

# Central focus

fall 2007

the magazine for alumni & friends of central connecticut state university



## *Perfect Storm, Perfect Plan*

CCSU Co-Op Program  
Has the Answers

Homecoming Weekend October 12-13

## Letter from the President of Central Connecticut State University



John W. Miller

Central Connecticut State University is a leader among Connecticut universities in creating programs to promote both human and economic development. We have long enjoyed a mutually beneficial working relationship with the state and its business community; a significant example is the University's School of Engineering and Technology, which is helping to fill the demand for qualified engineers statewide. Additionally, the Institute of Technology and Business Development now hosts the Connecticut Small Business Development Center, which provides counseling in starting and establishing a small business, limited liability company, partnership or corporation.

But these examples are only just the start. Offering more than 100 majors in 80 fields of study, CCSU prepares students to fill vital roles in most every workplace in Connecticut. In the last academic year alone, CCSU awarded nearly 2,300 bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees; with more than 80 percent of our alumni living and working right here in the state, the tremendous impact CCSU has on Connecticut's economy is evident.

Each year, some 300 students participate in off-campus internships at area companies, schools, government agencies and nonprofit organizations. They acquire real-world skills, gain career-starting work experience and learn about potential employers. Several hundred more participate in CCSU's cooperative education program, gaining experience while earning income. CCSU co-op students annually earn about \$4 million, and some 65 percent are offered full-time jobs by their co-op employers.

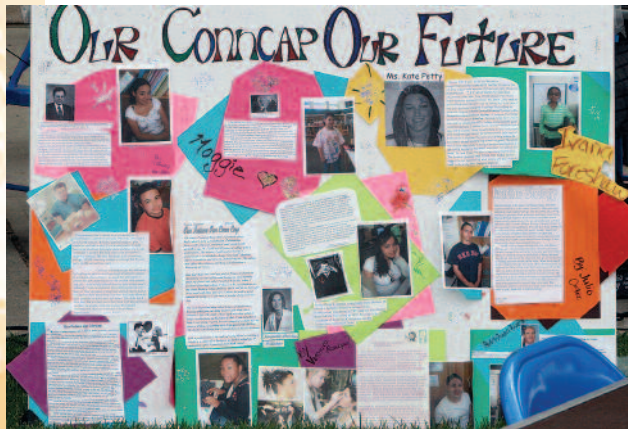
CCSU is clearly stepping up to the plate in helping Connecticut's economy and businesses, which rely on our human and intellectual capital to meld knowledge, ideas, creativity and innovation. These ideals are at the very core of Central Connecticut State University's goal of being the premier developer of human potential for the state of Connecticut.

I look forward to again celebrating your vital role in these and so many more of our shared successes on Homecoming Weekend October 12-13. See you then!

Dr. Jack Miller

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive.

President



### ConnCAP Celebrates 20 Years

Central Connecticut State University's Collegiate Awareness and Preparation Program – ConnCAP – celebrated 20 years of assisting New Britain secondary school youth at a July 11 anniversary party on the lawn of the Robert C. Vance Academic Center. ConnCAP works with New Britain educational and youth service organizations, workforce and career development groups, businesses, parents and other civic organizations to help New Britain middle and high school students with their college preparatory courses so that they may qualify for a postsecondary education.



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**FROM US TO YOU** CCSU's campus is a busy place, with thousands of students, instructors, administrators and visitors going about their daily pursuits. But no one is busier these days than the fine folks in the University's Career Services and Cooperative Education Office, which administers one of the largest and most successful co-op programs in the Northeast. We take a look at this program in this edition, and visit with some alumni — and former co-op students — who are now successfully building their careers.

Mike Ryan '85 has been a success by any measure — both personally and professionally. The head trainer of the NFL's Jacksonville Jaguars tells us about how CCSU impacted his life in Sports.

Sports is a passion of Jessica Cabanillas '97, MS '07 — as is world travel and family. Learn about why this CCSU alumnus and employee is passionate about supporting the University in our back cover donor profile.

Enjoy!

The *Central Focus* Editorial Staff

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**Managing Editor:** Dennis Buden

**Assistant Managing Editor:** Dorothy Finn

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Joseph Gordon Jr. MS '96

Catherine (Healy) Jost '74

### Sports

Bart Fisher '69

### Photography

Robert J. Wessman '70

### Design and Layout

Ann (Volpe) Sack '79

### Contributors

Staff members of the offices of Development & Alumni Affairs, Marketing & Communications and Sports Information.

*Central Focus* is published by Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT 06050 for alumni and friends.

Central Connecticut State University is an AA/EQ institution and a campus of the Connecticut State University System.

# CCSU Co-OP PROGRAM

SETS STANDARD

Mention the “Perfect Storm” to movie buffs and they’ll conjure images of George Clooney waging war with Mother Nature in the North Atlantic. But ask a human resources professional about the perfect storm, and Hollywood blockbusters will be the last thing on their mind.

They’ll be thinking future labor shortage, as in what’s been popularized in business, industry and academic circles as the “Perfect Labor Storm,” the dearth of talent projected to impact American business and industry in some five to 10 years.

Pat Deloy ’68, MS ’80 knows all about the Perfect Labor Storm. As CCSU’s veteran director of the Career

Services and Cooperative Education Office, she and her staff are working to ensure two things: 1) that the student – and alumni – talent pool from Central Connecticut State University is equipped and positioned to take advantage of career opportunities now and in the future, and; 2) that Connecticut employers understand how CCSU can be their partner in human resource development, thereby heading off – at least in part – their own perfect labor storms.



Pat Deloy

“I see it more and more every day; employers are really seeing CCSU and this co-op program as a human resource development tool,” says Deloy, in her 23rd year with the office. “This generation coming up is much smaller than the baby boom generation, and there is an anticipated shortage of talent.

“So the strategy is, get these people sooner, determine if there is a fit – and you’ve got ‘em.”

CCSU’s commitment to experiential learning – i.e., cooperative education – is working so well that Central’s program, whereby undergraduates work full-time for six-month periods in their field of study, gaining valuable real-world experience and entrée to full-time employment, has become renowned throughout the region. Central’s co-op program is the largest in Connecticut and one of the largest in the Northeast; over the last 10 years, CCSU has worked with more than 260 companies – including major Connecticut employers such as Aetna,

**On the Cover:** Al Salemme ’97, foreground, is among dozens of former CCSU co-op students building careers in financial services at ING in Hartford. They include (l-r) Jaime (Leonard) Wilkinson ’00, Jason Albert and Luis Abarca ’99.



CCSU Alumni Al Salemme, left, and Jaime Wilkinson discuss business at ING headquarters. Salemme calls ING’s relationship with Central’s co-op program “a win-win.”

ING, the Barnes Group, Hamilton Sundstrand, Northeast Utilities, Pratt & Whitney and the State of Connecticut itself – placing in excess of 3,000 co-op students.

Even more remarkable than those numbers is the fact that approximately 65 percent of CCSU coop students are offered full-time employment with their co-op employer.

“Our students really sell the program,” says Deloy. “One thing we try to get students and faculty to understand is that, yes, we help people get jobs, but our true role is to be a career educator, to help people develop a self awareness about how they are going to fit in the world.”

## *WHAT GOES AROUND ...*

When Deloy says that the students sell the program, it is not just current students, but alumni as well. It is not uncommon for CCSU alumni who were once co-op students themselves to now be in management positions looking to hire – who else? – CCSU co-op students.

“It’s really become our strategy,” says Al Salemme ’97, director of operations for ING’s defined contribution customer service team in Hartford. Salemme himself was a co-op student with ING (then-Aetna Financial Services) and was hired full-time. “We’ve found Central to have a particularly good talent pool and we have a very successful hire rate.

“It really is a win-win for the school and for us in terms of turning quality talent into full-time, long-term relationships.”

Salemme estimates that ING has anywhere from five to 10 CCSU co-op students working at any given time, typically in a financial services support role such as operations analyst. He further estimates that more than 80 percent of Central co-op students are offered full-time positions, and of ING’s approximately 600 Hartford employees in defined contribution customer service, many are Central graduates, including at least 40 former co-op students.

“We’ll take students out of many different programs at Central. We’ve hired history majors, business majors, liberal arts students,” he says. “Central students are not afraid of going out and finding a job where you’ve got to work hard. It’s a good fit for us.”

## *A PROGRAM APART*

Jackie Geraci ’97 echoes that sentiment. Yet another former co-op student, Geraci is today a human resources specialist with Rexel CLS in Hartford, the New England division of Rexel Inc., the largest electrical distributor in the world.

“I work with a lot of schools, but what I like about Central is that the students are very down to earth,” says Geraci, who has at least one CCSU co-op student every semester and counts a division president – and former co-op student – among the company’s successful recruits. “A lot of them have to work through college; they understand what accountability means. They understand the concept of having to build their own futures.

“I don’t have that same experience with other schools.”

As for the impending perfect labor storm, Geraci says nurturing relationships like the one she enjoys with Central is critical to the company’s future. “Most of our knowledgeable workers are getting close to retirement, and we see this as being a critical time to transfer that knowledge. Our success rate with Central has been unbelievable.”

Walter Zera ’84, manager, internal control for Barnes Group Inc. in Bristol, an international aerospace and industrial component manufacturer and full-service distributor, agrees that “getting ahead of the curve” talent-wise is a prudent plan; that’s why his company just recently started recruiting at CCSU.

“We are expanding, growing. It’s a tough market now and recruiting talent this way is something we need to do,” he says. “We have an international presence, and both co-op students we have recruited so far speak foreign languages. And as for CCSU, well, we are just very impressed with the program – they are on top of it.”

## *BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS*

One of the keys to the success of the CCSU program is, in fact, the office’s ability to build and maintain successful working relationships, both externally with regional employers and internally on campus with students and academic departments. Salemme, too, says his company’s experience working with the office “couldn’t be any better.”

“They are here like clockwork about two-thirds of the way through each semester, meeting with students, my managers, always trying to figure out what they need to do to prepare students for their co-op experience,” he says. “Their willingness to come in and understand our needs keeps me from having to do that. I consider them an extension of my recruiting staff.” ▶



Luis Abarca, left, and Jaime Wilkinson are two of many former co-op students now building careers at ING. Abarca is an operations supervisor, Wilkinson an operations manager.

On campus, the old days of simply scheduling a career development workshop, only to have a handful of students show up, are gone, says Deloy. The office now takes its mantra of self-awareness and career development straight to the classroom to reach instructors and students directly – early and often. Students interested in the co-op program must enroll in a one-credit career development seminar prior to their first co-op semester. That course prepares them for the working world; the office’s motto is “Don’t Wait Until You’re a Senior.”

“We decided that the best strategy was to work directly with faculty to tie our presentations into their classes; we do a lot of presentations to freshman year experience classes,” says Deloy. “Each of our staff has developed an expertise in their particular area, an understanding of the curriculum, and solid relationships with employers – they understand the job market.”

Deloy supervises a staff of seven. Associate Director Ken Poppe ’78, MS ’80 is the cooperative education coordinator for computer science, management information systems, networking technology and math majors. There are five assistant directors: Domingo Arias handles finance, management, marketing and business majors; Sally Cobrain works with liberal arts majors; Kim Dumouchel MS ’05 works with education majors; Joe Zeoli handles engineering, industrial technology and science majors; and Linda Sershen is responsible for on-campus recruiting and resume referrals. Deloy herself works with accounting majors and is the career advisor for alumni.



Career Services and Cooperative Education Office staff members celebrate the office’s 30th anniversary (l-r): Joe Zeoli, Linda Sershen, Linda Vinci, Kim Dumouchel MS ’05, Kathy Dubay (now retired), Pat Deloy ’68, MS ’80, Domingo Arias and Ken Poppe ’78, MS ’80. Also present at the 30-year celebration but missing from the photo is Sally Cobrain.



Career Services and Cooperative Education Office Assistant Director Linda Sershen, right, assists a student with his resume.

## *YOU CAN ALWAYS GO HOME*

Speaking of alumni, the office enjoys a dynamic and multi-faceted relationship with former students. Alumni are a critical part of the office’s outreach efforts and mission, not only through maintaining relationships with alumni in positions to hire co-op students, but in terms of direct career services. In fact, says Deloy, one of the most rewarding parts of her job is assisting CCSU alumni.

“It happens more times than I can count; people go out and work for five, 10 years and discover they are in the wrong field, or simply don’t know how to find another job,” Deloy says. “These alumni need to know we are here to help.”

Maureen Strong ’02 typifies the kind of alumni success story that makes Deloy beam. A non-traditional student in a classic sense, Maureen married and raised a family in East Hampton before deciding to go back to school to study accounting when her two boys were in high school.

While at CCSU she gained co-op experience with the State of Connecticut Auditors of Public Accounts, and eventually landed a job with the Middlesex Transit District.

Five years after graduating, Strong decided she needed a career change, and the first call she made was to Deloy.

“I had met Pat at an open house when I was a freshman, and she said to me if I ever needed anything, to give her a call,” says Strong. “That stuck with me. I feel that when I was there, even as a non-traditional student, they were very supportive, and really worked to find opportunities that would be personally satisfying for me.”

Strong made an appointment with Deloy. They discussed career options and reviewed her resume. Strong attended the Spring Career Fair, where she met employers and learned about various opportunities. Ultimately, she landed a job as a staff accountant for Keeney Manufacturing in Newington, where she started in June.

“I’m learning a lot, and am excited about the job because it’s a big change for me,” says Strong. “I would recommend taking advantage of Career Services to any alumni. I can’t say they were anything less than great.” 



State Normal School graduating class, circa 1881.

## Then and Now

**In its 150-year-plus history**, Central Connecticut State University has grown from a small, single-structure “State Normal School” to a highly regarded, rapidly growing and diverse regional university with ties across the globe.

During its first 50 years, the State Normal School was a two- and three-year teacher-training institution. It added BS and MS degrees upon becoming the Teachers College of Connecticut in 1933. Central’s current-day growth truly took off in 1959, when upon becoming Central Connecticut State College studies in liberal arts and non-teaching professions were added to the academic mix. University status was granted in 1983, and in 2002, CCSU became the first institution in the Connecticut State University system to offer a doctoral program.

The impact of the dynamic institution of higher learning that is today’s CCSU is considerable. In the one-year period between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007, Central awarded nearly 2,300 undergraduate and graduate degrees in fields ranging from business to education to engineering (see chart).

## CAREER SERVICES:

### YOUR ALUMNI RESOURCE

Those served by CCSU’s Career Services and Cooperative Education Office are a broad and diverse group including current students, recent graduates, longtime alumni and employers across the region. But many alumni don’t realize that they can always come back to their alma mater for career development assistance.

“We’d like our alumni to consider us a resource,” says Director Pat Deloy. “In fact, I’ve found in my 23 years in this field that most people don’t really find their professional niche until they are in their early 30s; we can help them find that niche.”

Among the career services available to alumni are:

#### Resume writing

**Career counseling**, job search strategy development and career change counseling

#### Interviewing techniques

**Career fairs** (spring and fall)

Scheduled **on-campus recruiting** by area employers

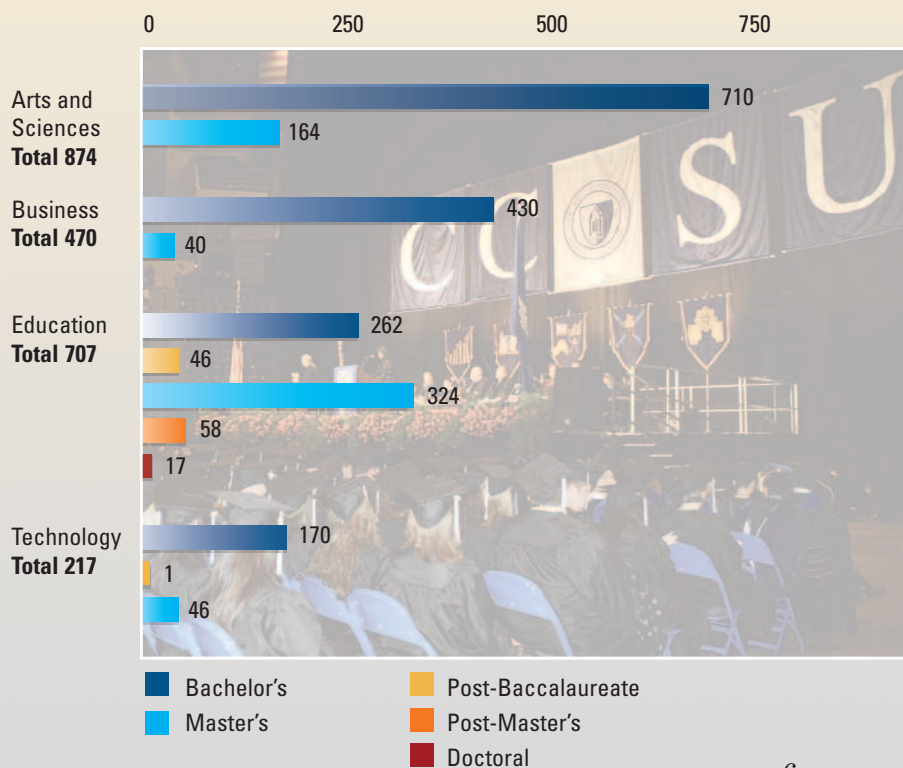
Regularly updated **job postings** in Central Connections, the eRecruiting system from Experience, an online tool to help manage an individual’s career development process

#### Resume referral service

The Career Services and Cooperative Education Office is located in Willard Hall, room 100. For more information, contact Pat Deloy at (860) 832-1638.

### CCSU Degrees Awarded by School

July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007





CCSU Alumni Association Scholarship awardees, and members of the CCSU graduating class of '07, greeted Alumni Day guests on April 28: (l-r) Kelly E. Dennis, Bizu N. Irving, Olutayo A. Sogunro.



The Department of Educational Leadership and the CCSU Alumni Association honored the above distinguished educational leaders at a networking reception in April: (l-r) Brian J. Benigni MS '98; Robert G. Hale Jr. '76, MS '81, 6th Yr '84; Jill L. Hale 6th Yr '97; and Dr. Carol Carter-Lowery.



(l-r) Lucas Papageorge Jr. '05, Raymond Bryk '65, Tricia Marinko '94, Howard Flaster '70 and John Sarra '74 at Fairfield networking happy hour in June.



Celebrating their 70th reunion at Alumni Day festivities are members of the class of 1937: (l-r) Jeannette H. Ceppa, Doris (Andrews) Abbatello, Margaret (Bradshaw) Curtin, Josephine (Bertino) Tansey, Ruby (Gorman) Holt, and Helen (Schriber) Steinberg. Also participating but missing from the photo is Adelma (Hodgkins) Tomkiel.



(l-r) Stephen Rowe '02 and Russell Hayden '81 at Fairfield networking happy hour in June.



(l-r) 6th annual CCSU baseball alumni golf outing participants Bill Detrick '50 and Ray Rondini '56.



(l-r) Randy Cartier '86 presents check for proceeds of the 6th annual CCSU baseball alumni golf outing to CCSU baseball head coach Charlie Hickey on July 13.



## CCSU Alumni Association Awards and Athletic Hall of Fame Induction

**E**ight distinguished alumni were feted in early May as honorees at the 2007 CCSU Alumni Association Awards and Athletic Hall of Fame Induction.



**Dr. Kristine M. Larsen '84**, recipient of the 2007 Distinguished Alumni Service Award, was a brilliant student at Central, graduating magna cum laude with a BA in Physics, and earned her master's and Ph.D. in physics at the University of Connecticut. A member of the CCSU faculty since 1989, she is professor of physics and astronomy and director

of the CCSU Honors Program. Dr. Larsen has been the recipient of numerous awards and has been profiled in national journals.



**Darren Sweeney '98**, the 2007 Young Alumni Service Award winner, earned a BA in communications at CCSU. A highly-rated TV meteorologist with WFSB Channel 3 in Hartford, Sweeney teaches popular news and broadcasting courses at CCSU. He earned a master's degree in broadcast journalism at Syracuse University's Newhouse School of

Communications and completed his meteorological studies at Mississippi State.



**Dr. Dino Iorli '57, MS '61**, the 2007 Kaiser Alumni Service Award recipient, has had a long association with CCSU. He earned his BS in education at then-Teachers College of Connecticut and his master's in technical education. A member of Central's unbeaten 1954 football team, he excelled in track as well.

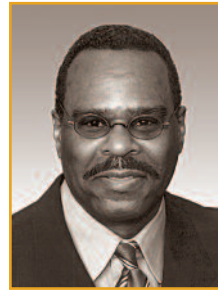
He went on to a stellar teaching and coaching career at Plainville High School and counts two state championships among his achievements. He is currently an educational consultant.

### 2007 Alumni Association Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees



**Jacqueline Adams Cheney '93**, an outstanding track and cross country athlete and scholar, established high jump and pentathlon records during her senior season at CCSU. She was the first women's track and field coach at the University of Hartford, coached at Boston College and, as head women's track and cross country

coach at UConn earned multiple New England championships. Cheney continues to work in education with gifted and talented programs.



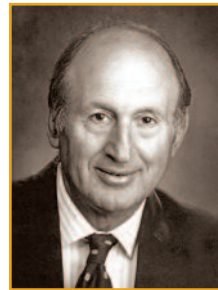
**Kevin Hightower '84** is one of only two players in CCSU basketball history to serve as captain for three seasons. Hightower's 1,477 career points places him in Central's all-time top 10 and in his senior season he was honored with the Frederick M. Gladstone Award as Central's top male student athlete. Hightower has held executive-level positions

with three Fortune 500 companies and is currently in management with MassMutual Financial Services.



**Ron Pringle '57** played basketball and football while at Central and was a high school teacher and coach for a number of years before returning to CCSU as assistant coach in men's basketball and soccer. He went on to a long tenure as CCSU's head women's softball coach, during which time his duties included the actual building of a softball field. Pringle's

former student-athletes speak eloquently and emotionally of his mentoring and claim his guidance as the key to their successes.



**Joseph "Jake" Salafia '56**, competed in football and track at CCSU and went on to a legendary teaching and coaching career in basketball and cross country at Cromwell High School. Among his basketball accomplishments were a career record of 445-188, five straight Class S state championships (seven total) and 24 straight appearances in the

state tournament. Salafia has earned a Connecticut Sportswriters Alliance Gold Key Award and is a member of the New England Basketball Hall of Fame.



**Michael Walton '76** is widely regarded as the greatest center in CCSU football history. Named all-conference and all-New England multiple times, Walton was chosen as a first-team All-America by Kodak and the American Football Coaches Association in his senior season, when he was honored as CCSU's top male student athlete with the Frederick M. Gladstone

Award. An insurance industry executive for more than 25 years, he is a noted authority in the field of health-care professional liability insurance.



## New Appointments in Administration, Academics

The CCSU community is poised to benefit from new energy and leadership on both the academic and administrative fronts with the naming of two new vice presidents as well as two new deans.



**Christopher J. Galligan** has been named vice president for institutional advancement. Galligan, who had been acting dean of the School of Business since March, 2005, holds a corporate finance certificate and master of science degree in management (executive program) from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; a master of education degree in administration and supervision

from the University of Hartford; and a bachelor of science degree with a specialization in management, as well as an MBA, from Nichols College.



**Dr. Carl R. Lovitt** is provost and vice president for academic affairs. Dr. Lovitt came from Penn State Berks-Lehigh Valley College, where he was chief academic officer and a professor of English. He was formerly founding director of the Roy and Marnie Pearce Center for Professional Communication at Clemson University. A widely published scholar, Dr. Lovitt earned a

Ph.D. in comparative literature at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, his license (master's equivalent) at the Université de Paris II, and a bachelor's degree at Washington University, St. Louis.



**Dr. Mitchell Sakofs** is the new dean of the School of Education. Dr. Sakofs joined CCSU as associate dean of the School of Education in 2003 and has been acting dean since August, 2004. He was formerly a faculty member at Eastern Connecticut State University, where he served four years as director of educational experience and as state certification officer. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Colorado-Boulder.



**Dr. Siamack Shojai** has been appointed dean of the School of Business. Dr. Shojai was formerly with Georgian Court University in New Jersey, where he served as dean of the School of Business. He previously was dean of the School of Business and Economics at Plattsburgh State University in New York. Dr. Shojai holds a Ph.D. in economics from Fordham University.

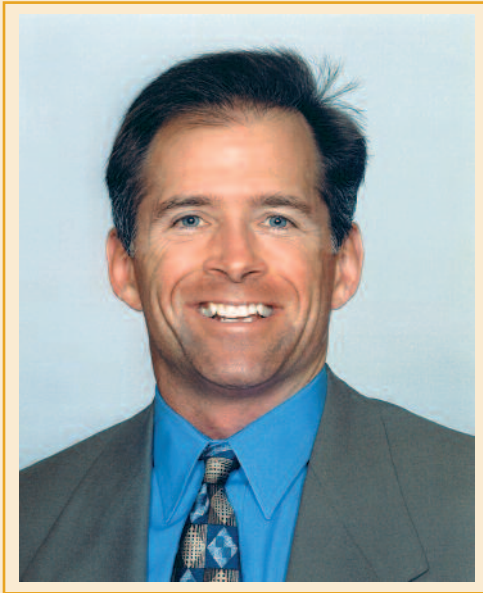
**Dr. Justus S. "J.B." Beach '43**, innovative, challenging and motivational professor of education, emeritus at CCSU for almost 30 years, died August 10, 2007 at age 86. After completing his undergraduate degree at Teachers College of Connecticut (now CCSU), "J.B." earned a master's in education and doctorate in education administration from Columbia University. A U.S. Navy officer in World War II, he was an elementary school teacher and principal before joining the CCSU faculty in 1960 as professor of education. He served several terms as chair of the education department, retiring in 1989.

**Dr. William M. Ellis**, associate professor of accounting, emeritus, died December 18, 2006. He joined the CCSU faculty in 1975 and retired in 1992. The veteran educator, who served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, was also a practicing certified public accountant and attorney. He was a longtime member of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants.

**Eugene J. Riel Jr.**, who spent nearly a quarter of a century as a member of the CCSU faculty, died March 12, 2006. He retired in 1992 as assistant professor of mathematics, emeritus. Prior to joining CCSU, the Webster, Mass., native taught at Bacon Academy in Colchester. He was treasurer of the Associated Teachers of Mathematics in Connecticut.

**Dr. Robert Rinas '65, MS '66**, associate professor of technology and vocational-technical education, emeritus, died April 20, 2007, at the age of 80. Rinas earned his undergraduate and master's degrees at Central and his Ph.D. in education from the University of Connecticut. The World War II U.S. Army veteran was a member of the Central faculty for 38 years, retiring in 1992.

Memorial gifts may be made to the CCSU Foundation, P.O. Box 612, New Britain, CT 06050.



Mike Ryan '85

## Ryan Credits Success To Krein, CCSU

Mike Ryan has accomplished a great deal in the two decades since leaving CCSU. The head athletic trainer of the NFL's Jacksonville Jaguars has been a recipient of the NFL Trainers Association's most prestigious award; he's been elected chairman or president of several key committees at the pinnacle of his profession; and he has earned a Super Bowl ring.

As if that's not enough, Ryan has competed in marathons and triathlons all over the world; he even has finished the exhausting Empire State Building Run-Up four times. And just for good measure, he has also run with the bulls in Pamplona.

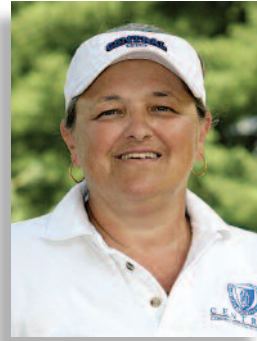
But the indefatigable Ryan wants to accomplish even more – much more.

Ryan credits much of his success to Carl Krein and the training program he founded at CCSU. "Carl is a legend in this field, a Hall of Famer. He is always professional, but always personable and approachable as well. Going to Central gave me the opportunity to work in the athletic training room from day one, which I would not have had at a lot of the so-called 'big-time' schools. It gave me a very real competitive edge."

Ryan says Kathy Pirog, Krein's successor, has earned a national reputation in her own right and that he never hesitates to hire or recommend interns from CCSU. "You know they're going to work hard and work well," he says.

As for his own future, Ryan would like to add to the Super Bowl ring he has already won as an assistant with the New York Giants. "I'd love to win one as the head trainer for Jacksonville," he says. He'd also like to serve as a trainer for the U.S. Olympic team one day, just as Krein did. A distance running standout at CCSU, Ryan continues to follow the fortunes of the Blue Devils and has frequent contact with at least two former Central stars; Dave Campo '73 is the Jaguars assistant head coach, and PGA executive Donna Fiedorowicz '80 lives just down the street from Ryan and his family.

## Cloud 'Reigns'



Paula (Morris) Cloud '74

It didn't take CCSU women's golf coach Paula (Morris) Cloud long to make an impression upon her Northeast Conference colleagues. Cloud guided the Blue Devils to a second place finish at the NEC Championship in Hershey, Penn., and was named conference Coach of the

Year following her first season.

A four-year member of the University's club team and a member and frequent champion at Simsbury Farms, Cloud frequently competes in Southern New England Women's Golf Association events and the Connecticut State Women's Amateur tournament.

Paula's son, Kevin, a golf professional in Virginia, and his wife recently blessed Paula and her husband, David, with their first grandchild, Brady. Paula and David have two other sons and reside in Simsbury.

## Piper to Coach Women's Hoop



Beryl Piper '87

Hard at work recruiting, hiring a staff and planning for a fast-paced future, which begins with the start of practice in mid-October, Beryl Piper brings a stellar resume and a deep, emotional commitment to her new job, head coach of women's basketball at her alma mater.

Before taking the reigns of the CCSU program, Piper built New Britain High School into a perennial power, winning three state championships, including the last two in a row while compiling a 289-151 record.

"This was the perfect time for me to make this transition. Central Connecticut gave me a chance to be a player and now is giving me a chance as a coach," said Piper. "I feel I worked hard to become successful as a player. As a coach, I will use the same work ethic to make the University and community proud of the women's basketball program."

**61** Dr. **Marcia (Zawilinski) Giza** retired from the Berks County Intermediate Unit in Reading, PA, where she was responsible for the curriculum, staff development, Head Start and child care for 18 school districts, as well as administrator of Reading First under No Child Left Behind for Pennsylvania. Marcia and husband, Don, reside in Palm Harbor, FL.

**64** Retired middle school principal **Marilyn (Veneziano) Feldman MS '82** and her husband, Gerald, sold their home on Cape Cod, put their belongings in storage and traveled as full-time RVers for three years, settling in Melbourne, FL in 2004.

**66** **Merry (Sheldon) Lewis MS '70** is the reading room librarian at her church and, having served as state president, is active in the Kappa Gamma Society International.

**67** Educator **Eve (Nussbaum) Soumerai MS '73**, who was evacuated from Germany as a refugee from Nazi oppression, was the subject of a profile in *Hartford* magazine. She spoke of using her experience with intolerance and hate to create Tributes, a history and drama educational program for children of all ages and backgrounds that has been used in Connecticut schools for the past 36 years. It dramatizes the importance of tolerance and the consequences of indifference and promotes development of, what she refers to as, a moral compass.

**68** **Carol (Clini) Aloï** is principal of Flood Middle School in Stratford. Attorney **C. Wayne Heasley** is a former district court judge for Mecklenburg County, NC and founder of C. Wayne Heasley Lawyers in Charlotte, NC where he and his wife of 41 years, Sarah Hall Heasley, reside. Dr. **Faye A. Hughes** retired after 35-plus years in Hartford schools, the last 13 teaching advanced placement and honors social science, as well as college-level courses for the University of Hartford in U.S. history and western/world civilizations, at Weaver High School. Since retiring she completed a doctorate of arts in history and is currently adjunct faculty in history and English at CCSU and Norwalk Community College.

**69** "**CJ**" **Charles Jones Jr. MS '72**, director of athletics at CCSU, was honored with the 2007 Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference



Some 35 years after graduating together as physical education majors in 1972, (l-r) **Ann (Humphrey) Malafronte**, unified sports director at CIAC, **Barbara Startup**, athletic director at Glastonbury High School, **Tina (Mazurski) Yenknner**, adapted physical education teacher for Glastonbury schools, and **Rita (Hickey) Ford**, sports program director for Special Olympics, Eastern Region in Connecticut, all came together on April 28, 2007 to coordinate an Elementary Unified Sports Day in Glastonbury for 164 area special athletes and partners.

(CIAC) Boys' Basketball Special Service Award at the 85th Annual Boys' Basketball Tournament Dedication in March.

**71** **Joseph J. Wisniewski MS '76** retired and relocated to Aiken, SC after 36 years of teaching mathematics, the last 25 in North Branford, as well as coaching golf and cross country at North Branford and Lyman Hall (Wallingford) High Schools.

**72** **Margaret C. Beecher (MS)**, principal of West Hartford's Bugbee Elementary School, received an Outstanding School Administrator Award from UConn's Neag School of Education Alumni Society.

**73** **Edward J. Baird** is business development manager at Carter-McLeod Paper and Packaging in West Springfield, MA. Dr. **Stephen W. Hoag**, veteran educator, is currently supervisor of marketing education and coordinator of career and technical education assessment for the State of Connecticut Department of Education. Former Cromwell High School athletic director

**Michael A. Pitruzzello MS '78** is the new athletic and activities director for Middletown Public Schools, responsible for supervision of the high school and middle school athletic program, the physical education department for K-12, and all student clubs and activities system wide. Mike has taught and coached for 34 years in the Cromwell school system. He and his wife, **Monica (Kasprzak) Pitruzzello '72**, live in Cromwell. **James E. Stofan (MS)** was appointed assistant vice president for alumni affairs and protocol at the University of California office of the president in Oakland, CA.



**Patrick K. Davin '79** was named vice president and general manager at Pass & Seymour/Legrand, a leading provider of electrical wiring devices and home systems, in Syracuse, NY.

## Marriages

**Kellyann Chester '89 & Richard R. Ouellette Jr. 6/30/07**

**Sharon Grubb '01 & Michael Vickers 6/9/07**

**74** **Mary J. Balyeat** teaches 7th grade social studies at Carson Middle School in Tucson, AZ. She is currently lead site teacher working with the Teaching American History three-year grant. **Peter A. Molinaro** is vice president for federal and state government affairs for Dow Chemical Company in Washington, D.C.

**76** **Charles Karno** (MS) is the new town planner for Winchester, having served previously as director of development for East Hartford, economic development director for Berlin, and economic development coordinator for Groton. Dr. **Raymond R. McCarthy 'MS 02**, technology education teacher at Williams Middle School in Longmeadow, MA, delivered two presentations of his research on women in technology education at the 69th Annual International Technology Education Association Convention in San Antonio, TX. Ray and his wife, **Fran Ploof '76**, live in Brimfield, MA.

**77** **David R. Woike** is general manager of Techalloy Welding Products in Baltimore, MD.

**79** U.S. Marines Col. **Stephen R. Cote** is a senior military analyst for Northrop Grumman Corporation. He and his wife, **Lori (Matthews) '78** live in Virginia Beach, VA. A 28-year career educator, **Patricia S. Peck** is currently an elementary physical education teacher for the school district of Palm Beach County in West Palm Beach, FL. **Robert J. Virgalla** is manager of sales and business development, TALON and Cee Products, for Brewer Science Inc.

**82** **Janet (Schneider) Bacon** is a forensic fraud examiner for the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services. **Kathryn A. Josefow** is a physician assistant, occupational medicine at St. Luke's Medical Center in Meridian, ID.

**83** **Ronald C. Roy** is partner/founder of Digit Play LLC, a company specializing in mobile/wireless technologies and camera-based gestural software in St. Louis, MO. Previously he partnered for several years with rock icon David Bowie in UltraStar, blazing trails for online fan clubs, e-ticketing and e-commerce for music clients such as the Rolling Stones and 20 major league franchises in sports including the New York Yankees. He and his wife and four children live in Chesterfield, MO.

## New Arrivals (Births/Adoptions)

**Aneta & Glenn D. Piasecki '92, MS '97**: a son, Adam John  
**Johanna & Anthony A. Cane '93**: a son, Joseph Antonino  
**Kerri (Bousquet) '97 & Mark J. Lopa '96**: twins, Samuel and Amelia  
**Lori (Petrini) '96 & Christopher Maslowski '96**: a daughter, Caitlyn Irena  
**Mary & Robert A. Donston '01**: a son, Shane Patrick  
**Christine (Distasio) '02 & Jeffrey Wiesner Jr.**: a daughter, Gabriella Makenzie



**Nicholas C. Misenti '80** Esq., CPA joined the law firm of Clayman, Tapper & Baram LLC in Bloomfield, and specializes in trusts and estates, business planning, tax planning and related litigation. Attorney Misenti is also a tenured professor of accounting and business law at Capital Community College in Hartford, an adjunct lecturer in business law at the University of Connecticut, and a fellow in the 2007 Yale faculty fellowships program. He is the author of *Safe Harbors: An Asset Protection Guide for Small Business Owners*.

**86** **Michael J. Foran MS '90, 6th Yr '92**, a 20-year veteran of New Britain schools, starting as a social studies teacher at Slade Elementary School, was chosen as the new principal of New Britain High School. **Michael R. Garvey**, CPA, managing member of Garvey & Associates LLC and Professional Payrolls LLC located in Mystic, was appointed to the board of directors of SI Financial Group Inc. and to the boards of directors of SI Bancorp, MHC and Savings Institute Bank & Trust Company. **Marc A. Palazzo** is vice president for public affairs for Flint Hills Resources, a wholly-owned sub-

sidiary of Koch Industries Inc. and leading producer of fuels and other petrochemical and commodity products, located in Wichita, KS. He leads the company's public and government relations, corporate communications, philanthropy and community involvement.

**87** Longtime Connecticut radio personality **Michael J. "Mike" Stacy** was re-elected to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Greater Connecticut Chapter, board of trustees. Mike has been with Lite 100.5 WRCH FM in Farmington for more than 15 years, serving as the station's morning show host and promotions director. He and his wife, **Carol (Weldon) '87**, and their two sons live in Rocky Hill.

**90** **Elizabeth A. Crooks MS '97** was named associate principal of New Britain High School. **William H. Kirkby** is an administrator of the Achievement Reinforcement Center for Santa Ana Unified School District in Santa Ana, CA. **John J. Tedone** was promoted to vice president-finance at Kaman Corporation in Bloomfield. He serves as the company's principal accounting officer and oversees the corporate accounting functions, including internal and external reporting forecasting, budgeting and compliance.

**92** **John F. Cridland** is the co-founder and general manager of Island Cleaners in George Town, Grand Cayman, where he lives with spouse, **Corina (Zocco) '93**, and their three children.

**94** **Erik M. Jones MS '97** is a vocational rehabilitation counselor for the State of Connecticut Board of Education and Services for the Blind in Windsor. **Amy E. McCluskey** is a senior graphic designer for ESPN in Bristol. **Byron B. Smith** is a detective for the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office in West Palm Beach, FL.

**95 Kimberly C. Forster** began a new position as outpatient sales representative at Gaylord Hospital in Wallingford where she has been employed since 1998, most recently as a public relations specialist.

**Alfred F. Struna** is employed by Hachette Filipacchi Media U.S. as creative services director for *Flying* magazine.

**96 Monica (Pirog) Kreuzer**, a biology teacher at Watertown High School for 10 years, was honored with the Connecticut Outstanding Biology Teacher Award for 2007 by the Connecticut Association of Biology Teachers. **Luciana Rabay MBA '99** and **Gareth L. Butcher MBA '99** are married and have a 3-year old son, Lucas, and have been living in Brazil since November 2003. They manage their own company, Brazilliant, which offers consulting in international business, international export expertise, and counseling and assistance for students seeking work/study, student athlete scholarships, and other types of international student experiences.

**97 Christine M. Wojdyla** is a communications professional in investor relations for Entrepreneur Partners in Philadelphia, PA.

**98 Camilla Urbano** is a relocation coordinator for Calcagni Associates Real Estate in Cheshire.

**99 Allison (Rolls) Delaney** is a mathematics teacher and coach for Montville Public Schools.

**01 John R. Stewart** received a masters degree in elementary education at the University of Bridgeport. Atty. **Mindy S. Tompkins** is an associate in the law firm of Reid & Riege P.C. in Hartford, specializing in the area of health care. **Christopher J. Tremblay** is a federal agent with the U.S. Border Patrol, Tucson Sector Special Response Team, in Tucson, AZ.

**02 Christine (Distasio) Wiesner** is an outside sales representative for Ganz USA in New York.

**03 Jennifer S. King (MS)** is a foreign affairs officer for the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL), U.S. State Department. Previously she was an Arabic translator for the United States Navy.

**04 Emily A. Doran** is an executive in sales and marketing for the Monaco Government Tourist Office in New York City. **Kelly J. McDermott** is a grants writer for the City of Bridgeport. Officer **Alex B. Rodriguez** recently joined the Middletown police force.

**05 Jessica L. Aliff (MS)** teaches first grade for Bristol Public Schools. **Jennifer L. Brochu** is assistant vice



**David L. Kinder '78** is CFO and senior vice president for S.H. Smith and Company Inc., an independently owned excess and surplus insurance brokerage in West Hartford, and the proud father of new CCSU graduate **Renee M. Kinder**, who earned a BS degree in management, with a concentration in human resources, in May '07.

president and credit officer at Connecticut River Community Bank in Wethersfield. **Michelle T. Pratt** is health and wellness director for the Wallingford Family YMCA.

**06 Lauren A. Jensen** is sales coordinator at Barker Specialty Company in Cheshire.

## In Memoriam

<b>1931</b> Mary Chanda Zetarski 5/8/07	<b>1953</b> Joseph W. Tarrant 1/5/07	<b>1967</b> George P. Spring Jr. 6/14/07 Evelyn Zettervall McCurry 6/29/07	<b>1978</b> Judith Ransom Frauenglass 4/15/07 Eileen M. Loehfelm 7/6/07
<b>1932</b> Esther Epstein Rosenbaum 4/6/07	<b>1956</b> Jean Frangione Hiltbold 4/28/07	<b>1968</b> James W. Bates 6/11/07 Lillian Sargis Pera 5/1/07	<b>1980</b> Eileen M. Tateo-Beebe 5/27/07 Susan Whitney Westerman 4/16/07
<b>1934</b> Alice M. Ledger 5/8/07	<b>1957</b> Mary Jane Costa O'Hara 8/23/04	<b>1969</b> George A. Breault 3/22/07 Jean Norris Linton 5/9/07	<b>1981</b> Bruce W. Bartlett 6/17/03
<b>1937</b> Alphonse E. Anthony 4/15/07 Claribel Durfee Rendos 4/13/05	<b>1958</b> Warren O. Johnson 6/8/07	<b>1970</b> Bradford A. Ames 4/1/07 Regina Haddad Nero 6/11/07	<b>1982</b> Robert L. Caron 6/22/07 Sue-Ellen Murphy Lyons 6/8/07
<b>1941</b> Carolyn Hines Holt 6/13/06 Elizabeth Slack Ikehara 2/24/07 Dorothy Welch Korn 2/12/07	<b>1959</b> Veronica Thomas Taylor 5/2/07 Regina Walter Woods 4/22/07	<b>1974</b> Raymond P. Greene Jr. 3/13/07	<b>1983</b> Jane E. Jones 6/25/07
<b>1942</b> Evelyn A. Cooke 3/29/07	<b>1964</b> Elaine Conrad Burkarth 6/14/07 Anthony Mazuroski 8/14/04	<b>1975</b> Thomas N. Procko 5/14/07 Katherine Williams Rudolph 7/7/07 Cheryl Cook Wotring 6/5/07	<b>1984</b> Robert P. Vaughan 5/13/07
<b>1943</b> Justus S. "J.B." Beach 8/10/07	<b>1965</b> Mary Jane Cromwell 3/18/07 Robert Rinas 4/20/07	<b>1976</b> Christine Marselli Larosa 6/15/07	<b>1989</b> Anne "Nancy" Crane Cianci 6/1/07
<b>1950</b> Louis J. Bibisi 5/25/07 James MacFarlane 5/6/07			<b>1992</b> Marshall A. Kendrick 4/22/07
			<b>1996</b> Teresa C. Chin 3/25/07

# Upcoming Events

## Homecoming Weekend

**Friday, October 12, 2007**

### CCSU Blue Devils Touchdown Club Golf Classic

Stanley Golf Course – **12:00 noon** Shotgun Start  
Cost: \$110 per person includes greens fees,  
lunch, shared golf cart and buffet dinner

**Women's Soccer** – CCSU vs St. Francis (PA)  
**3:00 pm** – Arute Field

**Saturday, October 13, 2007**

### 2007 CCSU Homecoming 5K Fun Run

**8:30 am** registration – **9:30 am** start – Stanley Quarter Park  
Pre-registration form online at  
[http://www.ccsu.edu/Alumni/PDF/2007\\_Homecoming\\_Fun\\_Run.pdf](http://www.ccsu.edu/Alumni/PDF/2007_Homecoming_Fun_Run.pdf)

**Alumni Reunions** – Marching Band, Residence Life Staff,  
School of Business, WFCS Radio  
*Contact the Alumni Office for details*

**Pregame Activities** – **11:00 am** – Kaiser Parking Lot  
Family activities – Giant slide, sand art,  
photo key chains and more

**Barbeque** – \$5.00 per person  
*Contact the Alumni Office for reservations*

**Football Game** – CCSU vs Robert Morris  
**1:00 pm** – Arute Field

**Halftime** – Arute Field – Alumni Tent  
Complimentary lemonade and giveaways

**Postgame Party** – Immediately following the game  
Student Center – Semesters (old Pub area)

**New Britain Museum of American Art**  
Complimentary admission for alumni  
The featured exhibition is  
Contemporary Combustion: Chinese-American Artists

**phone:** (860) 832-1740

**e-mail:** [alumnidept@ccsu.edu](mailto:alumnidept@ccsu.edu)

**website:** [www.ccsu.edu/alumni](http://www.ccsu.edu/alumni)

### CCSU Alumni Day Trip to Boston

**Saturday, September 29, 2007**

CCSU faculty-led tour of  
John F. Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum  
Afternoon at Quincy Market  
Optional walking tour of historic Boston

### Graduate Studies Open House

**Thursday, October 4, 2007**

**4:00 – 7:00 pm**

Alumni Hall, Student Center, CCSU campus

### Gridiron Update Lunch

with football head coach Jeff McInerney

**Wednesday, October 24, 2007**

**12:00 noon**

Angelico's Café  
New Britain

### New Haven-Area Networking Happy Hour

**Thursday, November 8, 2007**

**5:30 pm**

Location TBA

### Hoop Group Lunch Series

with men's basketball head coach Howie Dickenman

**Tuesday, November 6**

**Tuesday, December 4**

**Tuesday, January 15**

**Tuesday, February 12**

**Tuesday, March – TBA**

**12:00 noon**

Angelico's Café  
New Britain

### Basketball Game Half time Receptions

**Saturday, November 17** – Men vs New Hampshire – TBA

**Saturday, December 1** – "Brenda Reilly Day"

Women vs UW-Milwaukee – **12:00 noon**

Men vs Lehigh – **2:00 pm**

**Saturday, December 8** – Men vs Mount St. Mary's – TBA

**Sunday, December 16** – Men vs Delaware – **1:00 pm**

Kaiser Hall

## Information / Reservations

Contact the Office of Alumni Affairs

**phone:** (860) 832-1740

**e-mail:** [alumnidept@ccsu.edu](mailto:alumnidept@ccsu.edu)

**website:** [www.ccsu.edu/alumni](http://www.ccsu.edu/alumni)

*Check our website and E-News, the alumni association  
monthly electronic newsletter, for the latest event updates.  
To receive E-News contact the alumni office.*



## CCSU Alumni and Friends Florida Reunion

**Sunday, February 24, 2008**

Fort Myers, FL

# Jessica Cabanillas '97, MS '07

**Voyager, Yankees Fan, Donor**



**J**essica Cabanillas' Peruvian heritage dictates that family means everything. So it's no wonder that upon accepting a position on the University's staff, she adopted the CCSU family as her own, as well.

"Central has always been kind of a second home to me," says Jessica, an associate in the University's Office of Multicultural Affairs, which coordinates the University's efforts to promote, develop and support a culturally diverse community.

Jessica came to Central out of Lewis Mills High School in Burlington partly because she wanted to stay close to her parents, who emigrated from Peru in their teens. With her father assigned at the time to a position with General Motors in Maryland, Jessica preferred to remain home with mom and commute to college.

As a student, Jessica worked part-time in the Human Resources Department and was offered a full-time position in the department upon graduation.

"It was great because I had the experience and we had a great team," says Jessica, who left CCSU after about three years to try her hand at corporate life, only to return in 2002. "Central is such a great place to work; it has so many wonderful things to offer that I had to come back."

Those great things include, says Jessica, her work to promote cultural diversity on campus and to assist current students – those in her "extended" family – in any way she can.


"I always have my door open, so if the occasional student happens by, I can offer help," says Jessica, whose sister, Natalie (Cabanillas) Ford '94, also works on campus in the University's Learning Center. "I like being on campus with students who are just trying to realize their dreams, who may not know where to turn for help."

Jessica's dream as a supporter of the University's endowed scholarship fund is to help other CCSU students benefit from the kind of education she was privileged to enjoy. One of her defining experiences as an international business student was a study abroad trip to Italy, which she says "opened my eyes to the rest of the world."

"From that point on I promised myself that every year, I would visit someplace I've never been before."

Jessica's voyages have included trips to countries such as her family's native Peru, Japan and Iceland. But domestic travel can also be special, she laughs – especially her annual excursions to Tampa, Fla., each spring to see her beloved New York Yankees.

But there is more than enough room in Jessica's heart for CCSU, too.

"I appreciate the quality of instruction I had at Central," she says. "So much of what I learned here can be applied to everyday life. So when I contribute, it's my hope that in some small way I'm making it a little easier for someone else." 



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