New Sixth-Year Certificate in Mathematics Education Leadership Only One in State

CSU’s new Sixth-Year Certificate degree in mathematics education leadership responds to a growing need in Connecticut: developing highly skilled and knowledgeable leaders to improve mathematics learning in schools and districts throughout the state. The only education leadership graduate program in Connecticut geared to mathematics educators, this degree reinforces Central Connecticut State University’s historic mission in teacher education and is specifically designed for educators wishing to take on leadership roles in K–12 schools.

Survey Confirms Program Need
“My perception that such a degree was needed was confirmed by our survey of school leaders at all levels,” states Dr. Philip Halloran, professor of mathematical sciences and program director. Based on a 2006 statewide survey of school leaders conducted by Halloran, 86% of respondents indicated that there is a need for mathematics education leaders in Connecticut.

Superintendent of Region 14 (Bethlehem and Woodbury) Schools Robert Cronin stated, continued on page 2
**New Sixth-Year Certificate in Mathematics Education Leadership Only One in State**

“I believe the idea of a sixth-year program in mathematics leadership holds great promise. Someone who specializes in the area of mathematics can help a district improve the quality of its math program, something that I believe in most school systems does not receive the same degree of attention as language arts. An individual who understands how students learn math and the essential components of best instructional practices in math can help design curriculum that will move the district forward.”

**How the Program is Structured**

The program offers two tracks—department chair certification (DCC) or intermediate administrator certification (IAC). “DCC candidates are aspiring math department chairs, and IAC candidates most likely will be district-wide mathematics or curriculum administrators. The IAC track is not reserved solely for mathematics practitioners, but is also suitable for supervising administrators,” elaborates Halloran.

Students progress through the program in cohorts (20 students maximum). Course and classroom work are complemented by internships in area schools. Students complete course work within three years (two academic years and three summer sessions). Students in the DCC track will perform one semester of internship, while those in the IAC track will perform two semester-long internships. Course work began this past August and will be offered in odd numbered years. The second cohort starts in summer 2011.

Maryann Salvatore is one of 10 students enrolled in the new program. A certified teacher, she holds a master’s in mathematics from CCSU. Salvatore taught at St. Paul High School in Bristol for nine years and has been at Hall High School for the past six years. “I wanted a sixth-year program in administration that would combine mathematics and leadership, and this one was just perfect for me. Then too, I like the proximity of Central to Hall High,” she says.

**Attracted to Math Curriculum Design**

Salvatore plans to elect the IAC track, because curriculum issues interest her. “I’m always looking for better ways to teach mathematics, learning what’s new out there and how to use teaching techniques with the students I have in front of me,” she reflects. This past year she participated in a five-year curriculum review process in West Hartford. This September she started the program at CCSU by taking the Mathematics Curriculum K–8 Theory and Implementation course taught by Halloran.

“We want to develop effective leaders who are able to analyze any mathematics curriculum in terms of its logical, psychological, and sociological sources. That is, how it is structured, how it respects the developmental level of the learner, and how it will be used in society,” explains Halloran.
**More Keys to Open Career Paths**

Professor of Educational Leadership Anthony Rigazio-Digilio was instrumental in ensuring that the content of educational leadership courses, which must meet the requirements of the state Department of Education, enhances the new program’s goals. He observed, “One major benefit of the program is that students receiving this degree can assume positions at both the teacher leadership level and the building and district leadership level. It provides keys that our graduates will be able to use to open doors throughout their careers. The program will also allow administrators, who are already extremely knowledgeable about mathematics education, to become schooled in educational leadership. This gives districts hiring our graduates multiple ways to use their expertise to improve teaching and learning in mathematics.”

The overarching outcomes of the graduate certificate degree will be assessed in core courses and capstone internships. The program aims to deepen content knowledge of mathematics; enhance knowledge of current research and research paradigms; enrich understanding of the cultural connections between learning and living; strengthen use of assessment tools for continual program improvement; and demonstrate how to effectively address learning challenges in mathematics.”

“We are going to be graduating the most awesome mathematics education leaders in the Northeast because of our program’s structure and the kinds of courses that widen perspectives and critical ability through research and assessment,” exclaimed Halloran.

—Geri Radacsi

**Course Abroad Programs Announced for 2010**

Faculty from all five schools—Arts and Sciences, Business, Education and Professional Studies, Engineering and Technology, and Graduate Studies—will collectively offer 32 course abroad programs traveling to 22 countries on five continents. The programs, offered over Winter Session, during the spring semester, and in Summer Session 2010, include repeats of many successful programs, as well as travel to South Africa, a country never before represented in the Course Abroad program. The Department of Computer Science is also offering a Course Abroad program for the first time.

Whether interested in business, the liberal arts, the sciences, or the professions, CCSU students will find programs that further their progress toward degree requirements and satisfy the University’s international or language requirements. And participation in a Course Abroad program will enhance students’ academic careers and resumes. Courses are offered at all levels (100 through 500) and all students—first-year through graduate—are encouraged to participate.

Short-term study abroad programs are growing in popularity, not only at CCSU but across the nation (see What’s New in Study Abroad? at www.blog.abroad101.com/2009/07/whats-new-in-study-abroad.html). Last year, 447 CCSU students and 48 faculty participated in Course Abroad programs. Complete program descriptions, course syllabi, pricing information, and registration forms are available online at www.ccsu.edu/coursesabroad.

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**Forcella Honored by Department of Transportation**

Environmental Health and Safety Officer Domenic Forcella (right) received an Honorable Mention Award during the Commuter Challenge Award ceremonies, held in June, from Connecticut Department of Transportation Deputy Commissioner Albert Martin (left). Forcella was honored for helping to improve the state’s air quality by participating in the 2009 Earth Day Commuter Challenge to reduce drive-alone commuting. The competition tracked all forms of “green” commuting for one year.
Tommy Carpenter credits Fatemeh Abdollahzadeh’s Programming Languages upper-level computer sciences class with helping him score high on the GREs. The computer science senior states with assurance, “My applications to grad school will be in the mail in the next months, and absolutely what she covered in that class was excellent GRE preparation for someone planning to go to grad school.”

He acknowledges the course was “not easy by any means and Professor Abdollahzadeh is a tough teacher, but she always gave us plenty of examples until we understood the hard material.”

Two years after she earned her master’s at Lancaster University, England in 1977, Iran convulsed with revolution and the Shah was overthrown. Abdollahzadeh went on to complete a doctorate in computer science at Loughborough University of Technology in 1981. Though she returned to Iran, because of the political turmoil there, she and her husband, also a computer scientist, sought teaching opportunities abroad.

In 1989 she joined CCSU and has been nominated four times for the Excellence in Teaching Award. Numerous students offered testimonials: “she is extremely knowledgeable”; “her dedication is unquestionable”; “she is caring for students both professionally and personally.”

Senior Jeffrey Sorbo, a computer science major currently working as a programmer at a software company, has taken three classes with Abdollahzadeh. He comments, “I’ve been able to take what I’ve learned to directly benefit me in my work, especially in understanding database concepts. Her teaching has given me the theoretical underpinning to what I’m now doing.” He reflects, “You know, Abdollahzadeh has a unique background and she’s persevered through many difficulties in Iran. In class she gives us lots of analogies related to real life, but she also uses her life experiences to encourage us to work hard and to broaden our horizons.”

Accounting for Patience
Repeatedly, the adjective most used to describe Abdollahzadeh as a teacher is “patient.” How does she account for this virtue? She claps her hands and replies, “I am the mother of three sons! And I enjoy teaching. I could be earning more working at a company, but I love my students as my children. Sometimes in class I catch myself saying ‘My silly boy’ and everyone laughs, even the student I am trying to correct.” She continues in a serious vein: “I have learned that I must reach out to students with patience, being knowledgeable and prepared is not enough. We must understand them and make the subject interesting. My students know I am fair but not easy, I cover all the materials. I think most of them need a mentor and advisor to show them how to study.”
Abdollahzadeh teaches a full range of undergraduate and graduate computer science courses. She observes that two highly challenging courses—Operating Systems and Compiler Design—serve as the heart of computer science.

“Almost all other programs are applications building on these concepts,” she says.

Her areas of expertise include parallel processing, compiler design, programming languages, operating systems, and artificial intelligence.

She has published steadily in professional journals and made presentations at conferences and symposia throughout her professional career in these areas. Her primary area of research is parallel programming. She explains, “If it’s hard to make computers run faster, one way to solve big computing problems is to parallelize them and run different parts on different computers. The same principle is used on multi-core computers which have effectively two or four CPUs sharing the same memory.”

In 2007 while on sabbatical, Abdollahzadeh developed and designed a course in bioinformatics. She finds the subject of bioinformatics fascinating, because its focus on extracting information from data arising from the study of DNA and genomes has wide-ranging implications. For example, she elaborates, bioinformatics can help answer such questions as whether a newly analyzed gene is similar to any previously known gene, whether a protein’s sequence can suggest how the protein functions, and whether the genes turned on in a cancer cell are different from those turned on in a healthy cell. She presented a paper on the subject at the CSU computing conference in 2008.

Turning philosophical, Abdollahzadeh muses, “You cannot imagine the world without computers, so many advances have been made in math, science, astronomy, medicine that wouldn’t have been possible without computer software.” She smiles, “Sometimes a student will ask if it will be possible to make a machine that can work better than a human. I say, ‘Yes, but don’t forget it is a machine and you are in control.’”

She acknowledges that computer science hones logic, because it requires rigorous problem solving skills. But she wants more for her students: that they be hardworking, responsible and good human beings. She declares, “I tell them that we are responsible for our knowledge and should not abuse it, but use it to make the world a better place for everyone. We have to learn to use the power of logic, not the logic of power.”

—Geri Radacsi

**Students Honored with Scholarships**

Sandy Chrzanowski, a graphic arts major, and John Sklepinski, a management and organization major, were awarded the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain’s Ronald F. Gilrain/EOP Scholarship in August. Genesis Ladinez, a nursing major; Franklin Rutledge, who is pursuing a teaching degree; and Jose Cadic, who is pursuing a liberal arts degree, received the Governor William A. O’Neill Scholarship.

**in the news**

Director of Residence Life Jean Alicandro was recently featured in an article on dorm décor in The Hartford Courant in which she noted that students arrive for the fall semester with flat-screen televisions, coordinated bedding, and new electronics in order to create at school what they’re accustomed to at home.

Director of the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy Andrew Clark was mentioned in The Mystic Times in August for his work with The League of Women Voters of Southeastern Connecticut concerning a regional study on the decriminalization of marijuana. Institute Research Specialist Lyndsay Rufolo and CCSU student James Merckie also advised the League’s study committee on various ways to approach and conduct the study.

This summer CCSU student Matt Dowling served as a site supervisor for the Leaders in Training (LIT) program, a six-week training experience to develop leadership skills in New Britain students. In an article on the program that appeared in The New Britain Herald, Dowling noted that for many young people, the practice in socialization is just as important as the educational help they receive.

A woodwind trio written by Associate Professor of Music Brian Kershner was performed on Channel 3 WFSB’s program Better Connecticut Live in late June. Adjunct lecturer of music Tom Labadorf was one of the performers.

Executive Director of the Center for Public Policy & Social Research Steven Kliger had an article printed in The Hartford Courant in late July. The article concerned a special exhibit on the 1969 moon landing that is being featured at the JFK Memorial Museum.

CCSU student Guy Tzu-Jan Richters was mentioned in an August article in The New Britain Herald. Tzu-Jan Richters participated in an art exhibition of abstract expressionist paintings held at Tunxis Community College’s Barnes-Franklin Art Gallery.
Focus on Scholarship: Roger Bilisoly Using Literary Classics to Introduce Text Mining

Drawing from a long tradition of looking at the components of literature through the lens of computer science, CCSU Associate Professor of Mathematical Sciences Roger Bilisoly has written a new book that presents methods and algorithms to perform text mining—that is, the extraction of useful information from one or more electronic texts—using classic literary works.

In *Practical Text Mining with Perl* (Wiley-Interscience, Hoboken, NJ, 2008), Bilisoly concentrates on the fundamentals of text mining using Perl, an open-source programming tool freely available via the Internet. The book covers mining ideas from various perspectives: statistics, data mining, linguistics, and information retrieval. “This is meant to be a textbook, so I start with probability and programming concepts and in later chapters branch out into applications,” explains Bilisoly.

The book has been well-received. A review in the *Journal of Statistical Software*, January 2009, stated: “Practical Text Mining with Perl is an excellent book for readers at a variety of different programming skill levels.”

Bilisoly brought a wealth of academic background and solid scholarship to the book. A member of the Department of Mathematical Sciences faculty since 2004, Bilisoly holds a bachelor’s in mathematics from the University of Chicago, a master’s in mathematics from Purdue University, and a PhD in statistics from Ohio State University. He developed and teaches a new graduate-level course in text mining in CCSU’s Data Mining program.

He also brings a professor’s instructional approach and instincts in making the material accessible to readers through the book’s careful and thoughtful structuring.

Each chapter is devoted to a single key topic, and Bilisoly introduces mathematical concepts as they arise, allowing readers to learn as they go without having to refer to additional books. The inclusion of numerous exercises and examples further complements the book’s student-friendly format.

Three ideas frame this book. According to Bilisoly: “First, much text mining is built upon counting and text pattern matching. Second, although language is complex, there is useful information gained by considering its simpler properties. Third, combining a computer’s ability to follow instruction without tiring and a human’s skill with languages creates a powerful team that can discover interesting properties of text.”

Why Literature? Why Perl?

Bilisoly decided to analyze literature, he says, because its language is sophisticated but not artificial like computer languages. He grins, “I actually started to enjoy reading novels and short stories. Who can resist *Frankenstein*?” He continues, “Then, too, practically speaking, it helps when presenting one’s scholarship at a conference to grab people’s attention by using well-known literature.”

Bilisoly made presentations at several national conferences, including “Clustering the Short Stories of Edgar Allan Poe Using Words Groups and Formal Concept Analysis” at the Digital Humanities 2009 Conference, University of Maryland, June 2009; and “Using Language Examples in an Introductory SAS Programming Class” at the US Conference on Teaching Statistics, June 2009, Columbus, OH.
Why Perl? What’s the rationale for building the book around the programming language Perl? Bilisoly states simply, “It’s free. It can be downloaded from the Web on as many computers as desired. Next, Larry Wall, who had a background in linguistics, created Perl to excel in processing computer text files. Furthermore, since Perl is popular, numerous additions (modules) to Perl can be downloaded free, and there are online resources, as well as books, on how to program Perl.”

Building Blocks to Understanding
The book begins with an introduction to regular expressions, a text pattern methodology, and quantitative text summaries—all of which are fundamental tools of analyzing text. A description of pattern matching lays a foundation for analyzing text. Bilisoly writes: “Language patterns must be detected. These include punctuation marks, characters, syllables, words, phrases. Finding string patterns is so important that a pattern-matching language has been developed, which is used in numerous programming languages and software applications. This language is called regular expressions. Literally every chapter in this book relies on finding string patterns.”

The book builds upon this foundation to explore probability and texts; information retrieval techniques; concordance lines and corpus linguistics; multivariate techniques such as correlation, principal components analysis, and clustering.

Using Geometry to Compare Literary Works
“One of the surprising discoveries I made in writing this book was that geometry is one way to compare literary works,” declares Bilisoly. Discussing information retrieval, which attempts to find documents most similar to a query (the prime example being the search engine Google), Bilisoly compares four Edgar Allen Poe short stories, explaining that one way to quantify the similarity of any pair of stories is to represent each story as a vector. The more similar the stories, the smaller the angle between them. He writes, “At first, it is surprising that geometry crops up. But as soon as a text is represented by a vector, and because vectors are geometric objects, it follows that geometry can be used in a literary analysis.”

Practical Applications
Examining the process of dictionary building, Bilisoly observes, “The Oxford and Cambridge dictionaries have huge corpora that can now be assembled through computers. Bible concordances once laboriously constructed by hand can now be recreated by corpus linguistics.” He also explained that clustering, a data mining technique used to place data elements into related groups, can help to reduce the nuisance of spam by analyzing text or origination sites.

Bilisoly’s next scholarly foray is taking him into Middle English with its freeform, non-standard spelling. “One way of looking at statistics, my field, is through a study of variability, so I’m puzzling over the variability in Middle English word spellings.”

—Geri Radacsi

extra credit

Professor of Management and Organization David Fearon was recently made a Juran Fellow by the Juran Institute. These fellowships are granted to those who have made a commitment to furthering quality management methods and tools.

Associate Professor of English Vivian Martin, coordinator of the journalism program at CCSU, was recently elected to lead the Small Programs Interest Group (SPIG) at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. SPIG focuses on issues of special interest to faculty in small, higher education programs whose primary emphasis is teaching, advising and mentoring undergraduate students.

ITBD news
CCSU’s Institute of Technology and Business Development (ITBD) and Connecticut Light and Power recently worked together to fund a “Young Entrepreneurs” program for students at New Britain High School. The Teeny Tiny Manufacturing Company is run by students and teachers, who decided to produce and market wooden Adirondack chairs. Participants created flyers, conducted surveys, and built the chairs. In total, the company sold 15 chairs at $98 each.
Greg Roberts ‘80, ’82: CCSU Success Leads to Philanthropic Career

What do Muhammad Ali and CCSU have in common? To Greg Roberts ‘80, MS ‘82, they both provided a sense of family. As a child growing up in inner-city Washington, DC, Roberts would accompany his father, Greg Roberts, to watch Ali’s boxing matches at the local theater. “I’d go and watch the closed-circuit fights with my dad. It was a bonding experience,” recalls Roberts, who serves as chief executive officer of the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, Kentucky.

Roberts found that Central provided a similarly familial atmosphere: “Central is a medium-sized college and offered a family-like environment for me. You can get a college education anywhere, but Central has a great support system of faculty, staff, and coaches.” Roberts received a bachelor of arts in political science and a master of science in counseling from the University.

As an athlete, Roberts was a powerful force on the Blue Devil basketball team. An athletic scholarship from Central enabled Roberts to attend college. He praises Central for its athletic programs: “When you’re a collegiate athlete, your coaches have the largest impact on you, because you’re around them the most.” He recalls that current Head Coach Howard “Howie” Dickenman, who was then an assistant coach, was “a steady, positive influence.”

Former Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Charles “C.J.” Jones, Jr., also left a lasting impression on Roberts during Jones’ time as assistant coach: “I’ve pretty much followed in his footsteps. C.J. was one of my biggest role models and I ended up emulating his career.”

Roberts returned to his alma mater in early October to attend Jones’ retirement dinner. Roberts knows he is not the only one to benefit from a Central education: “I’ve worked and traveled across the US, and I always run into CCSU alumni. It just goes to show you how Central graduates have been successful nationwide.”

As CEO of the Muhammad Ali Center, Roberts manages the organization’s $3.3 million annual budget, supervises a staff of 32, and heads fundraising efforts, a role in which he thoroughly proved his qualifications in his previous position as CEO of the D.C. Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation, where, over a seven-year period, Roberts raised more than $150 million to fund youth-education programs to support local schools and established five innovative, youth-service programs. Ali’s wife, Lonnie, notes that Roberts’ “passion for helping children achieve their potential is a perfect fit for the mission of the Ali Center,” which strives to preserve Ali’s legacy and promote his ideals through inspiring “adults and children everywhere to be as great as they can be.”

The Center’s Board Chairman Jonathon Blum believes that Roberts “is the right person at the right time to take the Center to the next level of success,” further noting that he is a “tremendous leader with a proven track record. His values closely match ours. He has done a lot to better the lives of kids.”

“I’ve had two of the greatest jobs in the world,” Roberts remarks, referring to his current post and his earlier position as executive...
alumni in the news

Rev. Willis McCaw ’03 was recently hired as the spiritual coordinator for Hospice of Southeastern Connecticut, where he will provide a spiritual presence for families, patients, and staff. In an article in The Norwich Bulletin, McCaw stated that he is excited to contribute to an organization with such strong community ties.

CCSU Alumni Association Athletic Hall of Fame member Norm Newfield ’66 was recently featured in The New Britain Herald. Newfield, a former baseball pitcher, is noted as having the most wins in CCSU’s history, although it is not recorded in the books since record-keeping was started at a later date. After graduating from CCSU, Newfield enlisted in the Navy, where he continued to pitch, throwing a no-hitter against a Marine Corps team and even playing in Cuba. Newfield spent 16 years in the reserves after active duty and retired with the rank of commander.
Women’s Volleyball Earns Third Consecutive Academic Award

The CCSU women’s volleyball team, headed by co-captains Jamie Baumert and Amanda Bayer, has earned the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Team Academic Award for the third consecutive year. This accolade comes in recognition of the team’s outstanding academic achievement during last year’s season.

“Our team prides itself on being comprised of student-athletes,” says senior elementary education major Baumert. Bayer, a junior English major, agrees. “Our team is made up of driven, focused individuals. The whole team emphasizes schoolwork and becomes a kind of positive reinforcement for one another,” she remarks. “I think athletes sometimes get stereotyped as not being focused on academics, but I believe that the discipline and focus required to be successful on the court can also contribute to success in the classroom.”

The AVCA award honors teams attaining a cumulative GPA of at least 3.30 during the season. The Blue Devils averaged a 3.52, the highest in CCSU volleyball history. Baumert is quick to contribute this achievement not only to the individual athletes, but to all those in contact with the team. “We have an incredible support system of our coaches, professors, academic advisors, athletic staff, and from each other,” she says.

“I am extremely proud of the academic accomplishments our student-athletes have achieved,” remarked Head Coach Linda Sagnelli. “The dedication and commitment they have demonstrated in order to receive this honor three years in a row is exemplary.” Sagnelli looks to lead the team to their first Northeast Conference (NEC) Tournament championship since 2003.

Amidst academic success, the team has also excelled athletically, qualifying for the NEC Tournament in each of the past six years. The Blue Devils finished last season with a conference record of 5-3. They were ranked third going into the conference championships, but faced a loss to sixth seed Sacred Heart. This season, the team was voted third in the NEC Pre-Season Coaches’ Poll.

“We have a young team with lots of potential,” remarks Baumert. “We have plenty to look forward to this season. It’s going to be exciting, and we are all expecting a terrific outcome. Our goal is to win the NEC Tournament, giving us our first-ever berth in the NCAA Tournament. With that prize waiting, we are looking at each match as a step toward getting us there.” The winner of the NEC Tournament receives the conference’s automatic bid to the NCAA Women’s Volleyball Tournament.

Both captains have already proven themselves to be seasoned veterans of the sport. Baumert led the NEC in blocks with 114 last year. She ranked third on the squad with 214 kills, was named NEC Player of the Week, and received ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District and Fullerton Classic All-Tournament honors. According to co-captain Bayer, “She is the core of everything our team is about: academically successful, goal-oriented, and incredibly talented.”

Bayer had similar successes last season, leading the team with 39 service aces. She totaled 830 assists as setter and was second on the team with 199 digs. Baumert describes her co-captain as “not only a skilled setter, but a skilled leader who everyone on the team can look up to, both on and off the court. She brings focus and energy to the sport that is vital to the team’s success.” Baumert further remarked that Bayer has “shined in the position as captain this year.”

The 2009 NEC Women’s Volleyball Tournament will take place at the home of the highest seed on November 21 – 22. The top four teams in the regular season standings advance to the tournament.

— Luke Albertson
notable programs

Professor of Physics and Earth Sciences Kristine Larsen hosted a series of Harry Potter-themed shows titled "Astronomy Academy: The Astronomy of Harry Potter" in the Copernican Planetarium to coincide with the release of the movie *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. Each show was preceded by two hours of hands-on Potter-based astronomy lessons, such as "Centaurs and Stargazing" which Larsen described as a chance to learn about connections between Hogwarts and the galaxy.

CCSU Professor of Physics and Earth Sciences Kristine Larsen recently organized a display of moon rocks and moon soil at CCSU. The items, which were on loan from NASA, were used to show the similarities and differences between meteorites and rocks originating on Earth.

Professor of Management and Organization David Fearon, a Juran fellow, presented a workshop with Senior Nurse Executive Mary Beth Edmond, Juran Healthcare, in early October as part of Service Excellence Week. The workshop, titled "Excellence Starts With You!", focused on kindness and "daily acts of charitable interest in the well being of others." The event was sponsored by Human Resources.

Professor David Fearon and Associate Professor Sarah Stookey, both in the Management and Organization Department, are hosting Leading for Connecticut’s Future: Everyone Belongs at This Table, a series of discussions on how to save and advance the future of the state. The conversations take place every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in The Devil’s Den, Student Center.

A Right Use of Power workshop, sponsored by the Department of Counseling and Family Therapy and the Marriage and Family Therapy Program, and was held in the Marcus White Living Room in September. The workshop was designed to aid professionals in promoting the well-being of clients and gaining skills in conflict-resolution.

Staff from the Center for Advising and Career Exploration recently invited faculty advisors and administrative staff to "The Role of Academic Advising in Student Persistence," the first in a series of webinars covering a wide range of topics designed to enhance student advising. The series is presented by the National Academic Advising Association and will continue throughout the academic year. The event was sponsored by the Office of the Provost.

new books

Assistant Professor of English Mary Collins’ new book, *American Idle: A Journey Through Our Sedentary Culture*, was published in September. In her book, Collins examines the social, cultural, physical, and moral consequences of living a sedentary life.

Remembering 9/11

Soldiers lay a commemorative wreath at the peace pole, located outside of the Student Center, on the eighth anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The campus community was invited to observe a moment of silence.

A faculty development workshop titled "Teaching Writing-Intensive Courses across the Curriculum," was held in early October. The workshop, which was led by Dr. Martha Townsend of the University of Missouri, focused on incorporating the essential elements of writing into teaching.

Associate Professor of Political Science Paul Petterson and Assistant Professor of Political Science Robbin Smith held a discussion on "The US Supreme Court from Souter to Sotomayor: Reflections" for Constitution Day on September 17. The event was sponsored by the Department of Political Science and the Office of the Dean, School of Arts and Sciences.