoring Program. Brittany Mahoney served as public relations officer and treasurer of the Education Club where she volunteered at local schools and managed the club’s budget and fundraising efforts. She also encouraged students to become involved on campus through her role as a resident assistant. Not pictured is Kaylah Smith, who sang with the a capella group Too Good For Instruments and regularly performed the national anthem at CCSU basketball games. She also assisted the Anthropology department in creating a scholarship fund that helped sponsor students traveling abroad.
The inaugural Women of Influence Gala honored seven women who have greatly impacted the university or taken steps to improve the lives of women. The honorees, from left to right, are CCSU Associate Professor of Psychology Joanne DiPlacido; manager of the Division of Contract Compliance for the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation Debra Gross; vice president of Community Relations for Travelers Insurance Agency and CEO and president of the Travelers Foundation Marlene Ibsen; head coach for the CCSU women’s volleyball team Linda Sagnelli; the Honorable Judge Carmen E. Espinosa ’71; and member of the Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education Merle W. Harris. Not pictured is the founder and former CEO of Endo Pharmaceuticals Carol A. Ammon ’73.

New Gen Ed Curriculum

“My belief is that the Gen Ed program should be among the best at the University,” Barrington said. “Make the first two years rigorous, and then all the rest will fall into place.”

Professor of Biology and incoming Chair of the Curriculum Committee Mark Jackson said most professors he has spoken with are enthusiastic about the plan.

“What I liked best was the committee’s approach, asking ‘What is missing from the Gen Ed curriculum?’ They want to redirect the program with an emphasis on critical thinking. Every instructor I know tries to put it in every course we teach. To me, that’s what defines a bachelor’s degree: critical thinking and life-long learning skills across the disciplines.”

The Critical Inquiry course could range from the traditional to the off-beat. Transfer students would also be required to take the course but would be grouped with similar students.

The University Curriculum Committee last spring recommended pursuit of the revised Gen Ed plan by a vote of 26 to 1. The Faculty Senate, which must plan the implementation in coming months, approved the plan 35 to 5, with amendments.

“I’m looking forward to it,” said Professor and Chair of the Biomolecular Sciences Department James Mulrooney, who is the incoming Faculty Senate president. “We want it to be a win-win for students and faculty, a program that runs smoothly and is easy to understand.

Benefit for Transfer Students

The Gen Ed changes will particularly benefit community college transfer students by allowing them to count some courses as Gen Ed electives. Currently, students sometimes accrue credits that cannot be applied toward graduation.

“We require 122 credits for graduation, but I’ve seen transfer students accrue up to 180 credits before graduating,” Mulrooney said. “If they took a 100-level literature class at a community college, it wouldn’t meet the current CCSU Gen Ed requirement for literature, which is 200-level and up. So that initial class was worthless toward graduation.

“Currently we have a growing student population coming from the community colleges. This will help eliminate the classes that don’t fit anywhere in the graduation spectrum and prevent students from taking extra classes,” he said. “By getting students to graduate sooner, they can be working on graduate degrees and saving money at the same time. I think academically it is a wiser use of credits.”

Although the focus of the committee was strictly curricular, one of the additional benefits of the new plan may be a higher student retention rate, Wolff said.

Student Government Association President Eric Bergenn said he likes the plan better than what’s currently in place. “I think this will help students get through their General Education requirements, without slowing them down,” he said.

One of the controversial changes in the plan impacts foreign language. Under the current plan, students who take three consecutive years of foreign language in high school are not required to take foreign language classes at CCSU. Under the new Gen Ed plan, students would have to pass a foreign language proficiency test or take appropriate classes to meet the requirement. That has raised concerns, particularly for engineering students who may have difficulty fitting additional classes into their tightly-packed schedules. That requirement is expected to be reviewed prior to implementation.

In addition to Wolff, the Ad Hoc Committee for General Education members include Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry Thomas Burkholder, Associate Professor of English Mary Anne Nunn, Professor of Management Information Systems Olga Petkova, Professor of Teacher Education Timothy Reagan, and Professor of Manufacturing and Construction Management Paul Resetarits. An oversight committee will be assigned to address the details of the plan.

– Claire LaFleur Hall
During the 19 years F. Don James served at the helm of CCSU, the college grew into a university, the first computers arrived on campus, and the dorms became co-ed.

“During the time I was here we saw tremendous growth, and I see that now, too,” he said. “Central has had an exciting past, exciting present, and will have an exciting future. After you’re here a while, you begin to feel a passion for the institution. All of us get a little bit biased, but I think it is a good bias!”

James returned to campus in May. During his three-day visit, he met with former CCSU President Richard L. Judd and current President Jack Miller, and shared an oral history of his time as president, from 1968 to 1987.

Perhaps his most exciting accomplishment, James said, was taking Central from a college to a university in 1983.

“What a boost for Central,” he said. “It made a big difference in how people perceived the institution. We were a university before we got the name. But once we became an official university, people knew about our diversity and research and we commanded more respect.”

James recalls how he agreed, with some trepidation, to go up in a cherry picker to unveil the new name on Davidson Hall.

“What a celebration! We had the students line up to form C-C-S-U and the Hartford Courant took an aerial photo. We had a huge cake and a major celebration. It was very important for us, both externally and internally. Everyone recognized we were not just a teacher’s college; we were a university in every way. It was a day I’ll never forget.”

Although all four state colleges became universities at the same time, CCSU took the leadership in initiating the change, which had to be approved by the state legislature, he said.

James was also ahead of the curve when it came to recognizing the importance of technology.

In the 1970s, CCSU offered computer science courses, but none of the top administrators knew how to use a computer. So James arranged for the administrators to go to school “to learn what a computer was from IBM,” he said. “Several of my colleagues wanted nothing to do with it.”

“In the early 1970s we purchased a computer for the registrar. It took up two classrooms in Barnard!” he recalled. “Now, to be able to hold a computer in the palm of my hand is incredible. “When I left the University, no one had heard of the Internet,” he said. “I use the Internet, but to me, a book is something precious. I don’t want to go online to read an article. I want to refer to an encyclopedia or other academic source.”

Another milestone under James’ leadership, was the creation of the first co-ed dormitories during the ’70s.

“To say it was controversial is putting it lightly,” James said. Back in his predecessor Herbert Welte’s day, women lived in Marcus White Hall, and were required to wear white gloves when leaving the dormitory. No man dared cross the threshold.

When James became president, the men’s dorms were clustered by the athletic center and the women’s dorms were closer to Stanley Street. The separation not only didn’t make sense, it led to a lot of whistling, cat calls, and inappropriate behavior, James recalled. Other college dorms were going co-ed and he thought Central should too.

“At first people thought it was horrible,” he said with a smile. “But the behavior of the students was much more responsible and adult-like after that, and there were never any serious incidents.”

James was instrumental in organizing the various professional schools within the university, continued on page 17
After CCSU undergrad Kate Callahan experienced a devastating skiing accident in Vermont in 1996, her parents were told by her doctors that their daughter might never fully recover. Since then, she has recorded and released three albums of original material, resumed taking college courses, started teaching English classes to high school students, and gotten married. To say that she has recovered would be an understatement; she has beaten the odds to become a remarkable musician, writer, student, and teacher.

Callahan was an undergrad at Rutgers University at the time of the accident, studying English and music. She began experiencing symptoms of traumatic brain injury soon after the accident; her vision diminished, she walked tentatively, and her voice became monotone—a far cry from the beautiful singing voice she had honed since childhood. Her life continued in this way for several years, until she was weaned off several medications and decided to learn to play the guitar. Little did she know that it would be the key to her recovery.

The first time Callahan sat down with an acoustic guitar and her teacher Jamie Sherwood, her lack of hand-eye coordination prevented her from performing the most basic fretwork. At first, she could only practice five minutes each day, and would sometimes forget that she was learning a new instrument, due to short-term memory loss. Every week, Callahan’s mother would drive her to lessons and carry her guitar down the stairs to the teacher’s studio, where Callahan slowly started to regain her vision and hand-eye coordination.

“I was looking at music on paper and I wanted so badly to see it. Finally there was something in the world I wanted to see,” Callahan recalls. “My coordination started improving as well because I was playing these chords that I wanted to play; I just knew I wanted to master this instrument.”

Within a year of first toiling over her newfound six-stringed salvation, five minutes of practice per day turned into many hours, and her recovery “had grown by leaps and bounds.” She began writing songs and moved to New York City in 1999, where she composed and recorded her first album, “The Influence of Red,” inspired by her red hair. The album contains 13 heartfelt folk songs brimming with intricate fingerstyle guitar playing and profound lyricism that sound like those of a musician with a lifetime of experience.

While living in Queens, Callahan made ends meet by waitressing during the day and playing at night in venues like the famous Iridium Jazz Club in Times Square and the Knitting Factory in Brooklyn.

After two years in New York City, Callahan moved back home to West Hartford and released the album in 2001. She had moved to New York City because, like countless musicians and artists before and after her, she believed it was simply the place to be; ironically, she found more success right in her hometown.

The Connecticut media loved her immediately and articles about the album and her inspiring story were picked up by the Associated Press. She began touring the US, going as far as Los Angeles, Chicago, and New Mexico. Her second album, “The Greatest of Ease,” released in 2003, was met with equal praise and success.

Callahan’s touring was cut short in 2006 when some symptoms of her brain injury resurfaced, but she never stopped writing new material. She again persevered and felt strong enough to return to college in 2010, 14 years after her life-changing accident.

She started at Central with an undecided major and only one class per semester, but soon found her passion in creative nonfiction, a literary genre that involves weaving facts and true anecdotes into compelling narratives; travel writing, biographies, and personal essays fall into this genre.

“I took a class with Associate Professor Mary Collins and she became a mentor for me. The genre she teaches, creative nonfiction, was something I had always felt drawn to; I just didn’t know it had a name.”

Callahan quickly discovered that creative nonfiction served as the perfect outlet to share her experiences with others and help them deal with their own troubles. She felt so passionate about the subject that she crafted her own major at Central, titled Creative Nonfiction; part of her course work is to create a writing program for high school students. With this program, Callahan hopes to aid college-bound high school students in writing their college essays by using creative nonfiction techniques.

“These kids are faced with having to write their college application essay, and for a lot of kids, it’s the first time they have to tell the truth about themselves. I want to help them see that they can do that in an exciting and creative way without having to bend the truth.” She will be testing the program at New Britain High School and Hall High School in West Hartford.

In 2011, Callahan began work on her third album titled “Two Doors” and married David Ames, whom she had first met in a yoga class many years prior. The album, produced by the Emmy Award-winning Jim Chapdelaine, was released in June to critical acclaim. The concept behind the album explores the internal conflict in having to choose between two options. Callahan was faced with this challenge when she had to decide whether to accept her unfortunate circumstances or overcome them. Luckily for her, and for anyone who has come to know her and listen to her music, she chose the correct door.

“On a personal level, I decided to look at the accident as the perfect outlet to share my experiences with others and help them deal with their own troubles.”

- Adam Saucier
Great Medical Care—with a Little TLC
Health Services Staff See Spike in Use; Aim to Make Students Feel Welcome, Comfortable

It may seem like a small embarrassment, but CCSU students hated carrying a urine sample down the hallway from the restroom to the exam room in the Health Services suite in Marcus White.

So the staff at installed a mini access window, where the students could deposit a sample in complete privacy.

For Dr. Christopher Diamond, medical director of CCSU Health Services, providing quality care means taking care of the details—big and small—that make the student health center a warm, welcoming, and convenient place for students to seek medical attention.

During the 2011–2012 academic year, the Health Services staff treated some 5,000 patients, up from 2,800 four years ago. By adding more staff, an extra exam room, and remaining open through lunchtime, the center has been able to care for more students.

Diamond said he imagines it must be a little frightening for many freshmen to seek medical care for the first time, without a parent by their side.

“Most incoming students have never gone to a medical appointment on their own, or had to take charge of their health,” Diamond said. “That can be intimidating. We try to make it as easy as possible.”

“We consider ourselves the bridge to a student’s primary care doctor at home,” Diamond said. “Since 93 percent of our students live in Connecticut, we take care of them until they can see their regular doctor. Our goal is to treat what we can, so they don’t miss class and can stay in school.”

According to Diamond, students’ most common illnesses include upper respiratory infections, injuries, stomach viruses, and rashes. Health Services provides immunizations, screenings for hearing loss and sexually transmitted diseases, blood tests, and more. The staff performs pre-participation testing for varsity athletes, as well as pre-concussion testing. They offer coronary function testing, and an allergy shot clinic. The staff also offers flu vaccines in the dormitories and this year co-sponsored campus programs on nutrition and sexual health.

New this academic year, students will be able to make medical appointments online. The center has also purchased new hearing-testing equipment and hopes to have students discover any hearing loss before it becomes severe. Additionally, all medical records are now online, making it easier for seniors to have their records forwarded to graduate schools.

The medical staff is also responsible for ensuring the University is in compliance with state health laws—which requires reviewing some 3,000 health forms a year.

Diamond, who has worked at CCSU for three years and is a board-certified physician, said he cautions medical and nursing students not to assume that someone who is young is necessarily healthy.

“A lot of chronic medical conditions begin to emerge in the late teens or early 20s,” he said. “That’s when we’ll see irritable bowel disease, appendicitis, pelvic-inflammatory disease, as well as unplanned pregnancies. When we examine a patient, we have to think about the worst thing that could be going on.”

“We’ve had great catches here,” Diamond said. “Marisol Aponte diagnosed a student with a life-threatening problem—a collapsed lung.”

Diamond said he is hoping to form a student-advisory council, that will offer suggestions for programs or services. “We are trying to make it a student-centered office and adapt to their needs,” he said.

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College Academic Day Celebrated at the Capitol

CCSU students Samantha Cool (left) of Naugatuck and Benjamin Ho Kyung Harvey (right) of East Hartford were among 21 students, each representing a campus of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system, who were honored in April by the Connecticut General Assembly during the 15th annual College Academic Day celebration at the State Capitol. Cool and Harvey, pictured with Representative Richard F. Roy of the 119th District, were selected for this honor based on merit, scholastic achievement, and extra-curricular involvement.

Ceremony Recognizes Academic Honors

The Academic Honors Convocation, held in May, recognized honors program graduates, highest ranking student athletes, Henry Barnard Distinguished Students, and students receiving departmental honors. The evening opened with an introduction from University Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Carl Lovitt and welcome remarks from President Jack Miller. The keynote speaker was Professor of English David Cappella—the 2011–12 recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award.

CCSU Senior Studies the Physics of Parkour

CCSU physics major Robert McFarlane showcased his research on Parkour—the act of overcoming physical obstacles as safely and efficiently as possible—to an audience in the Copernican Observatory and Planetarium in May. McFarlane has been a “traceur” for over 10 years and he decided to use his knowledge of physics to “teach the parkour community about physics and the physics community about parkour.” To achieve this he filmed his friends precision-jumping, speed-vaulting, wall-running, and parkour-rolling, and examined the footage using computer software that measured the velocity and force of gravity on their bodies at every stage of the feats. McFarlane’s research helped him improve his own technique and increased his understanding of both physics and parkour. He plans to continue his research through a new YouTube channel called “Parkour Science.”
Undergraduate Achievements Showcased on Campus

CCSU celebrated Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day in May, a campus-wide showcase for student research and creative activities. Senior psychology major Lori McDermott (right) and senior anthropology major Katherine Johns-Gavin (far right) were each honored with an Undergraduate Library Research Award and received a $350 prize. McDermott’s study was titled “Menu Labeling and College Students’ Purchasing Behaviors and Caloric Intake.” Johns-Gavin’s thesis was titled “Green Oasis in a Food Desert: Increasing the Accessibility of Affordable Healthy Foods in an Urban Neighborhood in Hartford, CT.” The Graduate Research and Creative Presentations were also exhibited in May, in Alumni Hall, Bellin Galleries, and the Philbrick Room.

6th Annual Literacy Conference Puts the Spotlight on the “Whole Child”

Data that count and data that really count: Focusing on the whole child,” was the theme for the 6th annual Literacy Essentials Conference in March, sponsored by CCSU’s Department of Reading and Language Arts. The theme celebrated innovative visions of effective literacy curriculum, instruction, and assessment that value all students, parents, teachers, educational staff, community leaders, and administrators.

The conference featured hands-on workshops, paper presentations, panel discussions, research poster sessions, and activity demonstrations that were presented by a wide range of literacy practitioners and scholars.

The keynote speaker, Regents Professor of Education at the University of Arizona Yetta M. Goodman spoke on “The Teacher: The Essential Element in Kidwatching,” in which she explained that teachers need to adapt their teaching to their students’ needs based on constant observation. These observations give teachers “authentic measures” of student performance, according to Goodman. She also emphasized that teachers should focus on the content of what children are trying to communicate instead of failing them due to spelling or grammatical errors.

Professor Emerita at Lesley University Nancy Carlsson-Paige delivered the luncheon speech, “‘Reclaiming Play: Helping Children Learn and Thrive in School.” She explained to attendees that children are spending more and more time occupied by electronic media instead of going out to play. As a result, children spend more time imitating what they see in video games, on TV, and in movies and less time using their imaginations and being creative. Carlsson-Paige presented research that showed that imaginative and beneficial play is one of the most important vehicles children have for optimal development and learning.

Children’s book author and illustrator Kevin O’Malley hosted two breakout sessions, including a special one for the Central Connecticut Writing Project Fellows, addressing issues and concerns surrounding teachers as writers and teaching writing.

Additional sessions focused on the impact of after school programs on students’ literacy learning; books that change lives; tiered instruction for the English language learners; and implementation and assessment of the newly adopted Common Core State Standards.

The event was co-chaired by Reading and Language Arts Professors Elene Demos and Jesse Turner.

– Erica Bliss

In April, CCSU was named one of the top “Green Colleges” for the third year running by The Princeton Review’s Guide to 322 Green Colleges: 2012 Edition. In the past few years, CCSU has made many changes to become a more sustainable institution including the construction of a state-of-the-art energy center, the installation a new fuel cell power plant, and the conversion of all outdoor lighting to light-emitting diode lamps (LEDs). Last year, CCSU was the winner of the US Environmental Protection Agency’s 2011 Game Day Challenge, a nationwide competition to lower the amount of waste generated at college football games.
Forum For Young Men Inspires Success

In response to declining school success rates among male students, the Man Enough Support Initiative (MESI) organized a forum to inspire success among the middle, high school, and college male populations. The symposium, “I’m Too Important to Fail: Closing the Achievement Gap by Reaching the Next Generation,” took place in April and featured keynote speaker US Congressman Christopher Murphy (above), Attorney Jeffrey Dressler, and Civil Rights Attorney and Hartford City Councilwoman Cynthia Jennings. For more information about MESI, contact Assistant Counselor William Fothergill at fothergillw@ccsu.edu.

Students Use Social Media to Help Those in Need

Twelve CCSU students created “Further Your Footsteps” as part of Associate Professor of Communication Jeffrey Teitler’s Communication Technologies course, and recruited 5,000 of their peers to collect over 500 pairs of shoes in two weeks that were donated to Hartford’s Police Activities League and Mercy House Homeless Shelter. CCSU basketball player Allen Terrell—who recognized that many of his teammates receive complimentary pairs of sneakers—pitched the idea of reaching out online to universities nationwide to donate to underserved communities. The course, which combines social media with basic audio production and photography, had students investigate and design an online initiative, and then use technology to influence others and reach a desired objective.

“48 • 48 • 48” Mosaic Created at the YMCA

In late June, Community Central Director Hannah Hurwitz, Assistant Professor of Art Jerry Butler, and senior art student Josh Blumenthal led 48 volunteers in the creation of a 48-foot mosaic at the New Britain YMCA. Butler, a community arts specialist, designed the mosaic to depict the history of New Britain, including the development of tool manufacturing, sports at the YMCA, and New Britain arts. Community members and local businesses donated time and materials to complete the mosaic, while local visual artists were encouraged to perform at the site throughout the 48-hour period. The event raised money and awareness for the New Britain Art Teachers’ Supply Funds. Other contributions for the event came from New Britain arts organizations and the New Britain Industrial Museum.
Artistic Improvements Planned for Downtown

In an effort to make downtown New Britain more pedestrian-friendly and inviting to both residents and visitors in preparation for the New Britain-Hartford Busway, members of the Downtown Streetscape Working Group gathered in May to brainstorm ideas. Director of Community Central Hannah Hurwitz, who also represents CCSU on the Community Art Committee, is in charge of overseeing the downtown murals—several of which Assistant Professor of Art Jerry Butler is designing. Construction is expected to begin in late summer or early fall 2012.

Business Plan Competition Awards CCSU Student First Prize

In April, students from CCSU and SCSU participated in the ConnSCU Business Plan Competition in front of over 50 attendees and judges. CCSU undergrad Judy Cossette (above, left) won the grand prize of $11,000 and one year in the CCSU Institute of Technology & Business Development Incubator for “Kanai Taste Flavorings,” a company that would produce healthy, liquid flavor packets for ice chips to be given to patients after undergoing medical services. Central’s Chris Meller won the Technology Business Plan Prize of $1,500 for his proposal for “Eldercare Compare,” a company that would use methodology to compare and hire eldercare professionals. Each participant gave a three-minute presentation, displayed information about their concept, and met with judges one-on-one. The competition was the culmination of a series of business competitions that began in the fall.

Antietam—150 Years Later

In April, 106 people from Connecticut, including 40 faculty, staff, and students from CCSU, made a pilgrimage to the Antietam battlefield in Maryland. Led by Professor of History Matthew Warshauer, the group took part in a march to raise the Connecticut flag in honor of the 136 Connecticut soldiers who died in the battle. Four sergeants from the National Guard’s Camp Niantic are pictured raising the flag in Antietam Cemetery.

CCSU partnered with YWCA New Britain’s Sexual Assault Crisis Services (SACS) and the Hartford Marathon Foundation in April during Sexual Assault Awareness Month to host an event to raise public awareness about sexual assault and other violent crimes. “ENOUGH! Race to End Violence” consisted of a 5K race, an awards ceremony, and an opportunity for victims and supporters to stand up and speak out against violence.

Almost 350 people raced or walked for the cause, and remained after the race to participate in a speak-out session, gather information from community resources, and take part in a "clothesline project" (www.clotheslineproject.org) and a bocce ball tournament.

The proceeds from the race support SACS in its mission to comfort and counsel individuals affected by sexual assault and abuse. The center provides service to 46 towns in Hartford, Tolland, and Plymouth counties.

SACS’s mission is to eliminate sexual violence through crisis intervention, prevention education, and public policy advocacy. Advocates and volunteers answer hotline calls, work with law enforcement, accompany survivors at local emergency rooms and speak to community groups to ensure that victims’ voices are heard.
The CCSU Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) hosted the second annual Rich Royster and Brittany Mariani Memorial Flag Football Tournament in April. 225 students participated in the event, which raised over $1,000 for the scholarship fund. SAAC executive board members Meghan Burke, Jillian Cipriano, Gene Johnson, Katie Lang, and Lauren O’Kelly were instrumental in organizing the event.

The work of Assistant Professor of Art Jerry Butler was presented in two exhibits at the New Britain Art League. “Women I know: Images, Almost Poems, Writings and R&B Songs” and “Butler and Burlap: Memories From Another Time” were on display from April to June.

Associate Professor and Graduate Advisor for the Geography Department Charles E. Button won the Emerald Literati Network 2012 Award for Excellence in the category of Outstanding Paper for his article, “Sustainability trans-disciplinary education model: Interface of arts, science, and community (STEM),” Button’s paper, which was published in the International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education, was nominated by members of Emerald Journal’s editorial team.

CCSU student Kate Callahan appeared on WNPR’s Where We Live radio program in May to promote her new album Two Doors. CCSU’s Robert C. Vance Endowed Chair in Journalism and Mass Communication and long-time radio host John Dankosky spoke with Callahan about the themes of her new album, the writing process behind some of its songs, and how her life has affected her music and vice versa. The hour-long broadcast included live performances of three songs from Callahan’s newest release. (For more on Kate Callahan, see the Student Spotlight on page 8.)

Four CCSU students were honored for their first ever “Speak Out Connecticut!” election video competition in June. The students—Michael DiChello, Brian Johnson, Amy Roy, and Nils Toledo, Jr.—created the video in an effort to increase voter participation in the 2012 elections. Their video will be aired as a public service announcement this fall.

In April, CCSU’s all-male a cappella group, Divisi, participated in the 4th annual BEAT IT! benefit concert at Casleton State College in Vermont, where the group performed covers of Coldplay, Queen, and NSYNC songs. More than $500 was raised through the concert and raffle, which was donated to the American Cancer Society and to the Be The Match Foundation.

CCSU Professor of Political Science William Dyson was the recipient of the 2012 Connecticut Law Day Award. Dyson, who is also the holder of the Governor William A. O’Neill Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Practical Politics, was honored for his 32 years of service as a member of the Connecticut House of Representatives and for his continued commitment to educate students about public and community service.

Professor of Art Vicente Garcia was selected from nearly 1,000 applicants to participate in the Paradise City Arts Festival in Northampton, MA. Works were judged on imagination, technical excellence, design, and originality.

Professor of Modern Languages Antonio Garcia-Lozado devoted his spring sabbatical to gathering and analyzing archival material on Andrés Bello’s works, one of the most prominent intellectuals in Latin America during the 19th century. During his visit to Santiago, Chile, Garcia-Lozado lectured on his research on Bello at the Catholic University and the Buenos Aires University.

CCSU art student Katie Hawran’s photograph placed first in the annual Windsor Historical Society photo contest in April. Hawran submitted four photos of local landmarks; her image of Windsor’s Plaza Building received the top prize. The photo has been added to the Historical Society’s archives and made into a postcard for sale in its gift shop.

The Physical Education and Human Performance Department has been awarded the Graduate Community of Scholars Tribute for 2012-2013 by CCSU’s Graduate Studies Committee. The tribute is awarded annually based on five graduate tenets: community scholars, scholarly inquiry, excellence, intellectual and personal integrity, and leadership.

CCSU Spanish Professor Paloma LaPuerta and Assistant Professor Lourdes Casas worked with Simsbury High School teachers and CCSU graduate students Jan Ferrier Sands and Lisa Berliner to write second and third level Spanish textbooks for the publisher Santillana USA.

continued on page 15

Holi—A Unique Celebration

The CCSU South Asian Students Association (SASA) hosted Holi, the Hindu Festival of Colors, on campus in March. Holi marks the end of winter, welcoming in the bloom of springtime with ‘abeer’ and ‘gulal,’ colored powders which are thrown into the air and painted on faces and bodies.
Why Study Abroad? It’s All About Connection
The Center for International Education Unveils Exciting New Study Abroad Options

London, England and Paris, France
The history of scientific progress has always thrived on connections. This course will present students with a view of the connections that make the scientific process thrive, tracing scientific and technological breakthroughs spanning a range of disciplines. The course culminates with a trip to London and Paris—cities central to the enlightenment in 18th-century Europe where discovery and invention blossomed. December 26 – January 8, 2013.

Puerto Rico
Puerto Rican students constitute the largest language minority group in Connecticut, and most teachers in Connecticut are European American with little understanding of the Puerto Rican experience. This course will prepare and acquaint pre-education students with Puerto Rican students, schools, parents, and community in both New Britain (which has a 60% Hispanic population), and during spring break, in Puerto Rico. March 22 – 31, 2013.

IN THE news
Head Men’s Cross Country and Track Coach Eric Blake was quoted in an article on competitor.com in April. The article focused on the importance of alternating between running on pavement and on soft surfaces, such as track courses or trails. Blake noted that switching running surfaces has not only physical, but mental benefits as well.

Empowering Events Held During Sexual Assault Awareness Month
The Ruthe Boyea’s Women’s Center sponsored a series of supportive and informative events in April in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The Rape Aggression Defense System was taught by CCSU Police Sergeant Tony D’Onofrio during workshops throughout the month. Other events included the annual Take Back the Night rally, march, and candlelight vigil; a seminar with Evelyn Monford-Perez, a sexual assault counselor with the Sexual Assault Crisis Center in New Britain, who met with students to discuss the understanding of sexual assault within the Puerto Rican culture and history; and a lecture by Connecticut State Police Detective Daryll Christensen who spoke about sexting, cyber-bullying, and online sexual predators. Toward the end of the month, the entire New Britain community was able to get involved for the ENOUGH! 5K Race to End Violence. (See related story on page 13.)

extra credit  continued from page 14
Alexis Relyea-Nieman is helping Bully Busters, a Manchester High School group of student leaders who work with elementary and middle schools to teach students how they can work together against bullying. Relyea-Nieman is working toward a master’s in family therapy at CCSU.
Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Paul Schlickmann delivered the keynote address at the New Britain-Berlin YMCA’s 128th annual meeting in April. The meeting honored people making a difference in the community.
Recent CCSU graduate Josh Therriault took second place in the 2012 Public Service Announcement Contest for Connecticut’s College Students for his 30-second public service announcement on the dangers of underage drinking, and the role parents play in its prevention. Therriault was awarded $1,500 by The Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of Connecticut, Inc. (WSWC) and its partners. Therriault placed first in the WSWC public service announcement contest in 2010.
CCSU student Bella Velasco recently volunteered during the 25th annual HomeFront Day. Velasco helped to repair a roof, paint, and build a handicap ramp at a New Britain home. Volunteers made similar repairs at homes in ten other Connecticut towns.
CCSU recently announced the promotions and/or tenure granted to over three dozen instructional faculty members for the 2012–2013 academic year. To view the complete list, visit: http://www.ccsu.edu/promos.
Central Connecticut State University athletics is heading into an exciting new era this fall, highlighted by the completion of CCSU’s outdoor athletic complex, which will allow Blue Devil soccer to return to campus and for 5,500 fans to cheer the Blue Devils at the newly expanded Arute Field. In addition to new facilities, action on the field will be exciting as the Blue Devils pursue Northeast Conference Championships in every sport.

Football
Junior running back Chris Tolbert and senior receiver Deven Baker will lead the football team through a challenging schedule that features non-conference road games at Stony Brook and New Hampshire. The Blue Devils will open the expanded Arute Field with a non-conference game against Lehigh on September 8. The Blue Devils will also host four NEC games at home this year.

Women’s Soccer
The women’s soccer squad will be led by its defense in 2012 as junior defender Jewel Robinson and junior goalkeeper Nikola Deiter will serve as the team’s captains. Robinson was named First Team All-NEC last season and was a second team selection as a freshman. Deiter has started all but two games in her career and has posted 11 wins, including eight shutouts. The Blue Devils will play eight games on the new soccer field in 2012, including the home opener against Providence on September 2.

Men’s Soccer
Coming off a regular season tri-championship in 2011, the men’s soccer team will look to challenge for the NEC regular season title again in 2012. All-NEC selections Reece Wilson, Tom Obasi, and Mamoudou Dioufate return for their senior seasons, as does senior goalkeeper Anthony Ochialini who posted 10 wins and six shutouts last season. The team will host Yale on August 31, in the first game on the new soccer field.

Women’s X-Country
The women’s cross country team will look to continue its rise in the NEC standings at the 2012 NEC Cross Country Championships. Despite losing 2011 Individual Champion Alasia Griebel, the Blue Devils still have the duo of junior Elizabeth Eberhardt and Kristzina Dearborn who both have an All-NEC selection on their resume. This year’s championship meet will be held at Bryant University, and the Blue Devils will get a look at the course during the season opening meet hosted by the Bulldogs.

Men’s X-Country
The men’s cross country team enters 2012 with three consecutive NEC titles and two straight individual champions. Senior Craig Hunt, who finished third in 2010 and second in 2011, will lead a talented squad into the 2012 season. Sophomore Andy Pullaro, who finished 19th at last year’s NEC meet, will look to continue his rise after competing at the USA Track and Field Junior Nationals this summer. The Blue Devils will host a pair of meets at Stanley Quarter Park leading up to the NEC Championships at Bryant.

Volleyball
The volleyball team will look to continue its streak of NEC Tournament appearances in 2012. Led by senior Emily Cochran, a Second Team All-NEC and All-Tournament selection in 2011, the Blue Devils will open the season at the West Virginia Invitational before hosting the CCSU Invitational on August 31 and September 1. In addition to a strong core of seniors, the Blue Devils will also feature six new student-athletes this fall.

Swimming & Diving
Later in the fall, the swimming and diving program will return to the pool with a pair of home events. Senior Taylor Friedmann and junior Helene Neuhau will lead a squad that has placed third or better in the NEC each of the last 14 years.

For the most up-to-date information and schedules on all 18 Central Connecticut sports check CCSUBlueDevils.com.
F. Don James

involving faculty in leadership, creating the CCSU Foundation, and more. He prided himself on knowing every faculty member, as well as many students. James is particularly proud of the emphasis on international exchange programs, something he fostered during his time at CCSU.

Married to a Swiss native, Gerti, whom he met while studying abroad, James and his wife now split their time between homes in Boston (near their two sons and six grandchildren) and in Switzerland.

“We had students on campus who had never been to Boston or New York,” he said. “I thought it was vital that our students get international exposure, either through travel or meeting faculty and students from different parts of the world. We were ahead of our time because we were one of a few universities that offered Chinese-language courses.”

James recalled hosting afternoon teas and excursions for international students. “I knew how important it was to have people interested in you when you are in a foreign country,” he said.

James said he is also pleased with the campus and efforts to unify and beautify it. Back when he was president, Wells Street ran through the heart of campus. He recalls city officials wanting to add a steel trestle so cars could pass through this part of town. He politely declined the offer.

That was one of many stories James shared as part of a 9-hour oral history of his tenure as CCSU president. The interview was conducted by Professor of History Matt Warshauer.

After his retirement, James started “a whole new phase in life. I didn’t want to be the old fogie serving on the same old board of directors,” he said. He and his wife have traveled. He learned to speak German, and taught Western Civilization at a Chinese university for an academic semester.

As CCSU president, James most enjoyed working with the students and even team-taught courses for several years. When he retired, he missed the students the most, he said.

“During the time I was here we saw tremendous growth, and I see that now, too. Central has had an exciting past, exciting present, and will have an exciting future.”

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— Claire LaFleur Hall

Topping Off the New Academic Building

The last steel beam, covered in signatures from construction workers and members of the CCSU community, including Provost Carl Lovitt (above), was bolted into place in CCSU’s new Academic Building in May. The “Topping Off” ceremony was attended by University officials and representatives of Shepard Steel of Hartford and Structural Steel Works, Inc. of Wolcott, which erected the building’s steel frame. The design incorporates space for 17 classrooms, two computer labs, five specialized laboratories, a map room, three student lounge/study areas, 71 department and faculty offices, three general conference rooms, and five department conference rooms. The new structure meets the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver certification, an internationally recognized green building certification system, and is part of the CSUS 2020 Capital Improvement initiative. It will house the departments of Sociology, Anthropology, Political Science, and Geography.
A New Day for Continuing Education at CCSU

Interested in starting your own business? How about obtaining the Six Sigma Certification? Or improving your communication skills? Think CCSU!

Central will soon be offering a variety of open enrollment, credit and non-credit courses of interest to all.

The first round of courses will begin in fall 2012. The University expects to offer an increasing number and diversity of courses responding to the needs and interests of our alumni and others throughout the state. Alumni are eligible for discount rates.

So, if you’re interested in courses for professional development, for promoting lifelong learning and cultural enrichment, for responding to workforce needs, and for promoting health and well-being, explore our new course offerings.

Better yet: let us know what kinds of courses you’re interested in. Send us an email (HuguleyH@ccsu.edu) or fill out the brief online survey at: www.ccsu.edu/Con-Ed/survey.

Transformation and Realignment

The new Continuing Education program is part of a realignment bringing Continuing Education and CCSU’s Institute of Technology & Business Development together with Institutional Advancement under the leadership of Vice President Christopher Galligan. According to Galligan, the arrangement will make it possible for the University to offer a more extensive range of educational programming.

The new arrangement responds to CCSU President Jack Miller’s call for a more “entrepreneurial spirit in expanding learning experiences.”

Benefits of Continuing Education at CCSU Abound

- Industry leader in professional development
- Instructors are professionals with extensive learning and experience in the classroom and the workplace
- Conveniently located in New Britain with free parking
- Affordable fees; alumni and group discounts available
- Most courses offered evenings and Saturdays
- Many courses eligible for federal and other grant funding including WIA
- CEUs available for most courses
- Courses can be customized for your organizational or professional needs

Some of the Courses Being Offered in Fall 2012

BUILD YOUR BUSINESS
- Customer Centricity
- Entrepreneurial Success
- iPad for the Workplace
- Selling for Non-Salespeople
- Six Sigma and Lean Methodologies
- Six Sigma Black Belt Certification

BUILD YOUR CAREER
- Construction Management Fundamentals
- Grant Writing
- GIS Certification
- Internal Family Systems Therapy

EDUCATION MATTERS
- Best Practices in Motivating Adults
- Keeping Our Schools Safe
- Leadership, Equity, and Student Success
- Research-Based Teaching

See www.ccsu.edu/con-ed for complete course listing.
New Appointments in Human Resources and the Registrar’s Office

Patrick M. Tucker has accepted the position of the Registrar. Tucker worked as assistant director of Admissions at Capitol Community College before becoming registrar there in 2006. He holds a bachelor’s and a master’s degree from the University of Hartford.

Lou Pisano has been appointed Chief Human Resources Officer at CCSU. Pisano, who spent six years with the University of Washington as assistant vice president of Labor Relations, earned his master’s degree in Public Administration from New York University. Most recently, he was the vice president of Employee and Labor Relations/Chief Ethics Officer for Education Management Corporation in Pittsburgh.

Leah Glaser

to be ‘sustainable practices’ to the conservation movement of the early twentieth century.” That has all, in part, been inspired by her involvement in the Global Environmental Sustainability Action Coalition at CCSU and the sustainability symposiums and programs on campus.

She continues, “I hope to address present and future issues with which the profession itself is struggling, such as how do we manage sustainable historic sites?” Her hope is that her work will offer site managers new ideas for integrating sustainable technologies into the treatment of historical resources, but also to use historic sites to educate the public about sustainability and historically sustainable practices. “Historic sites can often manage pollution and energy use in ways more environmentally sustainable,” she observes. “Furthermore, those techniques are often more historically accurate.”

As Glaser’s intellectual explorations evolve in this new direction, her future public history scholarship will rest firmly on sound scholarship and on an interest and commitment to making history relevant and useful in the public sphere.

– Geri Radacsi

Jeffrey McGowan

McGowan and department colleague Eran Makover co-organized a National Science Foundation funded Conference Board of Mathematical Sciences conference on “Families of Riemann Surfaces.” McGuirk explains that in 2009, his senior year, “This amazing conference on the CCSU campus allowed me to network with the graduate school professors who would eventually become my colleagues, and introduced me to cutting edge mathematics. Lectures by notables Dr. Wolpert, Dr. Otal, Dr. Brock, and Dr. Behrstock inspired an entire year of independent study that would later form the backbone of my graduate school research proposal essays.”

McGowan’s research interests are geometric analysis, Riemann surfaces, Hodge theory, and Spectrum of the Laplacian. He has collaborated in writing papers on these subjects published in academic journals: number theory, analysis and geometry; length of closed geodesics on random Riemann surfaces; and on an elementary proof that random Fibonacci sequences grow exponentially.

With refreshing nonchalance, McGowan modestly reflects, “All have been cited by other mathematicians, which is always nice. The third one was fun, since Eran (Makover) and I wrote it on napkins in the faculty cafeteria, and it’s in an area that neither of us are specialists in, but ended up begin published in a top number theory journal and has a bunch of citations.”

– Geri Radacsi
continued from page 9

The Health Services staff includes APRN and associate director Aponte, registered nurse Eileen Kenny, nurse practitioner April Palombizio, secretary Diane Cannata, and office assistant Alisa St. Georges.

Patient confidentiality is guaranteed, with the staff refusing to even tell a parent that their child has been treated without the student’s permission.

Diamond and Aponte both said one of their favorite aspects of the job is the team-approach to student health and well-being, which exists from the administration, counseling services, residence life, and student government. That was especially helpful during Diamond’s first year here, when the H1N1 virus hit.

“Across campus so many departments came together to meet all aspects of preparation,” he said. “That’s one reason the flu didn’t take a big toll, because we were well prepared. We had to immunize over 1,000 people. The faculty was very understanding if a student missed class. We had hand sanitizer dispensers installed all over campus. We did a great job containing the illness.”

Cannata, known as the ‘Mom of the Campus,’ and the real mother of three, is usually the first person the student speaks with.

“A lot of freshmen call and they’re not sure if they need to be seen,” she said. “We’ll say, ‘C’mon in. We’ll take a look at you.’ Our students are so great. No matter how bad they’re feeling, they are always pleasant.”

Aponte is there to treat illnesses, but she said she frequently sees students who are suffering from stress and time-management issues.

“It is not all about illness; sometimes a student just needs some assurance that everything is going to be OK,” she said. “They want that therapeutic touch. They need to hear that ‘It is only a cold. You’ll be fine. You’ll succeed.’ They want a little positive energy.”

Perhaps the most unusual Health Services patient was small and rather furry. A student had found a stray baby bunny near Davidson Hall, and decided the best thing to do was to bring it to the staff. Diamond called his wife and children and they transported it to a wildlife rehab center.

“We think that was successful, because when it comes to good care, students know to turn to us,” Diamond said.

~ Claire LaFleur Hall

Health Services Motto: ‘C’mon In’

In April, former Army Chaplain James Yee spoke at the event Civil Liberties Under Attack: A Talk and Discussion on the Fight Against Government Repression and Indefinite Detention at CCSU. Yee was arrested and imprisoned for 76 days in 2003 for opposing the inhumane treatment of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, CCSU’s Elihu Burritt Library displayed items from the festival’s collection from May to June. This festival began in Hartford as a project of the cultural organization Alternatives, and was founded to promote, encourage, and provide a forum for lesbian and gay talent.

A screening of the Polish film 1920. The World’s Most Important Battle was presented by Professor of History Mieczyslaw Biskupski in May. The film focuses on the clash between the Red Army and the soldiers of a newly reborn Poland.

Robert C. Vance Endowed Chair in Journalism and Mass Communication John Dankosky moderated a panel discussion titled “Funny But True: Blogging the 2012 Election” in April. The panel, made up of political bloggers and reporters, highlighted current political humor gems ranging from the viral “Texts from Hillary” to recent candidate gaffes.

In April the CCSU Mural Program and Art Club sponsored the 6th annual New Britain International Mural Slam, held on the rooftop of Welte Garage. More than 60 artists participated in the slam, which also featured food and music provided by six local bands and a D.J.

In April the Polish and Polish American Studies program presented “From Diplomacy to Business.” Marek Skulmowski spoke about his transition from working as a Deputy Consul at the Polish Consulate in New York to working as the Director of US Operations and Marketing for INGLOT Cosmetics.

In April, the Ruthe Boyea Women’s Center, the Center for Africana Studies, the Office of Diversity and Equity, and the Committee on the Concerns of Women sponsored Women of Color: Higher Education. Director of Residential Life at the University of Vermont Stacey A. Miller began the event with her speech, “Helping Women of Color Navigate Professional Success in Higher Education.”

Attorney for the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) Cheryl A. Sharp followed with “The Glass Ceiling and Civil Rights through the Lens of CHRO.”

Members of the CCSU community came together in April for a Sustainable Art at CCSU Global Youth Service Day titled “Burlapalooza.” Attendees created works of art, unique crafts, masks, and paintings out of burlap donated by Omar Coffee. The artwork was displayed all over New Britain and burlap crafts were sold at stores, with proceeds going to support art funding in New Britain Schools.

notable programs
TRiO Educational Conference Prepares the Latino Community for College Success

When Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs Joseph Paige, TRiO Educational Talent Search (ETS) Director Thomas Menditto, and Assistant Director/Project Advisor Jeff Ambroise began planning an educational conference to guide Latino families through the college application and enrollment process, only one thing stood in their way: none of them spoke Spanish.

This obstacle was overcome with help from Hispanic Outreach employees Lisette Rodrigues and Christian Velez, and Pre-Collegiate and Access Services Director Awilda Reasco. Sponsorships from Student Affairs, Admissions, the Bookstore, and Athletics, and the tireless work from ConnCAP and TRiO volunteers helped to create a unique forum of hands-on activities, informative panels, cultural food, and entertainment.

TRiO's decision to create this event, called “Padres Unidos Para Nuestros Hijos” (Parents United for Our Children), was in direct response to the high drop-out rate of the Consolidated School District of New Britain. The goal was to provide information for parents of pre-collegiate Latino students who were unfamiliar with the college experience; that goal was met with brilliant success. More than 100 parents attended the conference, many who had never stepped foot on a college campus. According to Ambroise, “It was a day of many firsts for many of the parents, and we hope they now have a better understanding and comfort level with the college process.”

Preparing for college can be difficult; narrowing down possible schools, registering for and maintaining financial aid support, and choosing a major are only a few of the hurdles to overcome. The conference covered these topics and more, in a variety of engaging ways.

After President of Capital Community College Wilfredo Nieves stressed the importance of higher education in his keynote speech, the day progressed with a series of discussions and workshops. While parents attended a discussion with six Latin-American professionals who shared their experiences, students, aged 11 to 18, took part in a forum called “Education through the Media,” which educated students about working in the fields of entertainment media and mass communication. Other workshops included “How College Admissions Works,” with Assistant Director of Admissions Carlos Soler, and “College Readiness,” where CCSU Latino students shared first-hand knowledge of the college preparation process and offered strategies for a successful college experience. In addition, campus organizations such as the Latin American Student Association (LASO) and Latino media La Bomba 97.1 FM and the TV station Telemundo provided information tables and representatives to answer questions.

New Britain Parks and Recreation organized fun events for kids to enjoy, like a train ride that gave tours of the campus. Entertainment was provided by Lambda Theta Phi Fraternity and COLADA (Central Organi-

For Ambroise, and all who helped organize the event, the success of the conference is just the beginning. “We are looking forward to continuing our efforts towards informing the New Britain community about the importance of getting a college education in future conferences/workshops to come within the next academic year through TRiO Programs and various departments on the CCSU campus.”

– Adam Saucier

TRiO Hispanic Outreach Facilitator Lisette Signorelli-Rodrigues (fourth from right) stands with New Britain High School students and TRiO volunteers above one of the signs they created for the conference.
Last semester, Nevada State College Associate Professor of Education Kevin Graziano ’00 gave his students an assignment: take photographs that tell a story about the at-risk youngsters with whom they work.

The students, all future educators taking a “Second-Language Acquisition” class, tackled the project with enthusiasm, producing dozens of pictures for an exhibit.

They took photos of a stack of CDs that a young girl listens to when riding in the car with her Dad, so they can both practice English.

They took photos of a pond filled with koi and turtles, where biology lessons come to life for another student.

But perhaps the most poignant was a photo of a single leather cot in the school nurse’s office. Once a week, a boy from an immigrant family would fake an illness. He would go to the nurse’s office, take his shirt off, and lie on the cool cot. He would briefly enjoy the luxury of air conditioning, which his family couldn’t afford. For those few moments, he escaped the heat and discomfort of his usual surroundings.

“It is a wonderful teaching tool to get my students more engaged. My college students get more experience from this project than reading a textbook or listening to a lecture,” said Graziano, a CCSU alum who often works as an adjunct professor at Central during the summer.

This spring, Graziano’s innovative teaching style earned him the Nevada Regents’ Teaching Award, presented to only one faculty member in the state’s higher education system. The award was for his distinct instructional contributions, and required peer nomination, followed by an extensive state-wide review.

“It is truly an honor to be selected and to have my work recognized,” said Graziano in a telephone interview. “Hopefully others will be inspired by what I do in the classroom.”

“By incorporating active learning strategies into his own classroom, he continues to inspire our students to be creative, reflective of their performance, and to use technology in the creation of lesson plans,” said Jim Labuda, Interim Dean of the School of Education at Nevada State.

Graziano received a three-week teacher training fellowship this spring at the University of the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, Australia, where he shared his practice of “photovoice,” which uses documentary photography and storytelling for research, teaching strategies, and to address social issues.

One of the highlights for Graziano was working with teachers who instruct aboriginal students.

“Because of the partnership that the (Sunshine Coast) University has with the indigenous community, I had the opportunity to go to a school, meet with the elders, the teachers, and students.” Even in the remote areas, the staff has access to technology and professional development.

“I found a lot of similarities in education in Australia,” he said. “The university faculty was doing many creative things with teaching and social justice and leading the state with indigenous education.” He sees many parallels with Nevada’s collaboration with Native Americans and first-generation American students.

Graziano also received a similar fellowship at the Marino Institute of Education in Dublin in May, and in June travelled to Israel for three weeks as part of a Fulbright Specialist Program.

A Connecticut native, Graziano earned his masters in counselor education/student development at CCSU in 2000. He said what most impressed him about CCSU was the faculty commitment to student achievement. He was especially inspired, he said, by Professor Jane Fried. Graziano went on to get his doctorate at the University of San Francisco before joining the Teacher Preparation Program at Nevada State in 2004.

– Claire LaFleur Hall
Central Alum Receives Presidential Award

**Tyler Hoxley** BS ’91, MS ’98, SYC ’01 is one of two Connecticut educators to receive the 2012 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Hoxley, an East Hartford High School biology teacher, and 96 other teachers nationwide will travel to Washington, DC to meet with members of Congress and the Obama Administration for formal recognition. Close to 20 CCSU alumni have been honored with this award since the program’s inception in 1983.

Alumni Association Presents Awards

Three CCSU alums and a prominent Connecticut businessman were honored with Alumni Association Awards in June. The honorees, from left to right: **Ululy Rafael Martinez** ’96, recipient of the Young Alumni Award, who graduated magna cum laude and went on to work in both public and private sectors in New York; **Catherine Healy Jost** ’74, who received the Distinguished Alumni Award for her years serving the University as a faculty member and an alumna; Athletics Hall of Fame member **Kevin Cranford, Sr.** ’81, who was awarded the Community Service Award for his work with young men in fatherless households; and **John Olson**, President and CEO of Whelen Engineering Company, who received the Friend of the University Award for initiating a co-op program that offers engineering students hands-on experience at the Whelen facility.

alumni news

**Sally Biggs** MS ’89, SYC ’95 was named The Connecticut Association of Schools Middle School Principal of the Year. Biggs is the principal of The Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy, and says “I strive to create a learning environment that nurtures every child.”

**Dario DiBattista** ’09 served two tours of duty in Operation Iraqi Freedom and he’s writing about it today. Now an adjunct professor at the Community College of Baltimore County-Catonsville, DiBattista has published feature length portions of his memoir, *Go Now, You Are Forgiven*, with the Washington Post, Connecticut Review, and other news sources.

**Terry Gerratana** ’75 is the author of *Santa Barbara Ceramic Design: Art Pottery from America’s Riviera*, published in June. The book takes an in-depth look into the studio’s late 20th century pottery.

**Jeremy Jordan** ’10 displayed several of his paintings during the Simsbury Art Walk in May, where downtown Simsbury became a virtual art gallery, showcasing fine art as well as music and dance.

**Stan Koba** ’73, supervisor of social studies, music, and the Scholars Center for the Humanities at Howell High School in Farmingdale, NJ, was recognized as the Barnes & Noble National Teacher of the Year.

**Ed Larkin** BS ’68, MS ’70 recently published his book *Learning to Fish While Learning to Live…What a Way to Grow Up*. Larkin, who taught public school in Hartford for 34 years, says his writing process took hold in retirement and remarks that the book “is a gentle elegy that recalls a way of life that may be slipping into the past.”

**Wanda Reyes-Dawes** ’05, Counselor/Coordinator of Academic Advising at Manchester Community College, has been selected to serve as a mentor for the 2012–'14 Class of Emerging Leaders for the National Academic Advising Association.

**Jessica Willis** ’07 ran the Hartford Half Marathon in October as part of the Elite Inspiration Team. Born with a severe medical condition that has left her with a hearing impairment and scoliosis, Willis ran alongside others who had overcome life-changing obstacles to raise money for Connecticut Children’s Medical Center.

“The Art of Leaving,” a documentary film about the life of CCSU alumus and artist **Fiorin Ion Firimita**, is an official selection at seven international film festivals this year. Firimita was born in Communist Romania, where, according to the *Litchfield County Times*, “the art scene was tightly controlled by the Communist government.” Firimita fled Romania in 1989, came to the US and put himself through school at CCSU. Now, Firimita teaches art at Pomperaug High School in Southbury. In 2001 Brian Kamerzel, an aspiring documentary filmmaker, became fascinated with Firimita’s story. “My hope,” Kamerzel says in the *LCT*, “is that the film will make viewers realize that every life is worth exploring through the language of art.”
SAVE THE DATES

Connecticut to Arms: 1862

Connecticut to Arms: 1862 will bring the Battle of Antietam—the greatest turning point in the American Civil War—to Manchester, Connecticut on September 29th and 30th. This two-day event will turn Wickham Park into a 19th-century encampment, where visitors of all ages can watch cavalry, artillery, and saber demonstrations, take pictures with soldier reenactors, view historical society and museum displays, and take part in discussions about various Civil War topics. Both days will culminate in battle reenactments of epic proportions with over 600 Union, Confederate, and civilian reenactors from across New England. Come out and join the Connecticut Civil War Commemoration Commission, CCSU, and the many partner organizations in this highly entertaining and educational event that will bring the Civil War to life after 150 years. For more information about Connecticut to Arms: 1862, please visit http://finalsite.ccsu.edu/page.cfm?p=11225.

S•A•V•E  THE  D•A•T•E•S

Homecoming 2012

HOMECOMING HIGHLIGHTS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

• Alumni Speaker Series
• Golf Tournament
• Reunions
• Bloody Mary / Mimosa Brunch
• Family Activities
• Blue Devils v. Duquesne
• Post-Game Party

Get all the details and register online at: www.ccsu.edu/homecoming or 860-832-1740.