Imagine that you’ve agreed to work with three people you’ve never met before to create a functioning application prototype in two weeks. Yes, some requirements are spelled out, but most of the execution is left up to you and your teammates. Their areas of expertise are different from yours, and you know nothing about their level of commitment or their work ethic.

This scenario would be a little daunting for anyone, but the 16 CCSU students who competed in The Hartford Technical Case Competition clearly relish challenges. They are honors students, graduate students, and students with double majors. And for one of the four-person teams, they are champions, besting not only their own college-mates, but emerging triumphant over the best team from UConn.

CCSU’s winning team members—computer science majors Melissa Mulcahy and Aaron Zamojski, management information systems (MIS) major Paul Pioselli, and accounting major/MIS minor Andrew Rose—met their mentor from The Hartford, and each other, for the first time just two weeks before the competition. In that short time, they were tasked with analyzing a real-world business problem and creating a functional prototype solution. Specifically, the team had to create a new insurance claims system that avoided bottlenecks during claims processing for catastrophes.

The winning team worked on the project more than two hours a day for the two weeks, while juggling their usual coursework, internships, clubs, and mid-term exams in the same time period. In addition to their course requirements, Mulcahy works in CCSU’s IT Department, Pioselli freelances in graphic design and web development outside of school, Rose is president of the NAACP Club and has an in...

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The team agreed that the experience was more than worth it. They were each able to use their knowledge and expertise for the benefit of the group.
School of Business Earns AACSB Accreditation Joins Ranks with Yale and UConn

This fall, CCSU’s School of Business joined the ranks of prestigious institutions, including Yale and UConn, in earning accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

To earn the mark of excellence, the School of Business, under the leadership of Dean Siamack Shojae, undertook a rigorous self-evaluation process and then implemented a series of improvements and initiatives during the past seven years.

Shojae praised his faculty, staff, and students for their diligence during the past seven years to achieve the distinction of becoming an AACSB-accredited business school, “…not only for CCSU and our students, but for the state of Connecticut.” He added, “This is a long-term investment in the education of Connecticut’s citizens and commitment to excellence in business education. More than 86 percent of our graduates remain in the state and bring to their professions and employers an education recognized by the industry and peers for its quality.”

Founded in 1916, AACSB is the largest and longest serving global accrediting body for business schools that offer undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral degrees in business and accounting. 86 percent of AACSB-accredited schools say that the agency’s standards are the most stringent as compared to other accreditations they hold.

With just 687 business programs having earned the endorsement, Shojae says his students “can be assured they are receiving a world class education at a tremendous value.”

Additional benefits will be realized in spring 2014, when new graduates of the School of Business will find that many top MBA programs accept undergraduate prerequisite courses earned at an AACSB-accredited school and that GMAT requirements are waived for students who’ve earned a high GPA at an accredited school.

As part of its plan to meet AACSB’s demanding criteria, the School recruited highly qualified faculty and adopted a set of measures for maintaining high standards for faculty. The School also adopted a strategic management plan to more effectively operate the school, make decisions, and pursue new endeavors.

Among the activities established during the last several years are expanded services and programs for students. The Student Professional Advancement (SPA) workshops and speaker series connect some of the state’s top business executives and CCSU alumni with students for advisement and to share their insights into current industry issues. The Insurance & Financial Services (IFS) Boot Camp is a free, week-long summer program for business majors interested in working with top executives who develop seminars on industry topics. In addition, a peer-mentoring program has been working to close the achievement gap.

The quality and quantity of faculty research and publications have been substantially increased and teaching excellence carefully monitored. An elaborate Assurance of Learning System has been put in place to assess student learning and ensure success. A Hall of Honor now recognizes outstanding achievement and contributions to the business industry by both individuals and firms.

“I have been fortunate to work with an outstanding group of colleagues in the School and from Connecticut’s business sector in our pursuit of achieving excellence on behalf of our students,” Shojae said. He also extended his appreciation to members of the School’s Business Advisory and Advancement Council for their generosity in sharing their time and knowledge with our faculty and students. “Industry support was a crucial component in achieving this accreditation,” he says.

AACSB accreditation is retained for five years after which the School must once again undergo a rigorous review process.

– Janice Palmer

Dean of the School of Business Siamack Shojae expresses his thanks to his School of Business associates and the greater University community for their hardwork and perseverance in earning accreditation.
CSU celebrated the dedication of the Anthony and Helen G. Bichum Engineering Laboratory building on October 18. The building houses several labs, including energy, aerospace, and environmental and water resources labs. The event included the unveiling of a plaque that will be installed in the building, a tour of the labs, and a demonstration of a drone multicopter. Speakers included Vice President of Institutional Advancement Chris Galligan, President Jack Miller, and Dean of the School of Engineering and Technology Faris Malhas, as well as friends of the Bichums, Paul Gianaris ’70 and Diane Abraham. Honored guests included Dean Emeritus of the School of Engineering and Technology Zdzislaw Kremens and President Emeritus Richard Judd.

The son of Russian immigrants, Anthony Bichum was a lifelong resident of New Britain. A man with no more than an elementary school education, Bichum amassed considerable wealth during his lifetime through long-term investing, and became one of CCSU’s most generous benefactors. The Bichums endowed several scholarships at the University as well as donating funds for the new laboratory building.
For 20 years filled with “high notes,” The Connecticut Trio has performed classical and contemporary music that inspires, delights, and instructs audiences. Together, ensemble members Linda Laurent, piano, Gerard Rosa, violin, and Julie Ribchinsky, cello, have melded their vitality and camaraderie as they divide their time between preparing for concerts and teaching their CCSU courses.

At a rehearsal in September for the first concert of the Trio’s 20th-anniversary season, Messiaen’s “Quartet for the End of Time,” with guest clarinetist Thomas Labadorf, they discussed nuances to arrive at a unanimity of style.

To come to a consensus, Rosa said, “We ask ourselves, what do we prefer, what is more authentic, what is practical? Ultimately we strike a middle ground, consider fidelity to the score, keep in mind the size of the concert hall, and adjust our playing to account for today’s instruments. We want to bring out the timelessness of the work so it speaks to any audience, any culture.” Ribchinsky smiled and added, “Whatever our interpretation, it will be original, because it is unique to us.”

Laurent reminisced about The Trio’s formal beginnings in the spring of 1994, not long after her arrival at CCSU. “We played the Beethoven Archduke Trio at a concert at Carnegie Recital Hall,” she recalls. “The enthusiastic reception accorded that performance was the prime catalyst for us to join our efforts in the creation of a permanent ensemble.”

The Trio has performed extensively in the US, Europe, and in New York, at Carnegie Recital Hall, the Kosciuszko Foundation, Wave Hill, the 92nd Street Y, and on National Public Radio. Their travels have taken them, collectively and individually, to London, Brussels, Hamburg, Vienna, Rome, Tunis, and Casablanca.

Each of the Trio’s members is distinguished. Laurent studied piano at the Oberlin Conservatory and The Juilliard School, receiving her PhD from New York University. A publisher is considering her book on the extensive correspondence of French singer Jane Bathori and the actress Andrée Tainsy. Rosa studied violin at Yale (where he received the Houpt Award) and at Boston University on a doctoral fellowship in performance. He has toured extensively in the US and abroad and recorded for Overtone and Desto records. Ribchinsky studied cello at the Eastman School of Music and has performed at Tanglewood and the Aspen Music Festival. She’s performed concerti in symphonies...
Celebrating CCSUCCESS

One of the most important—if not the most important—reasons that CCSU’s loyal alumni contribute to the University is to make a difference in students’ lives, to help a student just as someone had helped them. Near the end of September, the University celebrated that dynamic connection by bringing together many of this year’s scholarship recipients and some of the generous donors who helped make the scholarships possible.

For many CCSU students, the gift of financial support is the crucially important margin of excellence without which a university education would be impossible. For others, it’s the critical resource that frees them from hours of part-time work and enables them to focus on and excel in their studies. For still others, alumni generosity provides the means to join faculty in scholarly research that enriches their education and genuinely advances our knowledge.

This was the second year of the Scholars and Donors Reception, and nearly 300 student scholarship recipients were on hand to meet and share their gratitude with donors and representatives of the endowed scholarship funds. Please see the profile of Shae Sau on page 6 of this issue for one example not only of the grateful mutual admiration between donor and student but also of what donor generosity makes possible.
STUDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Shae Sau
Communication Major Shares a Message of Diversity and Acceptance

Shae Sau was recognized for receiving an impressive three scholarships—a Ruthe Boyea Scholarship, a Student Government Association Scholarship, and the Professor Ben Sevitch Communication Department Scholarship, a newly endowed scholarship, which, thanks to the warm generosity of Professor of Communication Emeritus Ben Sevitch, is awarded to the senior communication major with the highest cumulative GPA. Sau, who currently holds a 3.97 GPA, also had the opportunity to spend the evening with Sevitch.

There is mutual admiration between Sevitch and Sau. Sevitch, a distinguished scholar and educator who is not easily impressed, praised the student who received the scholarship he endowed. “Shae Sau is a remarkable student, and the only one to receive three scholarships this year. I was pleasantly surprised and impressed that Shae sent me a thank-you note before the ceremony. To me, that speaks of professionalism, excellent communication skills, and an appreciation for the educational opportunities made possible with hard work.”

Similarly, Sau says, “It was great to meet Dr. Sevitch and to learn that we had a lot in common. Dr. Sevitch was a member of the Diversity Committee when he was teaching at the university. Some of their efforts focused on gender inequality, which I am interested in as well.”

Sau transferred to CCSU from Manchester Community College (MCC) after earning an associate’s degree in communication. Sau, who is on track to graduate in four years, added a theatre minor to the course of study after transferring to Central.

Sau says, “I have always been interested in film and media production—I was involved in video production in high school, and I work in the Media Center here at Central. Learning more about theatre and production values, costuming and set design, it all fits into my goals.”

Ultimately, Sau would like to create films that change how women are portrayed and that challenge perceptions and prejudices.

Digital Media Production Coordinator Ryan Wark speaks highly of Sau: “We hired Shae as a student worker in the Media Center at the beginning of the spring 2013 semester. From the beginning, Shae has shown not only a great understanding and love of the field, but a professionalism I have seldom seen among colleagues out in ‘the real world.’ Shae has often changed plans to be available when needed, is always one of the first to volunteer to take on extra work, and is eager to help fellow crew members.”

When asked about favorite courses, Sau mentions an independent study in communication with Associate Professor of Communication Jeffrey Teitler, and costuming class with Assistant Professor of Theatre DeMara Cabrera.

Cabrera says, “Shae is incredibly precise in costuming work and is always a joy to have around. The toughest challenges are met with a smile and a can-do attitude. I feel lucky to have a student with that level of energy and enthusiasm.”

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Muhammad Iftikhar
Educational Opportunities Motivate Hard Work

Muhammad Iftikhar came to the United States when he was 18 years old. He left Saudi Arabia for the first time, parting with his family and friends, to pursue an American education.

Once in the US, Iftikhar followed in the footsteps of his uncle and six of his cousins and enrolled at CCSU. Now in his senior year, the recipient of numerous scholarships currently holds a 3.86 GPA. Clearly, he has excelled.

Most recently, Iftikhar was one of five students awarded scholarships at the School of Business’ Hall of Honor Gala in May. After receiving this honor, Iftikhar gave what attendees called an “eloquent and moving” speech about coming to the United States and finding success with hard work.

In the 2012–13 academic year, he also received the Bob McFarland Scholarship and a CCSU Foundation scholarship. Though he applied for some of these awards, he was nominated, without applying, for the Hall of Honor Award.

In addition to the help that he has received through CCSU, Iftikhar has received financial aid from civic organizations such as the New Britain-Berlin Rotary Club. And, after winning the first Hartford Technical Case Competition in 2012, he received financial support from The Hartford. During the competition, four competing teams of four students worked to create a web application for the fictitious Blue Devil Financial Services Corporation (BDFS). After two weeks of long hours and hard work, Iftikhar and his teammates presented their winning, functioning web page to a panel of five judges.

Iftikhar, who is hardworking, bright, and extraordinarily humble, is especially appreciative of the assistance he has received. His parents, who still live in Saudi Arabia, work to pay his tuition.

Iftikhar explains how thoughts of his family motivate him to work hard: “I see that my parents pay so much and I don’t want to let them down.” Each scholarship he receives reduces his parents’ financial burden. “These scholarships make me feel good about myself,” Iftikhar said. “When I told my dad about the Hall of Honor scholarship he was so happy; it made all of my hard work worth it.”

Iftikhar further explained that the Hall of Honor Scholarship came to him during a time when his family was struggling to pay his tuition. His father was unable to keep up with his payment plan, and if not for the scholarship, he would have had to ask his uncle for a loan.

In addition to his coursework as a full time student, Iftikhar is also a member of the Muslim Student Association and of the Golden Key and Phi Theta Kappa Honors Societies. He also helps his uncle with his finances at his business, and in his free time, he tutors high school students. Additionally, over the summer, he interned at COCC, an IT consulting company.

Professor of Management Information Systems Marianne D’Onofrio is awed by Iftikhar’s professionalism: “Muhammad is professional in all activities he engages in and he works extremely well with team members in group settings. He is determined to do well, focused on the tasks at hand, and he pursues every opportunity that comes his way.”

Before graduating this December with a degree in Management Information Systems (MIS), Iftikhar will take the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Exam. The CFA program is an internationally recognized graduate level curriculum. The CFA website explains, “Completing the CFA Program confirms a mastery of the rigorous CFA curriculum, signifies passing all three exam levels, and is one of the requirements for earning the CFA charter.” And, after graduating, Iftikhar plans to enroll in a Master of Business Administration program while working full time.

– Alayna James
STUDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Lilliana Garcia
Envisioning a Successful Teaching Career

Although she is just a college junior, Lilliana Garcia already understands the value of hard work and making decisions that can improve one’s circumstances. When it came time to enroll in high school, Garcia’s single mom encouraged her to attend Hartford’s Sport and Medical Sciences Academy, where she excelled in the challenging program. When she was accepted to six universities four years later, it was evident that her decision, and her academic efforts, had paid off.

After choosing to attend CCSU, Garcia made yet another responsible decision: she would enter Central through the University Success Program (USP) [formerly known as the ConnCAS Program], despite her acceptance to the University through the regular admissions process. USP gives students who aren’t adequately prepared for post-secondary education the opportunity to acclimate to college life for five weeks before the start of their first academic semester. Although the admission’s office didn’t flag her for this program, Garcia understood the challenges she would face as a first-generation college student and felt USP would help her to successfully begin this new chapter in her life.

Once again, her resourcefulness and determination proved advantageous. USP was beneficial in many ways. Garcia became familiar with the campus and its academic resources, and developed many friendships well before classes started. She also gained a number of mentors among the university staff, including Assistant Dean of Student Affairs Ray Hernandez and Director of Transfer and Academic Articulations Myrna Garcia-Bowen.

Garcia-Bowen is proud of the student Garcia has become. “I am very impressed with her maturity and the ease in which she transitioned from high school to college. I am further impressed by her commitment to academic excellence. Lilliana excelled in the summer program. In her first semester here, her GPA was well over a 3.0. In addition to being an exceptional student, she is a role model to her peers and the elementary school students she works with in the TRIO program. Lilliana is a student of outstanding character.”

Her participation in USP also led to Garcia’s employment as a tutor. During her summer as a USP student, Garcia met The Learning Center’s Elizabeth Spear, who recommended her for a job with TRIO Educational Talent Search. TRIO Director Thomas Menditto interviewed Garcia and was impressed, and though she was just beginning her freshman year at Central, she was hired to tutor students in the New Britain Public School System.

When Garcia talks about tutoring, her love for teaching and helping others is tangible. “I love going to see my students during the school year. I see how happy they are and sometimes I even go in early to see how they are doing.”

Today, Garcia is a Spanish secondary education major with a 3.71 GPA. She is a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society, is a 2013 orientation leader, and was a peer leader in a First-Year-Experience class this fall. In addition to her classes, she tutors with TRIO during the week, and holds a weekend job as well. In the little free-time that she has, Garcia says she can be found studying in the computer lab.

Garcia notes that being a student at CCSU has opened her eyes to her own potential: “When I was in high school, a lot of my classmates said that teaching was not a profession for minorities and they would ask me why I wanted to be a teacher. Then I came to Central and went to an Education Club meeting and I met quite a few other nonwhite kids who wanted to teach. Seeing that I was not alone, I knew that I really would become a teacher.”

“Always one step ahead, Lilliana Garcia is already envisioning her own success.”

– Alayna James
CCSU held its annual Veterans Day Observance in November, to honor those who have served our country. The ceremony included the presentation of the Colors by Army National Guard members, the singing of the National Anthem, and presentations by Governor Dan Malloy, President Jack Miller, and then New Britain Mayor Tim O’Brien, among others.

During the ceremony, retired US Marine Sergeant Mark F. Morin was presented with the Public Service Award for Excellence for his ongoing support of our veterans. US Marine Sergeant Christopher William Johnson received the Student Veterans Excellence Award and Scholarship. Johnson, a senior political science major, has served as president of CCSU’s Student Veteran Organization. And US Marine Sergeant Andrew Joseph Parrish was honored with the Great Elm VFW 9945 Wethersfield Veterans Scholarship. Parrish is also a senior political science major at CCSU.

New Scholarship Endowed for Veteran Construction Management Majors

In addition, the event included the presentation of a check from KBE Construction, to create an endowed scholarship for individuals who are active in or honorably discharged from any branch of the United States Armed Forces, including the Connecticut National Guard, and enrolled in CCSU’s Construction Management program. The scholarship is named in honor of Kenneth J. Russo, who is the Director of Preconstruction at KBE. Russo has more than 45 years of experience in the construction industry, beginning with his six years in the Navy SEABEES. Russo is an active supporter of CCSU’s Construction Management program and has served on the Industrial Advisory Board for many years, including two years as chairman. Russo has also been a guest lecturer in graduate level courses, coordinated various guest speakers for the Construction Management Student Club, and actively participated in the Regional Students’ Competition.

The $25,000 endowment was given through the construction firm’s “50 Ways to Make a Difference” philanthropic program. Each year, the program focuses on a key area of need in the community. The 2013 focus was on military personnel and their families.

~ Patrice Dumond
Elevator Pitch — Convincing Potential Investors in 60 Seconds

On November 4, 36 students gathered to pitch their ideas for “the next great business” during the fall 2013 Shipman-Goodwin/CCSU Elevator Pitch competition. The audience of more than 60 students, judges, and friends watched pitches for ideas as diverse as a “Man Spa” to a web-based platform to match young volunteers to local service opportunities.

In a very close competition, the judges picked three winners: Nicole Nelson, a senior marketing major with a minor in psychology, won the Personal Venture Award for her practical and fashionable apparel products. Ben De Simone, a senior majoring in management, won the scalable venture prize, proposing a booth that would provide a body spray of sunscreen. The judges’ discretionary prize went to Sara Bobbins, a management major with a minor in theatre, for her intention to create a crowd-funding scholarship program for college students whose parents are going through divorce. The winning entrepreneurs shared $500, provided by Shipman and Goodwin, LLP.

Judges included Miriam Lewis from Shipman and Goodwin, LLP; Mark Lassoff from Learn To Program, LLC; John Seiffer of CEO Boot Camp and Angel Investor Forum; Bill Kenney from testmypitch.com; and Lynn Vasquez from Northeast Utilities.

CCSU is Among the Best in the Nation for Study Abroad

According to the Institute of International Education’s (IIE) 2013 Open Doors Report released in November, CCSU is the only Connecticut institution of higher education among the top 20 schools sending students abroad on short-term study abroad programs. Central’s Courses Abroad program ranks 17th nationally. In addition, CCSU ranks 27th in sending students abroad on all types of study abroad programs, including semester- and year-long programs. This is the sixth consecutive year CCSU has placed in the national rankings.

All international programs offered by the university include student learning objectives that not only emphasize how studying abroad builds international competency—global knowledge, skills, and attitudes—but also enhances employment opportunities after graduation. For more information about study abroad opportunities, go to www.ccsu.edu/cie.

CCSU Hosts the 2013 Polish Genealogical Conference

The 2013 Polish Genealogical Conference was held at Central Connecticut State University in October. The conference featured lectures on genealogical resources in neighboring nations whose histories are intertwined with Poland, Belarus, Lithuania, Russia, and Ukraine.

Several presentations were made by speakers who are associated with Central. Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair of Polish and Polish American Studies Mieczyslaw B. Biskupski addressed the topic of whether a Polish spy created the European Union. Associate Registrar Matthew Bielawa, an eastern and central European genealogist, and Adjunct Lecturer of Modern Languages Jonathan Shea, an archivist and professional genealogist with specialization in Eastern Europe, focused on genealogical research for beginners. Their talk included a discussion of civil and church records and suggested other resources for identifying ancestral villages in Europe, as well as archives in Poland that hold relevant records.

The conference also included exhibits displaying resource books, maps, and other materials. There was also personal help in translating genealogical documents and opportunities for informal discussion with the speakers. The conference was sponsored by the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast, Inc., and the Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies at CCSU.
CCSU Police Awarded Prestigious Accreditation

CCSU’s Police Department recently earned one of the highest designations for professional excellence in the field of law enforcement. Following a rigorous review, Central’s 29-member police department achieved accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

Accreditation marks successful compliance with a nationally recognized body of standards deemed essential to the protection of the life, safety, health, and rights of citizens. The Commission examined all aspects of the police department’s policies, procedures, management, operations, and support services.

Central received an arduous on-site assessment by a team of CALEA-trained assessors which reviewed policy, observed procedures, interviewed personnel, and sought input from the public. The team’s final report formed the basis for a post-assessment hearing before the Commission.

In all, the department successfully met 188 standards and became only the second university police department in Connecticut, joining UConn, to earn the CALEA stamp of approval.

“Accreditation not only brings a sense of accomplishment to our agency, it should also increase confidence of the CCSU community that the police department’s goals, objectives, policies, and practices meet the highest of standards,” said Interim Police Chief Chris Cervoni.

President Jack Miller said he was “very gratified” that the police department had achieved the CALEA accreditation. “I know they worked very hard to meet the standards because we all know that doing so will help to ensure the safety and security of the campus community,” Miller said. “It is not too much to say,” Miller continued, “that their work to achieve accreditation helped prepare the University to handle the recent emergency situation as exceptionally well as it did.”

The accreditation designation lasts for three years, during which time the police department must submit annual reports attesting to its continued compliance with the standards under which it was initially accredited. CALEA presented CCSU Police with its prestigious Certificate of Accreditation at this year’s conference in North Carolina on November 16.

CALEA is an independent, nonprofit organization, founded by its four law enforcement membership associations: the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the National Sheriff’s Association, and the Police Executive Research Forum.

– Janice Palmer

The presentation of the Certificate of Accreditation at the CALEA Conference in North Carolina in November. Flanked by CALEA officials Sylvester Daughtry, Jr. (far left) and Louis M. Dekmar (far right) are former CCSU Chief of Police Jason Powell; Chief Administrative Officer Richard Bachoo; Sgt. Jerry Erwin; Officer Brett Cheezic; and Interim Chief of Police Chris Cervoni.
C CSU Ranks Among Top Universities for Services for Military Veterans

U.S. News & World Report has named Central Connecticut State University one of the top regional universities for serving military veterans. CCSU ranked ninth among public regional universities in the Northeast, which includes 11 states from Maine to Maryland. This is the first year that U.S. News ranked colleges based on their services for veterans.

According to the news magazine, slightly less than one-fourth of schools ranked as Best Colleges in 2014 offered all the benefits needed to be eligible for the Best Colleges for Veterans ranking. To qualify, schools had to be certified for the GI Bill and participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program—two federal initiatives that help veterans reduce the cost of school. They were also required to be members of the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) Consortium, a group that works to simplify credit transfers and give veterans credit for military training and national tests such as the College-Level Examination Program.

GREEN NEWS

CCSU Associate Professor Honored
with Environmental Award

Associate Professor of Geography Charles Button was one of 23 recipients of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection’s GreenCircle Award in November. The honorees were recognized for their efforts to protect the environment and natural resources.

Button is the founder and chair of CCSU’s Global Environmental Sustainability Action Coalition and the President’s Advisory Council for Environmental Sustainability. He has created campus and community programs that reduce waste and pollution and promotes adoption of policies on sustainability and environmental stewardship.

At left, Associate Professor of Geography Charles Button is presented with the GreenCircle Award by Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Daniel Esty.

CCSU Wins Game Day Challenge for the Second Time in Three Years

CCSU once again took a first place award in the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Game Day Recycling Challenge—the second time in three years of competition that CCSU has been crowned champion in the Waste Minimization category, one of five categories judged by the EPA.

CCSU was the only university in Connecticut that took part in the EPA Challenge, held during one home football game at each of the 88 participating colleges and universities. The challenge to reduce the amount of trash generated at one game was won easily by CCSU, with only 0.017 lbs. of waste per attendee. CCSU’s success can be attributed to the combined efforts of students, alumni, support staff, and fans, and the University’s commitment to sustainability.

Overall, 6.4 million college football fans across the country diverted nearly 1.46 million pounds of trash and prevented the generation of 2,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent during this year’s competition.

National PlugIn Day on Campus Offers Information About Electric Vehicles

National PlugIn Day was celebrated on campus on September 29 with a full day of talks and displays devoted to electric vehicles and related topics. The nationwide event educates the public about the benefits of all-electric and plug-in hybrid-electric cars, trucks, motorcycles, and more. The event was sponsored locally by CCSU’s Global Environmental Sustainability Action Coalition and the New England Electric Auto Association.
2013 Year of Italian Culture Symposium

CCSU sponsored the 2013 Year of Italian Culture Symposium in October. Events included poetry readings, film screenings and discussions, and lectures, all with Italian themes and subject matter. Presenters included faculty and students from CCSU, Capital Community College, Manchester Community College, UConn, University of Hartford, and the University of Saint Joseph, including CCSU Director of Library Services Carl Antonucci, Professor of English David Cappella, Professor of History Katherine Hermes, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Carl Lovitt, and Modern Language Professors Maria Passaro and Carmela Pesca.

The event was sponsored by the Elihu Burritt Library and CCSU’s Italian Resource Center, the Friends of the Library, Welte Society and Italian Studies Fund, CCSU Foundation, Modern Languages Department, West European Studies, the Italian Club, and the Center for International Education.

Concurrent with the event, Professor of English Gilbert Gigliotti curated an exhibit at the Library titled “Not ‘Frankie Satin’ An Exhibit of Sinatra Memorabilia.” A University expert in all things Sinatra, Gigliotti shared more than 150 items from his private collection (photo at right). Gigliotti has been collecting memorabilia since the late 70s. He has written three books and developed two academic courses with Sinatra-related themes, and 2013 marked the 20th anniversary of his radio show, “Frank, Gil, and Friends” on CCSU’s WFCS 107.7 FM.

Polish Poster Exhibit at the Library in November

More than 150 Polish posters were on display in the Elihu Burritt Library in November, part of the library’s Polish American Archives. Subject matter included Polish art, circus, film, music, politics, theatre, and other cultural events.

The exhibit opened with a reception, featuring lectures from Professor Krzysztof Lenk from Rhode Island School of Design and Professor Wojciech Wolynski from Massachusetts College of Art and Design. The exhibit was curated by Assistant Professor of Graphic/Information Design Kinga Wlodarska and Special Collections Librarian Ewa Wolynska.

Activist Peggy Wallace Kennedy, Daughter of George Wallace, Speaks at CCSU

The Fall 2013 Civil Rights Lecture Series welcomed Peggy Wallace Kennedy (right), daughter of segregationist and governor of Alabama, the late George Wallace, to campus in October. Kennedy addressed a standing-room-only audience in Founders Hall about her father’s philosophies and her opposition to racism and segregation, even as a child. It wasn’t until after her father’s death that Kennedy found her voice.

“I know that what he did was wrong, so maybe it is up to me and you to make things right,” Kennedy said. “I have begun to start my own journey to bring a call to justice in our lifetime.”

Authors of Almost Home Speak on Campus

In November, the University welcomed Kevin Ryan and Tina Kelley, co-authors of this year’s One Book, One Community choice, Almost Home: Helping Kids Move from Homelessness to Hope. The event was the culmination of a year-long focus on homelessness, which included the University Museum Community collaborative in April, an ongoing service project to make sandwiches for a local emergency shelter for women and children, and a screening of a documentary about homelessness in Russia.

The program promotes literacy by bringing people together to read and discuss one book within one community. The program was initiated at CCSU in 2012. Partners in this year’s program included the Elihu Burritt Library, the Department of Geography, the Department of Counseling and Family Therapy, First Year Experience, and Student Activities and Leadership Development.
Shae Sau

Sau grew up in Windsor, CT, the youngest of four children born to a Puerto Rican mother and Chinese father. Sau’s mom is a one-on-one paraprofessional, working with children with disabilities, and dad is a machinist. Sau’s parents value education, and celebrate their children’s academic successes, encouraging them to do well in school. Sau’s three older siblings are all college-educated, all with graduate degrees.

Sau loved growing up in Windsor, because of the diverse community. “Everyone I interacted with had their own ideas and views. Everyone was different. Different races, different religions, and different morals. The way I view the world so open-mindedly is due in part to the people I know from Windsor.”

Activities were varied—Sau was a cheerleader for nine years, but also found time to skateboard at the local skate park. Sau played basketball and softball, was on the track and field team, the wrestling team, and the swimming and diving team in middle school and high school.

Sau was also vice president of the Gay Straight Alliance in high school. As Sau got older, the rigid confines of just two socially acceptable sexual identities became more apparent. At Windsor High, Sau caused a small societal uproar when questioning the right to wear cheerleading pants instead of a skirt while cheering at games and during competitions.

At MCC, Sau was president of the PRIDE (People Respecting Intimacy and Diversity Everywhere) Club, and spearheaded the effort to have additional gender neutral restrooms designated on campus.

Sau’s thoughts: “I feel that having bathrooms designated for ‘men’ or ‘women’ shows inequality. A few decades ago, people were segregated from bathrooms based upon race. I see gendered bathrooms as no different. It is still a systematic inequality that everyone uses every day.”

Sau continues, “At MCC, I helped open up a multi-stalled gender-neutral bathroom, in hopes that people will change their perceptions of men, women, and others, like myself, who don’t box ourselves into one of those two genders. Many universities are exploring these concepts, both with restrooms and with gender-neutral housing. These are new ideas (within this decade), and my hope is that with more public awareness will come understanding and acceptance.”

In addition to college courses and two jobs, Sau volunteers with the National Conference for Community Justice as an advisor in training.

“In the high school program, ANYTOWN, I help facilitate dialogue about the “isms” (racism, classism, sexism, homophobia, etc.),” Sau says. “I’m also part of their Youth Action Coalition which keeps ANYTOWN alums connected through meetings and fundraisers. And I’m a speaker in workshops about diversity and creating safer schools.”

Sau’s voice, video production skills, and degree in communication are vital tools in Sau’s quest to educate people about diversity and acceptance. And Sau can tell you where this passion comes from. “In addition to my parents and siblings, my motivation absolutely comes from my fiancee, Kayla, whose similar morals and values have inspired me to speak up and have the open conversations that I do.”

– Patrice Dumond

Multicultural Education Conference

CCSU hosted the 18th annual New England Conference on Multicultural Education in October. The event featured three keynote speakers who spoke about their research in a variety of educational topics. Sonia Nieto, professor emerita from the University of Massachusetts School of Education, spoke about her recent book, Finding Joy in Teaching Students of Diverse Backgrounds: Culturally Responsive and Socially Just Practices in U.S. Classrooms. Dimitry Anselme, Director of Program Staff Development at Facing History & Ourselves, presented the lecture, “Teaching Identity and Civic Participation,” and James Loewen, Visiting Professor of African American Studies at the University of Illinois spoke regarding the subject of his third book, Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your High School History Textbook Got Wrong.
Connecticut Trio Celebrates 20 Years

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three virtuosi. . . to a standing ovation.” (New Britain Herald).

In a review of their concert in Hartford’s Belding Theater at The Bushnell, critic Matthew Erikson (Hartford Courant) wrote: “The Connecticut Trio played superbly and, together with its support for new music, amply demonstrated . . . that it is one of the foremost treasures in Hartford’s classical music scene.”

When The Trio brings its “rarified” art to classrooms of CCSU students, music majors, and non-majors, the ensemble achieves instruction touched by magic. The three musicians say the students “discover” something intangible as they are drawn into the “magnetic field” of great music being performed live.

For example, prior to their opening concert in September the ensemble gave a preview performance of the Messiaen “Quartet” in Laurent’s graduate course, Structure and Style. The following day they received this unsolicited response from Whitney Perrine, a member of the class:

“I cannot tell you what a profound impact each of your performances, both individually and collectively, made on me. I had goose bumps entirely through the Messiaen performance, and felt all the intensity, timelessness, and tenderness each of you gave to the piece. It is one live performance that will go down in the history of my life as being utterly unforgettable.”

— Geri Radacsi

Jane Roberts: Improving the Lives of Women and Girls Around the World

At an event presented by the Ruthe Boyea Women’s Center, United Nations Association Honoree and Nobel Peace Prize nominee Jane Roberts (below) spoke on the “Worldwide Status of Women and Girls: What do the women of the world have to do with you?” Roberts focused on access to education, health, and human rights.

Roberts co-founded 34 Million Friends of the United Nations Population Fund 11 years ago when US funding for the program was cut. The group works for safe motherhood and family planning, and against AIDS and violence against women all over the world.

Citing many advances made in these areas, Roberts emphasized that today’s positive actions are no bar to future setbacks. “It’s up to you guys to be problem-solvers,” Roberts said. “Get the best education you can. You’re the hope for the future.”
The University celebrated its fifth annual Asia Day on November 6. The event featured traditional Chinese dance and musical performances, a Chinese paper-cutting demonstration, and presentations by CCSU students sharing their study abroad experiences in China and Japan. On the same day, the Elihu Burritt Library held an opening reception for the exhibit, Books Containing Yeo-Baek by artist Sun Young Kang.

The Challenges to Human Existence Expo, held on October 21 as part of Disability Awareness Month, gave students the opportunity to experience the difficulties of completing daily tasks while disabled. Attendees were challenged with maneuvering a wheelchair, pouring a glass of water without sight, and completing a task while hearing voices.

CCSU’s Philosophy & Society Circle presented a three-day workshop on Collaborative Inquiry. Speakers included registered professional engineer John Tauxe, who spoke on “Radioactive Waste Disposal and Protection of the Future Public,” and Associate Professor of Humanities at Elizabethtown College Gabriel Ricci, who spoke about “The Socratic Method and the Extended Epistemology of Co-operative Inquiry.”

The Diversity Brown Bag Lecture series continued throughout the fall, with speakers offering various lectures on topics of diversity related to higher education.

The Ebony Chorale Ensemble presented the concert, “His Love Never Fails” in November, with special guest Minister Anthony Reid.

New York Times Beliefs columnist Mark Oppenheimer visited Central in October to speak on “The God Beat: How to Report Fairly on Religious Claims.” In addition to the title subject matter, Oppenheimer spoke with students about excelling in the field of journalism.

Herb Kenion spoke on campus in October. Kenion moved to Israel 30 years ago, and began writing for The Post in 1985.

The film Once Upon a Time at 55th and Hoover was shown on campus in October. The documentary tells the story of Sephardic Jews with Spanish roots who emigrated to Los Angeles in the first half of the 20th century. The film was presented by its director, Andrés Enrique-Arias, a Professor of Spanish Historical Linguistics at the University of the Balearic Islands in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, and currently a visiting scholar at Harvard University. The event was sponsored by Latin America, Latino, and Caribbean Center, the Latin American Studies Committee, and the Latino Studies Program.

The Center for Africana Studies is sponsoring “Poetry for Lunch” each month. September’s discussion centered around the poems in Audre Lorde’s book. Coal. Future dates include January 22, February 26, March 26, and April 23. It is recommended that participants bring a brown bag lunch; desserts and beverages are provided.

The Theatre Department’s Early Stages program presented The Prince and The Pauper at the Torp Theatre in November. The play featured more than 50 students from local elementary schools, including HALS Academy in New Britain and Naylor Academy in Hartford.

Central students had the opportunity to complete Red Watch Band training this fall, a program that works to prevent student toxic drinking deaths. Students were also able to complete CPR training with certification during the program, which was sponsored by the Office of Alcohol and Drug Education.

In October, CCSU’s LGBT Center presented a screening of the documentary, Stonewall Uprising, which chronicles the 1969 riots in Greenwich Village that sparked the American LGBT rights movement.

The Theatre Department presented Student Shows in November. Pvt. Wars was directed by first time director and senior Michael Serignese, who will graduate in May with a BFA with a specialization in performance. Senior Zack Heidorn directed Women and Wallace, which was the second play he has directed at CCSU. Heidorn graduates in December with a BFA with a specialization in performance.

The Peace Studies program screened the PBS Frontline film, Syria: Behind the Lines: Life on Both Sides of the Sectarian War. The video was followed by comments and a lecture by Professor of History Emeritus, Norton Mezvinsky.

Senior Fellow at the Saban Center for Middle East Studies of the Brookings Institute in Washington, DC, Ken Pollack spoke on campus about his recent book, Unthinkable: Iran, the Bomb and American Strategy. Pollack was introduced and joined in discussion by Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Philosophy Ned Lamont.

The African American Studies program presented a panel discussion on The Voting Rights Act in October. Keynote speaker was the Education Director of the Connecticut State Conference of the NAACP Benjamin Foster, Jr., and panelists included CSU Professor of Philosophy and Director of the African American Studies program Felton Best, Adjunct Lecturer of Philosophy Shawn Council, and Adjunct Lecturer of History Katherine Harris.

The campus welcomed Lauren Lubin who presented a preview of her upcoming documentary, We Exist, in honor of National Coming Out Day in October. The film was followed by a discussion about gender diversity and acceptance.
EXTRACREDIT

Policy & Research Specialist Ken Barone spoke during a town hall meeting in New Haven regarding racial profiling in that city. Barone is a member of the Racial Profiling Prohibition Advisory Board, one of the working groups at The Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at CCSU.

In October, Associate Professor of English Burlin Barr took part in a panel discussion about pornography in culture, part of the Feminist Sexual Ethics Project at Brandeis University.

Director of the Office of Student Conduct Christopher Dukes performed at a benefit concert at the University of Saint Joseph in October. The concert raised money for the Keith Washington Initiative, which works to help children succeed by providing activities designed to improve academic achievement.

The Farmington Valley Chorale welcomed several soloists with CCSU connections for their holiday concert in December. Performing solos for G.F. Handel’s Messiah Part I were Director of the Office of Student Conduct Christopher Dukes, alumna Emily LaRose ’09, and students Michelle Gara, Brian Jones, Victoria Murphy, and Kevin Schneider.

Associate Counselor at the Counseling and Wellness Center William Fothergill has been named the Curtis D. Robinson Men’s Health Wellness Center. Fothergill received the Mario Pea Lynda George ’85, and students Michelle Gara, Brian Jones, Victoria Murphy, and Kevin Schneider.

IN THE NEWS

In October, Assistant Professor of Economics Garfield Blake was featured in a New Britain Herald article regarding discretionary spending surrounding holidays. Blake stated that because most people are still concerned about the stability of the economy, they may be more cautious about how much they spend on holiday gifts and activities.

Assistant Professor of Engineering Khaled Hammad presented two papers at the 2013 International Mechanical Engineering Congress and Exposition in November, including one that was sponsored by a 2013–14 CSU-AAUP research grant. Hammad also chaired two technical sessions, and served as a judge for the National Science Foundation student poster competition.

Professor of Management and Organization Drew Harris served as a coach at the annual Startup Weekend in Hartford this October. CCSU students were invited to spend the weekend learning about business startups, researching, being mentored, and finally competing in a “pitch-off.”

Adjunct Lecturer of Art Victoria Jutras Kniering exhibited a series of small works inspired by bee colonies as part of Open Studios Hartford in November.

Professor of Physics and Earth Sciences Kristine Larsen’s book, Stephen Hawking: A Biography is cited as a reference multiple times in the article “10 Things You Didn’t Know About Stephen Hawking” on howstuffworks.com.

In October, the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling honored Interim Associate Director of the Counseling and Wellness Center Jonathan Pohl for building a self-sustaining program that provides problem gambling awareness, education, and prevention at CCSU.

Associate Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice Reginald Simmons was part of a recent New Haven Register roundtable on violence. The panel, which included religious and mental healthcare leaders, discussed the psychological and emotional factors of violence in New Haven.

ALUMNI NEWS

The Arts and Sciences Advising Place (ASAP), part of the Carol A. Ammon School of Arts and Sciences, sponsored a program in November, inviting undergraduates to meet recent alums to ask questions and garner advice. The panel of alumni included Ryan Baldassario ’13, Jacqueline Barnicle ’13, Brittany Burke ’12, Leah Dugilenski ’13, and Kyle Harris ’13. Among many bits of advice, the alums advised undergrads to get involved in the campus community early on, to complete at least one internship, and to do research about their planned career to determine if grad school is necessary for success.

John Girard ’98, MS ’06 was named Connecticut’s 2013 Outstanding Biology Teacher by the National Association of Biology Teachers.

In November, Werner Oyanadel ’96 was selected to serve as Executive Director of the Connecticut Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission.
CCSU Beats UConn!

“Opportunities like this competition are really a win-win. Our students get to display their phenomenal technical skills to a prospective employer, and the sponsoring company gets a first look at some of our best and brightest students.”

For the competition, Rose became the project manager; he defined business needs, set benchmarks and kept his teammates on task, and was responsible for much of the presentation during the competition. Zamojski was responsible for programming the back end of the website and creating the database that fed the website’s functionality. Mulcahy became the website designer and programmed the front end. Pioselli was the business analyst—he reviewed the necessary technology, processes, and development, and translated business needs into the finished product.

Rose said, “As the project manager for the group, I had to check the benchmarks and make sure that everyone was getting their tasks done. My teammates made my job easy, because they were always on time, even if it meant they had to pull an all-nighter.”

“Or three,” Zamojski added. “There were a few sleepless nights, but I learned so much—I learned PHP [a programming language] for this project in just two days.”

When asked the secret to their success, the group had several responses: “We set our course early on.” “Everyone knew what they needed to do, and then did more than expected.” “We all just really worked well together.”

The group agreed that although the project was challenging, the experience was more than worth it. Pioselli remarked, “We worked so well together right from the start. I think that really impressed the judges, that we were each able to use our knowledge and expertise for the benefit of the group.” He continued, “If I had the chance to work with any, or all, of these people again, I definitely would.” His teammates all agree. They’ve even talked about starting their own business together after graduation.

The Hartford Technical Case Competition had its inaugural year in 2012, with CCSU as the four CCSU student teams, with employees from The Hartford mentoring the teams with constant contact through emails, phone calls, and face-to-face meetings.

Derrick Karle, a 2011 CCSU graduate and IT project manager at The Hartford, was the lead for the CCSU teams. He was responsible for strategy, recruiting team members, and overall competition execution.

Karle said, “Last year’s competition was the result of a suggestion by a group from The Hartford’s Technology Leadership Development Program. They thought that by hosting a technical case competition, the company could attract and recruit top technical talent. After building a case study, the team asked me if CCSU students would be interested in this type of competition. Being an alumnus, I told them that CCSU majors from programs such as computer science, management information systems, and computer electronics and graphics technology would be the perfect fit.”

MIS Department Chair and Professor Mari-anne D’Onofrio said that last year’s competition resulted in two internships and four full-time hires with The Hartford for CCSU students.

D’Onofrio said, “Opportunities like this competition are really a win-win. Our students get to display their phenomenal technical skills to a prospective employer, and the sponsoring company gets a first look at some of our best and brightest students.”

Karle said, “Last year’s event was so successful that we hosted the competition again this year, and added teams from UConn. The first place CCSU team competed against the first place UConn team for prize money, a possible internship or career at The Hartford, technical experience, and bragging rights against a rival school. CCSU was victorious!”

The winning team, who earned a total of $2,000, stated that the competition and the win increased their confidence and empowered them to do more. Mulcahy said, “You don’t know what you can do until you have to do it. This experience has made us realize that with hard work and commitment, we can probably do almost anything.”

Pioselli added, “It was a good opportunity to test ourselves. The challenge was well worth it.”

~ Patrice Dumond

CCSU students who competed during round one included: Team 2: grad student Kayya Reganti, and juniors Nick Artymiak, Olusegun Ibrahim, and Steve Marshall; Team 3: grad student Jacquelyn Gagnon, sophomores Shoukat Abadin and Idris Hanafi, and senior James Burghoff; and Team 4: seniors Shane Carroll, Jose Cevallos, Mytu Nguyen, and Karlene Phillips.
IN THE COMMUNITY

CCSU and City of New Britain Team Up to Collect Food for Those in Need

At right, Student Government Senator and SGA Student Life Committee Chair Simms Sonet poses with some of the items donated by students, faculty, and staff as part of the second annual Competition for a Cause. In November, CCSU and the City of New Britain competed to see who could donate the most food items for those in need. Collection bins placed around campus were overflowing by the beginning of Thanksgiving week, when more than 1,100 items were delivered to the Spanish-Speaking Center of New Britain.

Adding Beauty and Meaning to the Cityscape

For the past year, graduate student Oake Meise-Munns has led several New Britain High School students in the design and creation of a mural for a graduate internship. Meise-Munns said, “As a geography major with a focus on global sustainability, this project was more about the artistic and social aspects of sustainability, which really appealed to me.” The 5-foot by 35-foot mural, called “The Sister Cities,” includes icons from each of New Britain’s five sister cities and can be seen on the outside wall of the building at 324 Main Street. Professor of Art Jerry Butler created a weather-resistant backing for the mural and provided his guidance and expertise, and local artist Vaughn Downes assisted in the late stages of the project.

“Pop Up Cafe” Collaboration Debuts in November

CCSU students, in collaboration with NBHS students, city residents, and local businesses, created a “Pop Up Cafe” in November at the Anvil Place building in downtown New Britain. The event included live music, refreshments, and exhibits about and demonstrations of skilled manual labor, one of the cornerstones of New Britain’s history. The event was organized by Associate Professor of Management and Organization Sarah Stookey, and facilitated by Greg Secord of the Mutual Housing Association of Greater Hartford, which owns the building, and the ReCONNstruction Center in Newington, which donated furniture for the afternoon.
Congratulations to Men’s Cross Country Team on Winning New England Championship AND Northeast Conference Championship!

In October, the CCSU Men’s Cross Country Team won the New England Championship for the first time, beating out 41 other teams, including Boston University, Dartmouth, Middlebury, Northeastern, and UConn. And in November, the Blue Devils captured their fifth-straight Northeast Conference Championship title in impressive fashion as CCSU claimed the top three spots. The top eight Blue Devils were named to the 2013 All-NEC team for their impressive efforts on the course and seven Blue Devils were named All-Conference.