



CENTRAL *focus*

Fall 2011

the magazine for alumni & friends of central connecticut state university

Numbers with Consequences • Weird Science • The Ideal Candidate

P R E S I D E N T ' S C O R N E R



During these times of change and financial uncertainty, I want to assure our alumni and friends that Central is operating from a position of real strength and accomplishment. In addition to the many external recognitions that we've reported in the past, the University continues to be very highly regarded. To take just three examples, Princeton Review has now twice selected CCSU as a "Green Institution" for our commitment to sustainability, and we are one of only 346 colleges in the nation to be so honored. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has selected the University as a Community Engagement Institution for our efforts in reaching out and embracing our communities; only 114 other institutions in the nation have been selected for this special recognition. And President Obama's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll included CCSU among its 200 honorees.

As reported elsewhere in this issue, our fundraising efforts have been very successful. The University's endowment ended the 2011 fiscal year at an all-time high of \$33.4 million. We are honored in particular by Carol A. Ammon '73, the late Anthony and Helen Bichum, and Dr. Mong Koo Chung of Hyundai Motor America. Their extraordinary generosity demonstrates great faith in Central as an institution.

A recent Report Card on our progress toward the goals established for our strategic plan showed remarkable gains in nearly half of the goals and really solid advances on all but a handful. Standing out — an A+, in fact — is the increase in the amount of financial aid we have awarded students: from a starting point in 2006 of \$54,700,000, we awarded \$88,000,000 last fiscal year. Other significant advances include our development of academic programs responsive to workforce needs, our efforts at improving student retention, and our graduation rate—particularly for our transfer students (see Report Card at www.ccsu.edu/strategicplan for details on these and other elements).

Finally, thanks in large part to the efforts of Governor Dannel P. Malloy, we broke ground for a new academic building, a critical need here for more than a decade. This building will not only provide much-needed classroom space for students, it will also, upon completion, enable us to begin the long deferred renovation and expansion of Diloreto and Willard academic buildings.

As you will read, several articles in this issue deal with numbers. As I have often said, the numbers we use to describe, for example, the cost of a new building, the improvement in our graduation rate, or the increase in our financial aid are more than mere numbers or data: they stand for the real students whose educational lives we have enhanced and whose prospects for success we have strengthened.

So we confidently face the changes and challenges the future brings, never losing sight that what we do is all for our students.

Jack Miller

A handwritten signature of Jack Miller in blue ink.

President

in focus

Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters from our readers on topics in the *focus* or on other matters concerning your University. Letters may be edited for space and clarity. Anonymous letters will not be published. We encourage letters of 300 words or fewer.

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Advertising

To help defray the costs of publication, we invite Central alumni and friends to advertise in our issues. The *focus* has a circulation of more than 50,000 and an estimated readership of 80,000. Please send inquiries to: ads@CCSU.edu.



By the numbers. The image on the cover focuses on part of the sculpture "Circulating Capital" by artist Jim Sanborn, located on campus just outside the Robert C. Vance Academic Center. Since several of the articles in this issue deal with numbers — from the truth-or-consequences math of accounting to the weird science of cosmology and a few points in between — the image provides a visual analog of their theme. For the artist Sanborn, the binary numbers on his sculpture provides the digital analog to Adam Smith's passage on "circulating capital" in *The Wealth of Nations*.

CENTRALfocus



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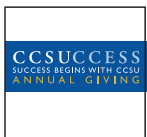
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RICHARD KRETZ '75

Kostin, Ruffkess & Company RICH IN TALENT

When Benjamin S. Kostin was discharged from the Army, in 1946, he returned to his hometown, Hartford, and soon found work in the accounting practice of Harry K. Schwartz. It was a small shop at the time, just three people. But in the wake of the war and the yawning Depression that preceded it, the nation's and the state's economies were poised to grow. And Schwartz' small company was destined to grow, as well.

As Schwartz and Kostin prospered and, through successive transformations over seven decades, became what is now known as Kostin, Ruffkess & Company LLC, the company grew to its current position as 131st among the approximately 42,000 accounting firms nationwide.

GROWTH BY DIVERSIFICATION

Managing partner Richard Kretz '75 notes that the growing diversification of the firm's clientele and its ability to nimbly respond to myriad needs with an ever-expanding spectrum of services has been crucial to the company's long history of success. Kretz, who joined the firm shortly after graduation from Central, is also emblematic of the firm's strong and productive ties to the

University, which offers a rich source of talent adept in multiple and emerging fields. It's a critical need for the highly entrepreneurial business.

"A lot of our work still has to do with tax and audit functions," says Kretz, "but our partner group has a very entrepreneurial spirit. We actively look for new opportunities to provide services our clients need, and we've made many strategic acquisitions in order to ensure we can provide those services."

Under Kretz' leadership, for instance, the company expanded beyond the Hartford area in the 1990s, employing a merger with Gottesdiener and Company, a New London firm, to open a satellite office in southeastern Connecticut. And when the company's clients continually requested referrals to wealth management advisors, it opened KR Wealth Management, LLC. KR Wealth Management advisors have the distinct advantage of leveraging the strategic tax planning, estate planning, business planning and succession planning resources of one of the region's largest CPA and business advisory firms. Kostin, Ruffkess had invested heavily in computer technology during the early 1990s, introducing a wide area

network in 1995 to link its West Hartford and New London offices.

In 2005, the acquisition of Themistos & Dane enabled the firm to open a second satellite office, in Springfield, Massachusetts. And only a year ago, the firm acquired ADNET Technologies, a 20-year-old Farmington company that helps businesses develop and implement innovative information technologies that impact investment returns.

"We found our clients were asking more and more for referrals to IT companies," says Kretz, "so we saw an opportunity to expand in that direction."

Such acquisitions, as well as development of new skill sets through strategic talent recruitment, have enabled Kostin, Ruffkess, now headquartered in Farmington, to define itself as much more than a traditional accounting, auditing and tax services company. In addition to information technology, the broad palette of services that distinguish the company includes management advisory services, security and compliance, fraud prevention and forensic accounting, wealth management and financial planning, business valuation and litigation support, and human capital consulting.



QUALIFIED TALENT

Offering a comprehensive array of services to a highly diverse clientele has also meant that the firm, which now has some 120 employees, is constantly looking for new talent. One of the ways it recruits junior employees is by maintaining a solid relationship with schools like Central, where the firm's partners often make presentations about various aspects of the accounting profession and participate in job fairs. Those activities afford the partners and students opportunities to meet and size each other up.

While the firm recruits from all of Connecticut's colleges and universities, it has had a special relationship with CCSU for years. Kretz nurtured the connection with his alma mater almost from the moment he joined the firm, after working first for an accounting firm in Hartford and then for a manufacturing company. One of his first assignments at Kostin was recruitment.

"We've always included Central among the mix of schools from which we recruit," he says. "I was well aware of the quality of students at Central and the kind of education they get. Unlike many schools, where a lot of students

come from outside Connecticut and eventually decide to leave the state, our experience has been that a high percentage of CCSU students are from the central Connecticut area and they have strong roots here. They want to stay in the area and build their careers here."

Fully a third of Kostin's partners are CCSU alumni. No other single university is so well represented in the background of the firm's partners.

Brian Newman '85, partner in charge of the tax department at Kostin, Ruffkess, concurs with Kretz. "We're always looking for qualified talent," he says. "One of the attractive features of Central is the fact that many members of the accounting faculty have worked in the industry. That means students graduating from the program have already had solid exposure to real world situations. Many of them widely seek out internships."

John Turgeon, a partner who serves in a human resources role for the firm, routinely visits CCSU to talk with accounting students about employment-related issues — such as personal branding and the interview process — and participates

"I was well aware of the quality of students at Central and the kind of education they get"

in career fairs at Central and other area schools to recruit new employees for the firm.

"We look for strong academic records," Turgeon says, "but we're also interested in a balance with extracurricular activities that demonstrate communication, leadership and teamwork skills. Kostin, Ruffkess is a dynamic company, growing in many different directions. We aim to recruit bright young people who've clearly demonstrated an aptitude for the accounting process, people who can become productive quickly and grow with the firm. We find a lot of them at Central Connecticut State University."

Accounting: Numbers with Consequences

Associate Professor of Accounting Cheryl Crespi hardly fits the stereotype of dull bean counter, but she concedes it's a tenacious one. "People often think of accountants, especially tax accountants, as immersed in the dry and arcane," she says, shaking her shock of blond hair. "Even Albert Einstein said, 'The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax.'" You see what I'm up against to make my teaching engaging."

It helps that Crespi brings impressive credentials to the task. She graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Law and was admitted to the bar in 2004. She also holds a Masters of Business Administration in accounting from UConn. Plus, she is a certified public accountant and a certified internal auditor, and worked as a plan controller at Aetna Inc. and was executive in residence at the University of Hartford's Barney School of Business before joining CCSU in 2005.

A Variety of Teaching Techniques

Using a "guided-discovery" approach to teaching, Crespi helps students negotiate the complexity of the Internal Revenue Code. Through a logical sequencing of research, students learn how the code is written and can be understood. Then she challenges them: "Could you have written code sections better?" She

adds with a touch of humor, "You'll be given the opportunity to do so in an end-of-semester assignment."

Crespi also employs podcasting as a teaching tool. She explains, "Students take their study notes from class and make an electronic file so they can plug in their ear buds and listen to music interspersed with two minutes of their study notes about financial accounting concepts as they jog or bike or walk." Further, she says podcasts have become a popular way for many public accounting firms to keep their clients informed.

"My students are researching current tax news, turning it into a newsletter and developing it as a podcast to use with potential clients," she says. "These are skills that will make them desirable employees."

Learning accounting can be intimidating so Crespi starts with basics. "I particularly liked how she gave real-world examples, such as a pizza restaurant or candy shop, which helped me grasp more complicated accounting ideas," says sophomore Ethan Markie, a construction management major. "Doing the financial statement analysis project was interesting, because it taught us how to decide which companies to invest in by looking at actual companies and their financial reports for 2010."

Positioning Graduates for the Workplace: Doing Well by Doing Good

Crespi encourages her students to volunteer as tax preparers, putting into practice what they've learned and thereby helping some of Connecticut's lower income families.

Volunteerism at CCSU got a boost from Dan Krah '09, finance, who as an undergraduate first arranged for the community action agency Co-Opportunity, Inc. to come on campus to provide student training in CCSU's inaugural partnership with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Today Krah's an experienced associate with the prestigious "Big 4" public accounting firm, PricewaterhouseCoopers.

"I loved volunteering, because I learned more about tax preparation and that helped me prepare for the CPA exam which I passed right after graduation," he says. "My volunteer experience was a great talking point during job interviews."

Building upon the relationship with Co-Opportunity, Crespi and Associate Professor of Accounting Monique Durant have coordinated training opportunities on campus with Co-opportunity, the Human Resource Agency (HRA) of New Britain, and the IRS. Crespi says, "This way our students can become certified by the IRS, which allows them to e-file for

individuals and families meeting income levels of \$50,000 and below,” she notes.

For the 2010 tax season, approximately 60 CCSU students participated in VITA training, and they operated two CCSU VITA locations, one on campus and one at Community Central in downtown New Britain.

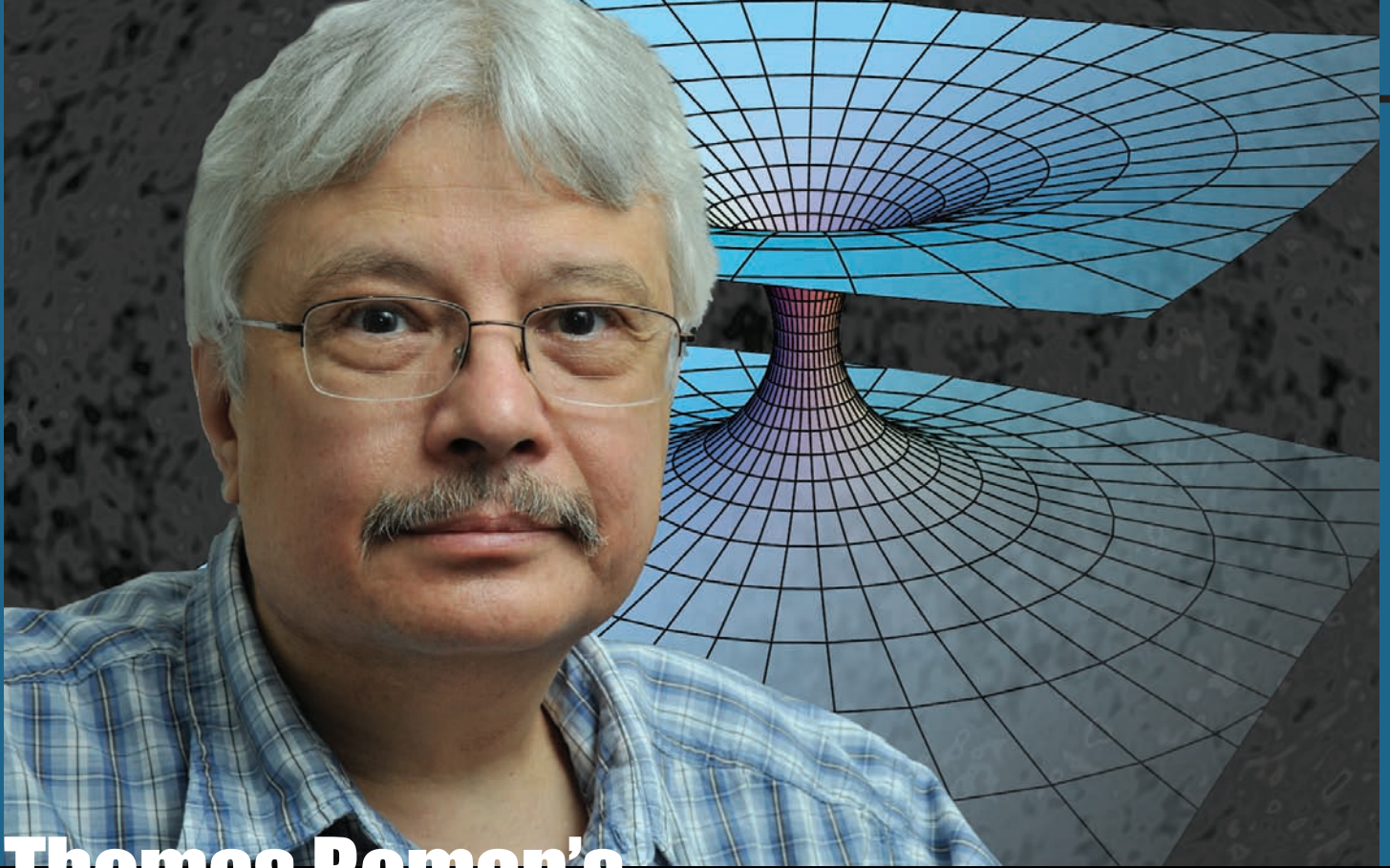
Recent graduate Christine Albrycht '11 was a standout accounting major and volunteer tax preparer. For her proficiency as the volunteer site coordinator of CCSU VITA, which she helped set up in its first year, she was offered a paid position by Co-Opportunity to be the site coordinator at two other locations for the tax season.

“I think my volunteer work proved that I can work with many different people from different backgrounds,” says Albrycht. “I also understand the laws and when in doubt I know how to find the answers. This experience cemented my aspiration to obtain my CPA license.”

Crespi is delighted to watch her students gain confidence. “Taxes are always changing—time frames and provisions may be added or repealed,” she reflects, “but I want my students to know how to interpret tax code, do their own research to solve questions that arise, and acquire tools to use that are mandatory in the accounting and tax accounting professions.” Beyond the students’ learning, the program has had an ongoing impact on Connecticut residents.

Albrycht considers her professor’s teaching style, recalling the Corporate Tax course. “You can tell she is excited about the subject, wants her students to learn and really cares,” Albrycht says. “Once she showed a YouTube video featuring Donny Osmond and his brothers singing ‘One Bad Apple’ to drive home the point that one bad liability does spoil many liabilities transferred to a corporation. I can imagine a class full of students humming that song while taking the final exam in order to keep that law straight.”





Thomas Roman's

by Geri Radacsi

Weird Science — Negative Energy, Time Travel, & Warp Drives

Professor of Physics Thomas Roman's research brings to mind the stuff of *Star Trek*. He talks, for instance, about a region of space containing less than nothing. The implications, Roman admits, are bizarre.

How bizarre? "When negative energy or mass—so-called exotic matter—bends space-time, all sorts of amazing phenomena might become possible," he wrote in an article co-authored with Lawrence H. Ford of Tufts University titled "Negative Energy, Wormholes and Warp Drive" (*Scientific American*, 2000).

And just what might those phenomena be? The authors point out: "There could be traversable wormholes, which could act as tunnels to otherwise distant parts of the universe." Or a warp drive—that propulsion system so useful in *Star Trek* travel to distant galaxies—would allow for faster-than-light travel. And there could be time machines, which might permit journeys into the past. Just imagine a sci-fi plot in which you kill your own grandfather! Negative energy could even be used to make perpetual-motion machines or to destroy black holes.

Are such things possible? Do the laws of physics that permit negative energy place any limits on its behavior? For some 20-25 years, Ford, Roman, and their colleague Christopher Fewster of the University of York, UK, have been lead researchers exploring this area. They have co-authored more than a score of substantive articles published in notable scientific journals dealing with their research.

Four National Science Foundation Grants

A faculty member in the Mathematical Sciences Department, Roman, who joined CCSU in 1985, earned his PhD from Syracuse University where his advisor was Peter Bergmann, who collaborated with Albert

Einstein on unified field theory. Roman's research touches upon three important areas of physics: quantum field theory, Einstein's theory of gravity (general relativity), and thermodynamics.

Since 2000 he has been awarded four National Science Foundation (NSF) grants. The most recent, awarded in August 2010, provided \$135,000 to support his ongoing research on negative energy and relativity. "NSF grants, even for modest amounts, in the field of general relativity are highly competitive and extremely difficult to obtain," observes Roman.

Upcoming Book on Time Travel and Warp Drives

This fall a book by Roman, co-authored with Allen Everett (Tufts emeritus), titled *Time Travel and Warp Drives: A Scientific Guide to Shortcuts Through Time and Space* will be published by the University of Chicago Press. Everett and Roman are affiliates of the Tufts Institute of Cosmology.

A clear, concise exploration of the nature of time and space, the book employs no math beyond high school algebra and explains, in understandable language, Einstein's special relativity theory. It considers fundamental differences between traveling forward and backward in time and the theoretical connection between going back in time and traveling faster than the speed of light.

David Toomey, an English professor who teaches technical and nonfiction writing at the University of Massachusetts–Amherst and who is author of *The New Time Travelers: A Journey to the Frontiers of Physics*, describes the book as "a deeply informed, richly detailed yet immensely readable account of science at the frontiers."

Roman reports happily that Tim Ouellette, a former CCSU student in his upper-level Time Travel course who has since graduated and works for Sonalysts in Waterford, CT “has turned the crude drawings for our book into professional artwork.”

Grappling with Mind-Bending Ideas

Wondering about the possibility to travel through time or take a shortcut between stars, Roman grapples with mind-bending ideas, which may seem like science fiction, but which are based on sophisticated physics.

The concept of negative energy is not the stuff of fantasy. In fact, some effects associated with negative energy have been measured in the laboratory by creating it in tiny amounts: in the Casimir vacuum between two electrically conducting plates; and in the squeezed vacuum that is generated by physicists in quantum optics using nonlinear crystals.

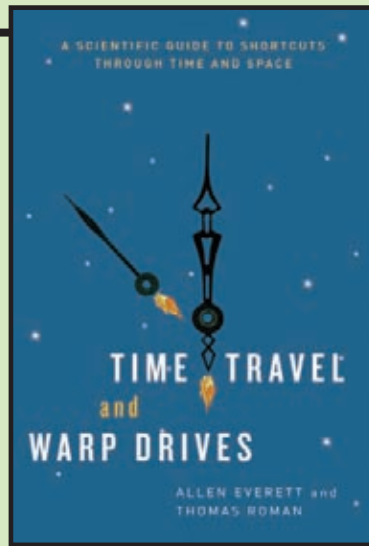
In their negative energy article Roman and Ford asserted that the concept of negative energy arises in several areas of modern physics. Negative energy has an intimate link with the notion of quantum evaporation of black holes, those mysterious objects whose gravitational field is so strong that nothing can escape from within their boundary. It also plays a role in the creation and maintenance of wormholes, hypothesized “tunnels” connecting one region of space and time with another.

“The laws of quantum physics predict the existence of negative energy,” explains Roman, speaking excitedly as he adds, “So if one could use negative energy to construct wormholes or warp drives, time travel might become possible.”

Then he pauses as he encounters the complexities of the issue. “Now things get interesting,” he says. “Questions arise. Does nature put any constraints on the production of negative energy? Could you produce an arbitrarily large amount of it? Although quantum theory allows the existence of negative energy, it also apparently puts strong restrictions—known as quantum inequalities—on its magnitude and duration. As a result, nature appears to render the construction of wormholes and warp drives very unlikely.”

Sadly (or happily depending on your point of view), as of now, no time machines. In order for humans to travel back in time (if allowed at all), we’ll need vastly improved technology and a greater understanding of the laws of quantum gravity. Negative energy interweaves many parts of physics—gravitation, quantum theory, and thermodynamics — illustrating the intricate logical structure of the laws of nature.

But physicists like Roman and his colleagues continue working hard to unlock the laws of physics which govern this type of energy. It remains to be seen what new revelations they wrest from nature’s grip.



Here is an excerpt from Professor Roman’s co-authored book (with Allen Everett), *Time Travel and Warp Drives*, published by the University of Chicago Press.

PARALLEL WORLDS

The second general approach to paradox-free backward time travel makes use of the idea of parallel worlds. According to this idea, there are two different “parallel” worlds, one in which you are born and enter the time machine, and the other in which you emerge from the time machine and kill your grandfather.

There is no logical contradiction in the fact that you simultaneously kill and do not kill your grandfather, because the two mutually exclusive events happen in different worlds that have no knowledge of one another. Like the banana peel mechanism, the idea of parallel worlds is also illustrated in many science fiction works on the theme of time travel. A good example, though one unfortunately out of print at the moment, is the excellent novel *Branch Point* by Mona Clee. Another is *The Time Ships* by Stephen Baxter. This is a sequel to [H. G.] Wells’s *The Time Machine*, and the writing style is deliberately—and quite convincingly—a copy of Wells’s own.

You could hardly be criticized for saying, “I see that such a theory is logically consistent, but surely the idea of parallel worlds is so outlandish that it should be confined to the world of science fiction.” Surprisingly, however, there is an intellectually respectable idea in physics called the “many worlds interpretation of quantum mechanics,” first introduced in a paper in *Reviews of Modern Physics* back in 1957 by Hugh Everett. According to Hugh Everett, there are not only two parallel worlds but infinitely many of them that, moreover, multiply continuously like rabbits.

To understand how this works, we need to talk a little about quantum mechanics. It is a theory that can predict only the probabilities of the various possible outcomes of an experiment. It never tells you with certainty what will happen. The probabilities are obtained from what is called the wave function of the object, and the equations of quantum mechanics (with which we will not have to concern ourselves) determine how an object’s wave function evolves in time in different physical situations.

Everything we know tells us that quantum mechanics is the physical theory that governs the behavior of all systems, large or small. In the case of macroscopic, (i.e., ordinary, everyday-sized objects) quantum mechanics tells us that the objects behave with essentially complete certainty, as they are predicted to do by classical (Newtonian) mechanics. Hence, we can usually forget the complications of quantum theory in dealing with everyday objects and simply use Newton’s laws of motion, which we know empirically work very well for such objects. However, when we deal with atomic- or subatomic-sized objects, we must use quantum mechanics if we wish to get predictions that agree with experimental observation.

From *Time Travel and Warp Drives* by Allen Everett and Thomas Roman, copyright 2012 The University of Chicago.

The Ideal Candidate

How Carmen Espinosa Became the Connecticut Appellate Court's First Hispanic Female Judge

By Jim H. Smith



Carmen Elisa Espinosa '71, sworn in last April by Gov. Dannel P. Malloy as the first Hispanic female judge to serve on Connecticut's Appellate Court, was just three years old when her parents brought their young family to New Britain and took up residence in Franklin Square in 1952. Attracted by the city's then-burgeoning manufacturing plants, her father, who had been a fireman at an army base in Puerto Rico during World War II, quickly landed a job at the Stanley Svea Building Supply.

Espinosa was blessed with parents who, though they had not graduated from high school, had traveled to America because they were determined that their children would have a better life.

Espinosa recalls that when, a few years later, the family moved to West Main Street it meant that "I went to Slade Middle School. That was a turning point. The kids I was hanging out with there were going to college."

Still, she wasn't thinking of a career in law, let alone a career on the bench, when she enrolled at what was then still called Central Connecticut State College. There was no family role model for a legal career. Indeed, prominent Hispanic professionals were rare.

Espinosa was interested in languages and thinking about becoming

"I went to Slade Middle School. That was a turning point. The kids I was hanging out with there were going to college."

a teacher. "I went to Central because I could live at home and work at the Grand Union supermarket," she says, candidly.

Her Central education turned out to be important in ways she did not anticipate. "I was successful there," she says. "That was very important, because there were no college graduates in my family." She also met and became friends with Dr. Arnaldo Sierra, who taught Spanish. He was the first Hispanic person with a PhD that she had ever met. And Central gave her a solid education and a degree in secondary education with majors in Spanish and French.

Without those credentials she would not have received a fellowship to Brown University where she earned her master's degree in Hispanic studies. After graduating from Brown, she returned to Connecticut and found a position as a Spanish and French teacher in Southington. But, she says, "I soon got tired of teaching. I didn't like the repetition."

Then, one day, she bumped into an old friend from her undergraduate days, who told her he was applying to law school. That sounded more interesting than teaching, says Espinosa, who admits she was a big fan of the Perry Mason television show when she was a kid.

“They were actively recruiting women,” says Espinosa, “and I was also a lawyer and could speak Spanish.”

So, in 1973, armed with a scholarship, she traveled to Washington, DC and enrolled in the George Washington University Law School. Practically overnight she realized she’d found

the career for which she was destined. It was her intent to become a trial lawyer and she honed her legal skills – and her sense of justice – as one of a cadre of students from area law schools who participated in a consortium representing indigent people with landlord/tenant disputes. “It was great experience,” she says. “It helped me develop my investigating skills as well as my courtroom skills.”

But her first job, after completing her law degree in 1976, was wholly unexpected. One morning that spring she got a call from an FBI agent, who said he’d like to meet her. It turns out she had submitted her résumé to the FBI inadvertently, dropping it into a folder in the university’s job placement office without realizing where she was applying.

The “mistake” was fortuitous. Founding FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover had died in 1972. And with him died the agency’s bias against women.

“They were actively recruiting women,” says Espinosa, “and I was also a lawyer and could speak Spanish. I’m not ashamed to say I was a beneficiary of affirmative action.”

While getting herself in physical condition for the FBI’s rigorous training program, she also studied for the bar exam. She passed the exam in the summer of 1976 and, that autumn, began a three-and-a-half-year stint with the agency – first in Newark, New Jersey, and then in New York City – during which she saw service investigating white-collar crime and terrorism and engaging in foreign counterintelligence with the Chinese.

Though she says her experience with the FBI was good, she’s quick to add that she never gave up her plan to practice law. When her three years of obligatory service with the FBI ended she went back to the George Washington University placement office. It was there that she found an advertisement for a position as an assistant United States attorney in Connecticut.

With her FBI experience, Espinosa was the ideal candidate.

She stayed with the US Attorney’s Office for 12 years. During that time she was part of the team that, collaborating with the FBI, handled prosecution of the Puerto Rican guerrillas who robbed the Wells Fargo depot in West Hartford in 1983. Her work on the case earned her the US Attorney General’s Distinguished Service Award. She was also presented with the United States Department of Justice Special Achievement Award for her years of service on the job.

Those awards, and years of hard work, paid off when, in January, 1992, Gov. Lowell Weicker appointed her to the Connecticut Superior Court, making her the state’s first Hispanic and the first Hispanic woman to serve as a Superior Court judge. During two stints with the US Attorney’s Office in New Britain – she also presided over dockets in Hartford, Waterbury, and Bristol – her chambers looked down upon Franklin Square where she first lived when her family immigrated to the United States. The symbolism was not lost on her.

It was, of course, an immensely gratifying moment in her career. And, she says, the years she spent as a Superior Court judge were also very rewarding.



“It was an awesome responsibility, too,” she adds, describing it as working “in the trenches.” The cases over which she presided were often very difficult, she says, and the exposure to their harsh details and the grim evidence of crimes was corrosive. After nearly two decades of it, she was contemplating retirement when she was offered the opportunity to serve on the Appellate Court. It’s a satisfying way to conclude her career, putting her years of judicial experience to work reviewing the rulings of lower courts.

These days her Hartford chambers look down upon the majestic sweep of Bushnell Park. She works just a few miles from where her immigrant parents established a foothold in the United States nearly 60 years ago. But the road she’s traveled, between those two points, has been a long one, marked by a series of brilliant achievements, all but unimaginable when she was a little girl.

Alumnus Joe Ward Delivering a Smarter, Leaner Government

By Geri Radacsi



(L-r) Deputy Assistant Secretary, Technology, Information, & Business Systems Andrew Jackson; Secretary, Department of Interior, Ken Salazar; Director, National Business Center, Joe Ward; and Rhea Suh, Assistant Secretary, Policy, Management & Budget

My parents always told me to be the best, no matter what you decide to do with your life, and at an early age my father praised me and bragged about my accomplishments in church and to just about anyone who'd listen. I didn't realize it then, but those words of praise established a pretty firm foundation for me to be successful."

That positive energy has fueled a rich and varied career so that today, at 54, Ward is director of the National Business Center (NBC) in the DOI and manages a \$400 million budget with some 2,000 federal employees and contractors. "Some kids don't have high self-esteem and I tell the middle-schoolers I mentor—and my own four children—to have a positive attitude regardless of your circumstances. Never, ever give up! And remember when you're knocked down, the important thing is to get up."

Ward is a wizard of accounting and finance, making him well suited to oversee a huge domain. The NBC, as a federal shared service provider, supports the DOI and more than 150 federal agencies outside the department providing business management systems and services. Ward, who was appointed to his post in February 2011, is in charge of federal consulting, information technology, human resources, financial management, administrative operations, aviation management, the customer support center, and acquisition services. As chief executive for these eight lines of business, he oversees a widespread workforce headquartered in Washington DC, with major locations in Denver, Colorado and Boise, Idaho.

He shoulders a worthy mission and comments, "President Obama has stated, 'The American people must be able to trust that their government is doing everything in its power to stop wasteful practices and earn a high return on every tax dollar that is spent.' The NBC strengthens that trust and delivers a smarter and leaner government by leveraging economies of skill and scale and providing consolidated business management systems and services across federal agencies." Ward has a high standard to maintain. The NBC is currently the only federal agency designated by the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Personnel Management as a shared service provider in financial management, human resources, and payroll lines of business.

Have there been obstacles in his life as an African American? Ward considers. "I don't think I've faced anything that others haven't faced to get to where I am." Yet he acknowledges that of the more than 2.1 million employees in the federal civilian work force, only 7,100 are members of the career Senior Executive Service, or about one third of one percent. African-Americans comprise about nine percent of this select group to which he has earned membership.

Ask Joe Ward '82 if he ever thought, when he graduated with a Business Administration degree in finance, that one day he'd rise to his current senior executive position in the US Department of the Interior (DOI), and he exclaims, "Yes, absolutely! I was confident and thought I'd realize my dream to reach a senior level.

How the Journey Began

Ward, who was born in Hartford and grew up in Youngstown, Ohio, enlisted when he was 17 in the US Air Force where he'd serve with distinction for 26 years, retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 2003, assuming increasingly high-level roles in financial management and delivery of financial services.

"After five years in the military I was awarded an ROTC scholarship and came to Central," he recalls. "My first impression was that it was a small, friendly campus, not overwhelming, but then I'd already been to Spain as a weather observer." Ward's business professors, he says, "pointed out my talent and bent for finance and helped me understand the opportunities in business where I might realize my potential."

And Ward did just that. Armed with lots of enthusiasm and his business/financial acumen, he forged a career in the Department of Defense (DOD), where he served in increasingly responsible positions culminating in back-to-back Pentagon assignments from 1997 to 2003. "I loved it. It was a blast," he observes lightly about his jobs providing accounting, finance, and travel support to Air Force personnel around the globe. Not only did he rub elbows with then-President Bill Clinton (at the USAF 50th birthday celebration) and Gen. Richard Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (at a Tuskegee Airmen convention), but his remarkable record led to the prestigious American Society of Military Comptrollers award recognizing him as one of the top accounting and finance officers in the DoD. Ward retired from the military in 2003 and worked as a consultant for two different "Big 4" accounting firms as an executive in strategy and operations, and risk and advisory services respectively. In 2008, he accepted a civil service position with the DOD and while there, led an unprecedented usability review for the department's enterprise-wide travel system.

A highly emotional event for Ward happened in 2001 when he accepted an invitation from his stepmother, Elizabeth Nkonoki-Ward of



Joe Ward and The Honorable Susan G. Braden, United States Court of Federal Claims, after his swearing in as a senior executive service member

Pre-Collegiate and Access Services, to return to CCSU to honor four members of the legendary Tuskegee Airmen, African-American airmen who served valiantly in World War II. "At the commencement ceremony where they received honorary degrees, it was my privilege to present a letter of appreciation to them from the Air Force chief of staff," he says. "My own son, Joseph Ward, III, has followed in my shoes and is a 2005 graduate from the US Air Force Academy. Currently, he is a captain and pilot serving on active duty. We stood on the shoulders of the Tuskegee Airmen, the first blacks to fly in the Air Force. We never could have been able to be officers in the military if it weren't for them."

Both Nkonoki-Ward and her daughter, Lisa, remember Ward as a youth being a born "delegator but never bossy. He has a kind, generous heart and spirit and a great sense of humor. CCSU students can look to him as a beacon," says Lisa. "They can say, 'Wow, look how great successes are possible.'"

Fundraising CCSUCCESS!

The fiscal year concluded at the end of June 2011 was a very successful year for fundraising at the University. The endowment exceeded \$30 million for the first time in the University's history, and in July it reached over \$36 million.

The total of dollars raised, led by the extraordinary generosity of Carol A. Ammon '73 and the remarkable support of the Anthony and Helen G. Bichum Fund, is one of the largest in the University's history, well eclipsing the previous mark of \$2.9 million.

Our efforts also received outstanding support from our corporate partners, notably Travelers, Farmington Bank, Whelen Engineering, and Siracusa Moving & Storage.

And alumni contributions to our CCSUCCESS, Success Begins with CCSU annual fund program held steady, an exceptional outcome during these uncertain economic times.

This generosity has made it possible for the University to increase scholarships to students an unprecedented 48 percent. Those numbers represent a huge impact on our students, many who would not be able to get a CCSU education without significant financial support. Contributions to the Foundation truly make a difference in students' lives.

The University is deeply grateful for the loyal support of our alumni and friends. Because of it, we can continue to provide the margin of excellence for our students, helping them to achieve their dreams, strengthen our state's workforce, and become leaders in our communities.

CCSU Alumni Association Donates \$75,000 to CCSU!

The CCSU Alumni Association has made a generous \$75,000 gift to support a range of programs, including Community Central, a student-run "store-front" in New Britain providing CCSU students with opportunities to become leaders in helping community businesses and residents. The funds will also be used for scholarship support for CCSU students with significant financial needs.

As we look forward to the coming year, we will be increasing our efforts and programs to generate even greater support for our students. We recognize that in all we do students come first, and we hope you will join our mission to keep a CCSU education possible for generations of students to come.

CCSU Foundation — Bedrock Support for Everything CCSU

**By Nicholas Pettinico, Jr. Associate Vice
President, Institutional Advancement**

The CCSU Foundation's endowment continued its strong performance despite continued market volatility as investors react to weak economic data and both domestic and foreign debt concerns.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, the portfolio posted a solid return of 22.3 percent, nearly 2 percent above its benchmark.

"We are extremely pleased with the fiscal year return," said Thomas I. Rogan, Chairman of the Foundation's Finance and Audit Committee. "The high US unemployment rate, the weak housing market, higher gas prices and concern over the US and European debt crisis have all had a negative effect on the market. So, we are especially pleased with such a strong performance in light of this negative economic pressure."

According to Rogan, the Foundation had approximately \$33.4 million under investment as of June 30, allocated across domestic and international equities, fixed income, real estate and alternative strategies. Rogan noted that equities were up 32 percent for the fiscal year, fixed income up 8.4 percent, real estate up 37 percent, and alternatives up 5.8 percent.

Rogan reported that during the past fiscal year, the Foundation awarded over \$578,000 in scholarships to CCSU students and over \$500,000 in grants to CCSU in support of academic programs, undergraduate research, performance and fine arts, athletics and the library.

Civil War

Conference and Commemoration at CCSU

It has been 150 years since the beginning of the Civil War, when Confederate forces attacked Fort Sumter in South Carolina. The Connecticut Civil War Commemoration Committee made sure Connecticut didn't let the anniversary pass by without, well, a bang—as 12 cannons were fired in front of the State Capitol on April 12, following remarks from CCSU Professor of History Matt Warshauer '90 and Governor Dannel P. Malloy.

A few days later, on April 15, a conference titled “Commemorating the American Civil War: Connecticut Connections” was held in CCSU's Student Center. Director of the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition David Blight, Yale University professor of history, gave the keynote lecture, speaking about Americans' fascination with the Civil War. According to conference organizer Warshauer, “Blight captivated conference attendees with consideration of the war's meaning 150 years later.” “He pointed out that one third of Americans can still trace a descendant of the era and that the conflict has remained seared in the nation's memory.” Over 220 people attended the daylong program of seminars, lectures, and breakout sessions.

Held on April 16, the Commemoration Weekend's opening ceremonies were complete with Civil War re-enactors, the Governor's Foot Guard, and National Guard units from across Connecticut who marched with their Color Guards across campus and fired a 21-gun salute. The Connecticut Blues Fife and Drum Corps from Durham played the national anthem, followed by speeches from CSU Professor of Philosophy Felton Best; Brooker DeVaughn, co-chair of the Connecticut Civil War Commission; Gary Miller, senior minister of Asylum Hill Congregational Church; CSU Trustee Ron Pugliese; Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Linda Spoonster Schwartz; Emmy award-winning journalist

and host of the morning's ceremonies Diane Smith; New Britain Mayor Timothy Stewart; Warshauer; and even Abe Lincoln himself (played by Howard Wright).

For the remainder of the weekend, guests had plenty of options. There were historical exhibits on Connecticut's role in the Civil War on display in the Student Center and an exhibit titled “Picturing the Civil War: Kellogg Lithographs and Civil War Envelope Covers” in the Samuel S.T. Chen Fine Arts Center. The Victorian-era lithographs, produced by the Kellogg brothers of Hartford, depicted patriotic images and Civil War scenes, including the firing on Fort Sumter and the Battle of Bull Run.

Throughout the weekend in nearby Stanley Quarter Park, re-enactors set up encampments and participated in two major battle re-enactments. Confederate and Union troops fired upon each other using rifles, muskets, and cannons until both sides eventually pulled out, leaving the park dotted with fallen soldiers.

Sunday morning visitors also had a chance to catch a vintage baseball game played by the Friends of Vintage Base Ball league from Hartford. Decked out in brightly colored uniforms with bibs, none of the fielders wore gloves, and the pitchers tossed the ball underhanded to batters, as was the practice in 1861.

The commemoration was sponsored by the CCSU Alumni Association, CCSU Foundation, Provost's Office, Carol A. Ammon School of Arts & Sciences, Center for Public Policy and Social Research, and History Department, as well as by Travelers Foundation, The Connecticut Humanities Council, Bill McCue, the Berlin and New Britain Lions Clubs, and the Connecticut State University System Foundation.



Stanley Park Encampment



Dr. Matthew Warshauer '90



Governor Dannel P. Malloy



Cannons at the Capitol



Confronting Confederates

Sara Larkin '12

Pushing Herself and Becoming a Leader

By Michael Souer '12

While most of her high school classmates were making their weekend plans, Sara Larkin '12 was signing up to serve her country. The anthropology major and three-season athlete at Central joined the National Guard during her senior year at Ellis Tech High School in Danielson. "The military not only teaches you to follow orders, it also teaches you how to be a leader, and that's important in every aspect of life," says Larkin, who is now using those leadership skills at CCSU.

Larkin saw the military as an opportunity to serve her country, better herself, and obtain a college education. She signed up in August of 2002 for eight years — six years of active duty and two years of inactive duty.

Now 26 years old, Larkin was first deployed to Germany in February 2006. She remained there for 18 months. Reflecting on the hardships of being deployed Larkin notes, "when you're away, your life basically stops."

After returning to the states Larkin saw CCSU Professor of Anthropology Ken Feder on television in a *National Geographic* special. Larkin had been in the process of researching colleges in Connecticut and was especially interested in anthropology. "I knew immediately that I had found my school after listening to Dr. Feder," says Larkin. She became a student at Central in spring 2008.

It wasn't until the following semester that Larkin first tried out for the CCSU cross-country team. She had not participated in sports during high school but was determined to make the team. "I was the kid who walked the mile in gym class," she notes. Larkin first got interested in running during her time in boot camp at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, where she ran her first 5K. Larkin is now on the cross-country and indoor and outdoor track teams.

After three productive college semesters Larkin received military orders in the mail. Despite her inactive duty status, the letter



"I positively adore the Anthropology Department at Central — it's like a family,"



informed her that she would be deployed once again. This time she was headed to Iraq, where she spent the last year of her military contract. It was one of the most difficult periods of her life. "The military forces you to push yourself," states Larkin, who attributes her mental strength and confidence to her military background and her experience in Iraq.

Not surprisingly, she excels in the classroom as well. Larkin was recently inducted into the Anthropology Honors Society, which requires members to maintain a 3.70 GPA in anthropology courses and a 3.50 GPA overall. She is also regularly on CCSU's Dean's List.

"I positively adore the Anthropology Department at Central — it's like a family," says Larkin, who has nothing but good to say about her professors. "They are amazing people and have really guided me."

Larkin feels that her professors genuinely care about their subject and their students. "Dr. Feder even used his connections to get me an internship this summer," she notes. Her internship at The Institute for American Indian Studies, in Washington, CT, was a hands-on experience working at a Native American pre-historic archeological site.

For professors who have had Larkin in their classrooms, the respect is mutual. "It's great to have a student in class who you can't get anything by," says Feder. "Sara thinks, and her questioning causes me to think too."

In addition to being a leader she is simply a great friend and teammate. Speaking of her teammates, Larkin notes, "I have had life experiences that they haven't had, and I love to help them in any way I can."

Larkin is on track to graduate next May and plans to study human evolution and pursue a PhD in archeology. Larkin reflects, "I know I made the right decision by coming to Central. I have truly found myself and what I want to be."

Alex Haralambous '13

PIONEERING RESEARCH TO DEVELOP "GREEN" ROCKETS

By Kate Callahan '13

What do paraffin wax, lard, fast food French fries and beeswax all have in common? Alex Haralambous '13 will tell you that each is an organic hydrocarbon that surprisingly has the potential to fuel the firing of a rocket engine. How does Haralambous know that these staples of everyday life can transform into rocket fuel? He's the team leader of CCSU's Hybrid Propellant Rocket Engine (HPRE) team: a group of students pioneering research in the Northeast to reduce the environmental impact of rocket launches.

It is not every day that a rocket launches. We hail cabs, drive cars, board airplanes and ride subways, but our society has yet to mainstream space travel via rockets. One reason is the astronomical costs of shuttle missions, not to mention the quantities of toxic chemicals and gasses expelled as the engine propels the craft skyward.

CCSU's HPRE team, a one-of-a kind educational experience in the Northeast, collaborates over two semesters to determine the feasibility of powering a rocket engine with environmentally safe paraffin wax. The environmental effects are no different than burning a large candle. Haralambous explains that some conventional rocket fuels are highly flammable and pose a risk to anyone handling them. While safety is a concern with conventional fuels, using paraffin wax and oxygen — which are inert substances — eliminates almost all risk.

Safety, cost, and environmental impacts are all interests of the HPRE team. According to Haralambous, "With any engineering project, we become stewards of engineering." Moral and creative inspirations motivate the team to remain at the forefront of their research while acknowledging like-minded peers at Stanford University and the University of Tennessee. As the team leader, Haralambous is "always trying to do something that will expand who I am as a person." The progressive implications of an environmentally friendly rocket fuel keep Haralambous and the team striving for impressive results.

Most people are curious about thrust. Synonymous with lift-off, thrust propels a craft from its base, upward. Can paraffin wax actually fuel a lift-off? Haralambous explains that the team "does not perform true launches of the test engine we have constructed. We just test the firing of the engine for the purposes of gathering data." However, this small scale engine is expected to produce fifteen pounds of thrust, which is no small endeavor for an environ-



mentally safe, student-built piece of machinery.

Haralambous reflects that the team's "secondary goal is to spread awareness of the research we are performing to show people that new green technologies do not just apply to the Toyota Prius and the automotive industry."

Haralambous credits Associate Professors of Engineering and Technology Viatcheslav Naoumov, Nidal Al-Masoud, and Professor

of Engineering and Technology Alfred Gates with creating the culture at CCSU that fosters the team's research and allows their project to thrive. Naoumov describes Haralambous as "one of the best students in my fall 2010 Propulsion Systems class" and praises his leading role within the HPRE team.

"Based on successful test results the [HPRE] research student paper was submitted and accepted for presentation and publication at the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics 50th Annual International Meeting and Exhibit which will be held in January 2012 in Nashville, TN. Given the top level of the conference in the world it is an honor and recognition of success for the CCSU mechanical engineering students," says Naoumov.

In several semesters Haralambous, a part-time student and employee of United Illuminating, will graduate with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. He plans to take the LSAT and become involved in the business aspects of the field, seeking work as a utilities lobbyist. Haralambous anticipates having to "lobby for why I'm building this massive structure in your backyard." Here at CCSU, his fruitful research on the feasibility of green rocket fuel techniques, as well as his experience as a team leader, prepare him to voice the needed partnership between technology and the environment.



by Tom Pincince,
Assistant Athletics Director
& Sports Information Director

The New Blue Devil Arrives

Representing Blue Devil competitiveness, pride, and passion

A new era has begun for the Central Connecticut State University Department of Athletics. On Wednesday, August 10, the Blue Devils launched a new branding initiative, highlighted by 11 unique marks, a new Blue Devil mascot and a custom font developed for the department.

“It is a very exciting day because I believe this is a critical step in not only honoring our rich athletics tradition and our history of success, but reestablishing and defining who we are and who we aspire to be — the premier program in the Northeast Conference,” Director of Athletics Paul Schlickmann said.

“The visible results are a representation of the department’s core values: competitiveness, pride, and passion,” he added. “A very powerful but less visible aspect of this effort is the unifying and galvanizing impact that this logo will have on the spirit, pride, and identity among all members of the CCSU athletics and University family, including our student-athletes, student body, faculty and staff, alumni and our fans.”

The process began over a year ago. The new logo and font were designed and developed by Rickabaugh Graphics, an Ohio-based company with extensive experience in collegiate athletics branding. Rickabaugh used input from many members of the campus community to create an array of potential designs, while also ensuring that CCSU’s new brand was unique.

“When I first arrived at CCSU a number of months ago, it was quickly apparent that everyone on campus had tremendous pride for their university. In addition, the athletic programs boasted a rich history and a future full of great promise,” said Eric Rickabaugh, owner and creative director at Rickabaugh Graphics. “The Rickabaugh Graphics staff realized that the new look for CCSU athletics must portray that same pride, history, and promise.”

Following the initial stages of development, Rickabaugh held focus groups to gather feedback and information on a few potential concepts. The groups included CCSU student-athletes, coaches, alumni, fans, and members of the CCSU campus community.





The information gathered through those sessions was used to put the final touches on the new Blue Devil.

“This was an inclusive process that touched an extensive cross-section of people in the athletics family and the campus community. We thank everyone for their feedback and input along the way,” Schlickmann said. “This collective effort has created a bold logo and design of which we can all be proud. It’s a great day to be a CCSU Blue Devil.”

The new logos include 11 total marks that can be used in full color (blue, white and a new gray) or in classic CCSU blue and white. CCSU teams have started wearing the new logos this fall on practice gear and uniforms.

“We’ve taken early steps in getting this new brand and logo entrenched in our building and current facilities,” Schlickmann said. “We will continue to utilize the new marks in moving the department forward in the next several years.”

Working with Presto Sports, the Blue Devils also launched the all-new CCSUBlueDevils.com. The site features an entirely new design and look, and will feature live audio and video streamed through a partnership with the Pack Network. Pack Network is one of the industry leaders in audio and video streaming, and has been a partner with the NEC for the past several seasons.

“Our partnership with Presto Sports is another positive, critical step in promoting our program and our new brand identity,” Schlickmann said. “Along with our new relationship with the Pack Network, our fans will now be able to follow our teams online and on their mobile devices with ease.”



The new CCSU BlueDevils.com site

AROUND CAMPUS



Donald J. DeFronzo, Governor Dannel P. Malloy, President Jack Miller

Groundbreaking for New Academic Center

Connecticut Governor **Dannel P. Malloy**, Commissioner **Donald J. DeFronzo**, Department of Administrative Services, and **President Jack Miller** break ground for a new academic building at CCSU. The building is part of the CSUS 2020 capital improvement initiative and will provide sorely needed classrooms, laboratories, and work space for students and faculty necessitated by increased enrollment and two 50-year-old classroom buildings. The building is slated to open in fall 2013. Speaking to an audience of faculty, staff, administrators and special guests, Governor Malloy said, "There is no academic institution that the state of Connecticut owns which is more important than this one."

Carol A. Ammon Day at CCSU

In gratitude for her magnificent \$8 million gift, the University celebrated the naming of the Carol A. Ammon School of Arts & Sciences in mid-May. Dean of the School **Susan Pease** and CCSU **President Jack Miller** joined Ammon at the unveiling of the name. In the second photo below, Ammon and Pease pose with the first Ammon scholarship recipients (l-r): **Katia Feliz**, **Heath Leber**, **Jennifer Cahill**, **Rachel Spagnoletti**, and **Victoria Sepe**. Leber is also a recipient of the Fran Libera Scholarship, funded by Ammon three years ago.



Susan Pease, Carol A. Ammon, President Jack Miller

New NSF Grant Aimed at Drawing Women, Minorities to Sciences & Math

A \$600,000 National Science Foundation grant will expand CCSU's efforts to support and prepare a diverse group of highly trained professionals in the mathematics and science fields. The four-year grant funds the Computer Science, Mathematics and Physics (CSMP) Scholarship program, designed to attract high caliber students from under-represented, low-income backgrounds to pursue education in one of the three fields.

This is the second round of NSF funding for Professors of Computer Science **Stan Kurkovsky** and **Bradley Kjell**, Professor of Mathematical Sciences **Ivan Gotchev**, and Professor of Physics and Earth Sciences **Nimmi Sharma**. In 2006, the group received nearly \$500,000 for a similar initiative, and this new version builds on its strengths and successes. During CSMP's first iteration, the goals were to increase the enrollment and retention of under-represented students. According to Kurkovsky, those targets were met a year early.

The number of incoming female and minority students in CSMP disciplines increased 38% and 108% respectively. The one-year retention rate increased 25% for females and 38% for minority students, and the number of degrees awarded to female and minority students in CSMP disciplines increased 33%.

CSUS Trustees Awards

Two CCSU faculty members were honored by the Connecticut State University System Board of Trustees for their exceptional teaching and research. Associate Professor of Finance **Joseph B. Farhat** received the CSUS Trustees Teaching Award. He uses assessment extensively and feedback in order to improve instruction and learning in his courses. His intensive use of technology to promote experiential and collaborative learning includes web-based tutorials and simulations; an online repository of case studies where students publish their projects; and online tools to promote interaction and engagement with course content.

Assistant Professor of History **Matthew G. Specter** received the CSUS Trustees Research Award. He focuses his research primarily on the development of political thought, ideology, and institutions in 20th-century Germany. Specter has expanded his research to encompass modern European and global dimensions of the history of human rights, humanitarianism, and international law.

New \$750,000 Grant to Benefit Rehabilitation Counseling Students

CCSU's rehabilitation counseling master's program is singular to Connecticut and the only program of its kind that is accredited by CORE (Council on Rehabilitation Education). Thanks to Assistant Professor of Counseling and Family Therapy **Cherie King**'s efforts, a \$750,000 Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) grant was procured from the Department of Education. The grant will support students with tuition and a stipend. Currently, CCSU is the only school in Connecticut receiving this grant.

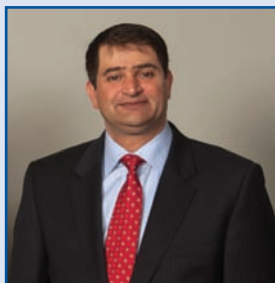
The rehabilitation counseling master's program, started at Central in the 1980s by Professor of Counseling and Family Therapy **Judith Rosenberg**, prepares students for work in a variety of rehabilitation, human service, and community agencies, assisting individuals with emotional, mental, social, and physical disabilities and challenges. Today, war veterans returning from deployments with injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder account for a large percentage of individuals who seek services from rehabilitation counselors.



The Carol A. Ammon Scholars



Matthew G. Specter



Joseph B. Farhat



Brandon Marinelli & Robert Laraira



Bill Berloni



Jason D. Newman

NorthStar Wealth Partners (NSWP), a wealth management firm in the West Hartford area, was recently named the 2011 Best of Hartford for Financial Advisory Firms by *Hartford Magazine* readers. Founded by CCSU alumni **Robert Laraira** '86 and **Brandon Marinelli** '01, NSWP's services include providing advice and strategies for retirement, investment, estate planning, and charitable giving.

CCSU alum **Bill Berloni** '89, was presented the Tony Honors for Excellence in the Theatre during the Tony Awards ceremony in June for his work as a professional animal trainer. His training credits include the original "Sandy" in the musical *Annie* and "Chico" in the play *Legally Blonde*, as well as other Broadway hits such as *The Wiz*, *Nick and Nora*, and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. He has also trained animals featured in the ballet, movies, television shows, and commercials. The animals Berloni works with have all been rescued from shelters and humane societies, and, when they are ready to retire from the bright lights, they clock out and head back home to Berloni's farm in Connecticut. Berloni received his BFA in theatre from CCSU in 1989.

Alumni In the News

Hartford Business Journal selected **Jason D. Newman** '95, a partner at Kostin Ruffkess & Co. LLC (left), and **Chad Williams** '98, director of program services at Boys & Girls Clubs of Hartford Inc., as two of their distinguished "40 Under Forty" "best and brightest" business leaders in Hartford. As *HBJ* notes, "They all have achieved a level of success early in their careers, yet for each, the best is likely yet to come."

Michael Foran BSED '86, MS '90, SYC '92, principal of New Britain High School, was named the 2012 MetLife/NASSP National High School Principal of the Year. Foran is the first Connecticut principal to win the award. Since beginning his tenure as principal at NBHS in 2007, Foran has been credited with improving the work environment, raising test scores, reducing the dropout rate, and establishing the New Britain Academy for Health Professions at the school. The award brings a \$5,000 grant to the high school. (photo courtesy of Hartford Courant)

Kate Mullen '78 was recently inducted into the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. Of the seven individuals inducted in April, she was the only college-level coach. Mullen, who will coach for her 20th season at Wesleyan this year, also serves as an associate director of athletics and adjunct professor.



Chad Williams



Michael Foran



Kate Mullen

HAPPENINGS



Educational Leadership Awards

In April the School of Education & Professional Studies Educational Leadership Program, recognized alumni and faculty who had been honored as distinguished educational leaders. Above, left to right:

Hassan Robinson, SY '11, 2010 Teacher of the Year, East Hartford School District, Fourth Grade Teacher at O'Connell Elementary School, East Hartford

Jill Wnuk, SY '11, 2010-11 CAS Middle Level Exemplary Educator &, 2010 Local Hero, Ronald McDonald House Charities, Social Studies Teacher, East Hartford Middle School, East Hartford

Maxine Ursery, 2010 Lindgren Family Scholarship Awardee, Fifth Grade Teacher at Anna E. Norris School, East Hartford

Timothy Maule '91, 2011 Teacher of the Year, Berlin School District, Fourth Grade Teacher, Hubbard Elementary School, East Berlin

Keynote speak **Dr. Doris Kurtz**, superintendent of New Britain Public Schools.

Michelle Marion '02, 2011 CAS Assistant Principal of the Year, Assistant Principal, East Hartford High School, East Hartford

Dr. Anthony Rigazio-Digilio, 2011 Education Leader of the Year, Connecticut Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (CASCD), Professor & Chair, Department of Educational Leadership, CCSU

Dr. Robert Lindgren '66, MS '68, 2010 West Indian Foundation Outstanding Community Service Awardee, Adjunct Professor of Educational Leadership, CCSU

Dr. Richard Lindgren '58, 2010 West Indian Foundation Outstanding Community Service Awardee, Adjunct Professor of Educational Leadership, CCSU

[not pictured] **Michael J. Foran**, '90 2011 CAS High School Principal of the Year, Principal, New Britain High School, New Britain

Joseph A. De Feo '79, Outstanding Alumnus Award

CCSU Dean of the School of Engineering and Technology **Zdzislaw Kremens** presented **Joseph A. De Feo** '79, President and Executive Coach at Juran Institute, the award for Outstanding Alumnus during the School of Engineering and Technology's awards dinner last semester.

Hall of Fame & Alumni Association Awards

In April, the Alumni Association Awards were presented to several alumni in recognition of their outstanding service to CCSU, or the Alumni Association, and to the community, as well as of their professional excellence. **Leonard F. Gengel** '87 was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Service Award. **Robert F. Skinner** '55 received the Kaiser Alumni Service Award, and **Alexander F. Cortes** '00 was the recipient of the Young

Alumni Service Award. After the award presentation, five alumni were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame: **Corsley Edwards** II '01; **Jacqueline C. S. Hadden** '00, MS '03; **Marcin Kaczmarek** '02; **Jane M. McFarlane** '01, and former CCSU Swimming and Diving Head Coach **Ray "Jack" Suydam** (posthumously). Pictured directly below, from left to right, Skinner, Cortes, Gengel, McFarlane, and Hadden.



Joseph A De Feo & Zdzislaw Kremens

Recent Books & News by CCSU Alumni



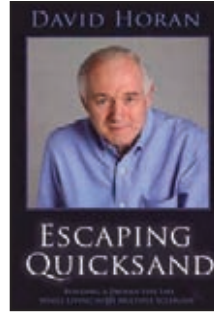
Nicholas Chaneese '02
The Smile
 Createspace, 2010
 Renee Palmer just slapped her mother hard enough to draw blood. Why?

Because of the divorce, that's why. Because of Tariq. Because of Tia. Because she's angry, and alone, and confused. Because she's 15. That's why.



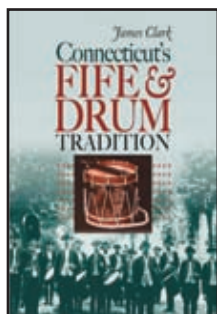
Joan Conning Afman, MA '85
Death Island
 Camel Press, 2011
 In this adventure-spoof, Danny Manning, who has been wrongly convicted of his wife's murder, is

sent to Death Island, an exile for those who earn a death sentence, and the setting for America's favorite reality TV show. "Death Island is Hell disguised as Paradise," wrote Amazon.

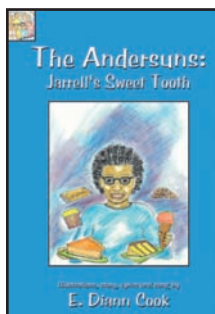


David A. Horan '75
Escaping Quicksand
 Shop My Web, Inc., 2011
 With an honesty that often startles and always engages, Horan provides an emotionally complex

and compelling account of what it means to live with progressive multiple sclerosis. His wonderful storytelling skills make his personal tale a riveting read for anyone interested in what it means to live with chronic pain and physical decline. David's wife, Mary Horan, adds the partner perspective, which lends *Escaping Quicksand* the endearing tone of a witty, well-told love story.



James M. Clark '79
Connecticut's Fife & Drum Tradition
 Wesleyan University Press, 2011
 The first full account of this beloved and colorful American music tradition in Connecticut. Details abound for instruments, folk song traditions, musicians, and events.

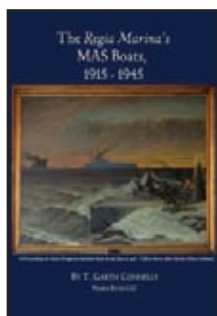


E. Diann Cook '98
The Andersuns: Jarrell's Sweet Tooth
 Authorhouse, 2010
 Cook uses the story of Jarrell Andersun — an eight-year-old boy with a giant sweet tooth—to reinforce healthy eating habits. One day Jarrell refuses to eat the dinner his mother prepares, so she puts him in a "time out." While there, he has a strange dream that changes his mind about eating sweets instead of balanced meals and shows him the importance of healthy eating. Illustrations by the author.



Erik Thoennes '87
Life's Biggest Questions: What the Bible Says about the Things That Matter Most
 Crossway Books, 2011
 Thoennes, a

California theologian, asks and answers 15 significant questions about God, the Bible, Jesus, and the church.



T. Garth Connelly '83
The Regia Marina's MAS Boats, 1915-1945
 Nimble Books LLC, 2011
 Describes every MAS boat built and operated by the Italian navy during the First World War, the inter-war years, and the Second World War.



Kathy Handley '61
A World of Love & Envy and Birds of Paradise
 Riverhaven Books, 2011
 In *Birds of Paradise*, a novel, broken hearts are catalysts for personal reinvention. *A World of Love and Envy* is a collection of short stories, flash fiction, and poetry.



Robert Valuk '64
The Collector: Bar Napkins Memoirs
 Outskirts Press, 2011
 Featuring a great "unreliable narrator," Valuk's book purports to be the biography of a 350-year old "collector" whose stories, chronicled on bar napkins and other scraps, are satirical and thought provoking.

Central alumni—please let us know about your recently published books: alumnibooks@ccsu.edu

CLASS NOTES

61

Coach **Al Pelligrinelli** was inducted into the Berlin High School Athletic Hall of Fame. He is also a member of the Connecticut High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame and the CCSU Alumni Association Athletic Hall of Fame. Dr. **Robert M. Valuk** recently published a sci-fi book entitled *The Collector: Bar Napkins Memoirs*. Although it is his first foray into the world of fiction writing Dr. Valuk has published numerous articles and booklets while working as CEO of a financial investment newsletter, *The Financial Report Card*, and as a school principal and superintendent of schools in Connecticut and Rhode Island.

66

Dr. **Gene J. Kozlowski** is professor of information systems at Northeastern State University in Broken Arrow, OK, where he has been a faculty member since 1973. **Mary (Orsini) Odell** and **Fred Odell**



were declared the winners of the CCSU Alumni Association photo contest. They hosted the CCSU Blue Devil in Florence, Italy with "David."

68

Suzanne (Doyle) Greenbacker MS '90, who has been with Plainville schools since 1999, is retiring from the Linden Street Elementary School where she has been



principal for the past 12 years. Dr. **Robert J. Smith** marked his 10th year as the founding director of The

Carol Autorino Center for the Arts and Humanities at Saint Joseph College with multiple honors for his administration: official citation from the Connecticut General Assembly, proclamation from the Mayor of West Hartford, and the Chamber of Commerce Noah Webster Award for "extraordinary commitment to the Town of West Hartford." The presentations were made during the 10th-anniversary celebration for the Center, hosted by actor Chris Lemmon and featuring performances by music, dance and theatre artists from among the over 100 greater Hartford organizations that have held events in its auditorium. Dr. Smith is also a faculty emeritus and school historian of The Woodstock Academy, where he served for over 30 years as chairman of English and director of Theatre. He lives in Pomfret Center, CT, with his wife, Janet.

69

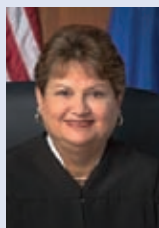
Karen L. Smith MS '87, principal at Derynoski Elementary School in Southington, was promoted to assistant superintendent of Southington Public Schools. **William C. Thomson** MS '74 is an investment manager for Sovereign Investment Group in Troutman, NC.

70

Richard F. Connell has retired as senior executive vice president and chief administrative officer at Selective Insurance Group Inc.

71

Leo T. Camosci, owner of LTC Construction in New Britain, has assumed operation of the Whinstone Tavern at the city-owned Stanley Golf Course. Hon. **Carmen E. Espinosa**, a trial judge for the past 19 years, has been appointed



to the Appellate Court of Connecticut by Gov. Dannel P. Malloy. Business and Mathematics Professor **Donna**



B. Leonowich MS '75 has been appointed interim associate dean of academic and student affairs at Middlesex Community

College (MXCC) in Middletown. Dean Leonowich has been a full-time professor at MXCC since 1983. Earlier in her career she taught at Hamden High School and Platt High School.

72

Golf industry veteran **William F. Campbell, Jr.** has been named new membership director at Liberty National Golf Course in Jersey City, NJ. Former president and current executive board member of the Rhode Island Golf Association, Campbell has more than three decades of experience in the industry. He began his career as an educator and coach at Rogers High School and Salve Regina University in Newport, RI in 1995 and became



chairman of the U. S. Amateur held at Newport Country Club. **Debra L. Fox** was named a 2011 Marcus Ruscitto Fellow by the Institute

for Entrepreneurial Excellence at the University of Pittsburgh. The award will support her enrollment in the institute's Entrepreneurial Fellows Program, which helps leaders of high-growth enterprises develop strategic plans. Fox is president and CEO of Fox Learning Systems, Inc. in Pittsburgh, PA, a full-service professional video production company that creates and produces online education curricula for both professionals and family caregivers, specializing in consumer

education for families with aging parents. **John Paul Gravalec-Pannone**, assistant state's attorney and senior prosecutor at the courthouse on Huntington Street in New London, has retired after 30 years of distinguished service to the State of Connecticut.

73

The Connecticut High School Coaches Association has honored **Michael A. Pitruzzello** MS '78, athletic director at Middletown High School, as Outstanding Athletic Director of the Year. The honor caps a long list of awards earned by the veteran coach.

74

After nearly six years overseeing the town's seven schools and nearly 4,000 students, Guilford Schools Superintendent Dr. **Thomas A. Forcella** is moving to North Carolina to become superintendent of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City school district. Forcella's career has included positions as teacher, principal and superintendent in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

75

Berlin High School (BHS) Athletic Director and Coach **James E. Day** was inducted into BHS's Athletic Hall of Fame at festivities on March 20, 2011. **Theresa (Bielinski) Gerratana** was sworn in as the state senator representing the sixth senatorial district communities of New Britain, Berlin and Farmington in the Connecticut General Assembly after having won a special election. Clemson University visiting scholar and former National Parks Director **Fran P. Mainella** [MS] received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Neag School of Education Alumni Society of the University of Connecticut. Mainella teaches in the parks, recreation and tourism management department at Clemson. **Colleen V. Marren**,

news director at Fox 61 in the early 1990s, has returned to the station for a second tour as news director after leaving that role at KDKA, the CBS affiliate in Pittsburgh. She has also previously held the position of news director at WCVB and WFXT in Boston and WISN in Milwaukee. The Portuguese American Leadership Council of the United States (PALCUS)



has announced the reelection of **Fernando Goncalves Rosa**, deputy director of Hartford Economic Development Corporation, as chairman of its 13-member board of directors. Rosa has been associated with the organization since 1995 and has served on the board since 1999. **Mary (Ball) Tomolonius**, former three-term first selectwoman of Canton and the founder and president of Tomolonius Design, a graphic design firm in Collinsville, has been appointed executive director of the Connecticut Association for Community Transportation, a non-profit association committed to promoting and improving public transportation in Connecticut.

76
Susan (Uznanski) Zoni MS '80, co-owner of Priority Graphics LLC in Cheshire, is a tutor and member of the board of directors for Literacy Volunteers of Central Connecticut Inc.

77

Michael S. Daigle is president and founder of DATARISK, a risk management consulting and specialized commercial insurance brokerage firm in Portsmouth, NH. Mr. Daigle is also a director, and founder, of Optima Bank & Trust Company, director of the Portsmouth Museum of Fine Arts, and a platinum supporter of the CrossRoads House building

fund-raising campaign. **John H. Putetti** is director, order fulfillment finance, for Timex Corporation in North Little Rock, AR. Putetti has been with the company since 1977.

78

Katherine "Kate" Mullen, who recently completed her 19th year as head women's basketball coach at Wesleyan University, was inducted into the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame at its annual induction ceremony in April. Framingham, MA-based PeopleCube, provider of workplace management



software solutions, has hired **Peter M. Tarca**, a 25-year industry veteran with a specialty in cleantech and energy

efficiency, as general manager of its intelligent buildings business unit. Tarca previously served as CEO of three different Massachusetts-based businesses: Proliphix Inc., a developer of native Internet protocol distributed energy management solutions, based in Westfield; InterSense, Inc., a provider of tracking, navigation, visualization, and stabilization applications headquartered in Billerica; and Vibrint Technologies, a supplier of broadcast digital equipment and new technologies based in Bedford.

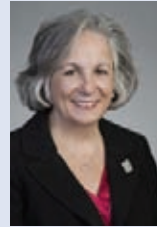
79

Kenneth Champion is programme director and deputy to the executive director of the United Nations in the Office of the Capital Master Plan, whose mission it is to manage the \$1.8 billion historic renovation of the United Nations headquarters complex in New York City. **Timothy N. Harvey**, instructor of sports medicine and director of the health/fitness promotion concentration at Mercyhurst College in Erie, PA, was promoted to

assistant professor. Harvey previously worked as the head athletic trainer at Rutgers-Newark University and St. Bonaventure University. **Margaret (Lynch) O'Donnell**, principal of Topstone Financial Consultants, a 22-year-old tax and accounting firm located in Redding, is treasurer for the Town of Redding. **Paul Pellerin**, owner of Antique & Classic Car Services, has written his first book about Connecticut's car history, *Connecticut Created Cars*, in recognition of the 25th Silver Anniversary of the Connecticut Council of Car Clubs and New England Air Museum.

80

Michael W. Boissonneault is senior director of human



resources, staffing and recruitment, at ESPN in Bristol. Dr. **Maria N. Tackett** [MS], nurse director in the neurointensive

care unit at Hartford Hospital and a U. S. Army reservist until her retirement from the military in 2010, presented the Nightingale Lecture to the Saint Joseph College Department of Nursing in February. Dr. Tackett's presentation, "Nightingale's Nursing Concepts from the Crimean War: Implications for Current Combat Trauma Care," was drawn from her experience as an officer in charge of an emergency department in Iraq. **Steven L. St. Onge**, owner and president of Rhode Island Kitchen & Bath, was honored, along with his company, as



Humanitarian of the Year by the Central Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce at its February "Rising Above the Rest" event to celebrate outstanding business leaders in Central Rhode Island.

81

Katherine B. Pirog, associate professor and head athletic trainer at CCSU, was inducted into the Connecticut Athletic Trainers Association Hall of Fame, Class of 2011.

82

Chicago-based Pierce & Associates PC, a provider of legal services to the mortgage banking community, has announced the appointment of **Ralph Gerardi** as director of foreclosure operations. Gerardi previously was vice president of Chase Home Finance LLC and served as vice president of First American National Default



Outsourcing. Actor and singer **Frank Mastrone** is currently performing the role of the jeweler in the Broadway musical



Phantom of the Opera. **Joseph M. Ward, Jr.**, a member of the Senior Executive Service, was appointed

director, National Business Center (NBC), US Department of the Interior, in February 2011. Ward is the chief executive for eight distinct lines of business and a geographically dispersed workforce headquartered in Washington DC.

83

Del Mar, CA City Manager **Karen (Plover) Brust** MSOM '91 was hired as city manager



in San Juan Capistrano, CA. Brust has 24 years of senior public-sector experience in finance and water and sewer operations.

Author **T. Garth Connelly's** latest book, *The Regia Marina's MAS Boats, 1915-1945*, was released on April 1. Pearl River physical education teacher and girls basketball



Coach **Lorraine (Guerci) Moylan** was inducted into the Basketball Coaches Association of New York Hall of Fame

in March. Moylan took over the girls basketball program at Pearl River High School in Pearl River, NY in 1993. The newest business venture of **Dean C. Pagani**, top aide to former Gov. John Rowland, *Governors Journal* (www.governorsjournal.com), uses the Internet and social media to compile daily news,



commentary and analysis by and about the 50 governors in the United States. **Clifford Snow** MS '94 was named director of

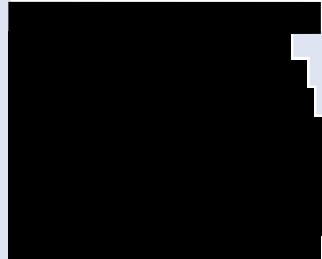
football operations at the University of Louisville. Snow spent five seasons at East Carolina. **Jan Verderame** is the new principal of Walter Derynoski Elementary School in Southington, where she has been assistant principal since 2008. **Richard S. Zuber** is pastor at Ascension Lutheran Church in San Diego, CA.

85

On May 1, Lt. Col. **Michael H. Ruth** retired from the United States Marine Corps after 29 years of service to his country. His retirement ceremony took place at the Naval Air Station/ Joint Reserve Base in Fort Worth, TX. Faculty, staff and students at Macdonough Elementary School surprised a favorite kindergarten teacher, **Angela Spaman** [MS], with a tree planted in her honor outside her classroom window. The school decided to honor

the beloved teacher while she is still teaching, and can enjoy the sight of the tree, rather than wait until she retires.

86



Donald M. Casey, Jr., and his students were recently awarded an educational grant from the Alcohol and Drug Awareness of Monroe, Connecticut for their educational program, Stepney Elementary School Fit Kids. The program incorporates physical activities, such as swimming and gymnastics, performing arts, and experiential learning while building self-esteem, improving teamwork skills, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.



Theresa (Caron) Casey, founding principal of On Target Marketing & Communications LLC, based in Columbia,

CT, was honored with the Best Feature Article Award at the Society for Marketing Professional Services/ Connecticut (SMPS CT) 2011 Marketing Communications Awards. The article, "Getting a Piece of the Renewable Energy Market," appeared in the February 2010 issue of *Civil Engineering News*. Last year On Target was awarded three different awards for Casey's article, "Brown is the New Green: Sustainable Design on Brownfields Coming into Vogue" which appeared in the *Florida Engineering Journal*. Casey was named as one of only 100 Fellows in the U. S. by SMPS and is a certified professional services marketer. **Lisa Duhamel** is an

industrial engineer at Sikorsky Aircraft in Stratford. **Michael Foran** BS '86, MS '90, SY '92, principal of New Britain High School, has been named the 2012 MetLife/NASSP National High School Principal of the Year. **John W. Grant** is a senior software quality auditor at Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford.

87

Donna Q. Fitzgerald [MS], principal at Martin Elementary School, Manchester, has retired after 36 years in education. **Len Gengel**, owner of C&S Builders, Inc. and other businesses in Rutland, MA, and a 1984 graduate of Becker College, was honored at its Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony with the presentation of the first Gabe Simon Award for distinguished service to the college. A three-sport



standout and 1983 graduate of Norwich Free Academy (NFA), **Andy Lee** was inducted into the Norwich Sports Hall of Fame, class of 2011. A member of the football, basketball and baseball teams at NFA, Lee went on to play football and baseball at CCSU. TD Bank has named **Todd C. Navin** vice president and commercial loan officer in commercial banking in



Glastonbury. Navin previously served as a commercial lender with Liberty Bank in Middletown. **Judith E. Saunders**, a certified public accountant and principal of Filomeno & Company PC in West Hartford, is director of the Health Care Services and Retail Services departments for the company. **Erik Thoennes** is associate professor of Biblical Studies and Theology at Biola University/Talbot School of Theology, and also a pastor at Grace Evangelical

Free Church in La Mirada, California. Haddam-Killingworth (HK) youth sports Coach **Thomas B. Thompson** was inducted into the HK Hall of Fame. Thompson coached baseball at Haddam Killingworth Middle School and was a basketball coach and referee for the HK recreation youth teams. He organizes a summer basketball camp and the over-30 fall and winter basketball leagues. He is an active member of Haddam Little League where he wears many hats.

88

Suzanne (Demirjian) Akian is senior vice president and financial advisor at the Akian/Zalanskas Group at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney (MSSB) in New York City. Akian



joined MSSB in 2005 as a senior vice president following a 15-year career as a financial advisor at the boutique fixed-income firm Lebenthal and Company.

89

Bill Berloni, animal trainer for stage and screen, is a 2011 recipient of a Tony Award for Excellence in the Theatre. **Damian L. Brooke** is the new vice president of business planning/IT for the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority at Tampa International Airport in Tampa, FL. **Bonnie (DeNote) Del Conte** is president and CEO of Rocky Hill-based business consulting firm CONNSTEP Inc. **Mark J. Paggioli** is marketing director at Dur-A-Flex Inc., a manufacturer of commercial and industrial flooring systems and polymer components in East Hartford. Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) Home Health & Hospice in South Portland, ME, a non-profit affiliate of Mercy Health System of Maine, has hired

Catherine C. Studley as program manager for its new LifeStages service. Previously, Studley was the executive director for Hospice of Maine hospice organizations across northern New England.

90

Judith Palmer [MS], superintendent of Regional School District #7 Public Schools, has been elected president of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents for school year 2011-12. Julie Fitts Ritter is development director at the Padre Pio Foundation of America in Cromwell.

91

Stephanie (Hamel) Coxon MS '01, reading consultant at Gainfield Elementary School in Southbury, received the Outstanding Literacy Leader Award from the University of Bridgeport. **Ralph DelSesto** is vice president of third party administrator distribution and support strategy for the 401(k) and 403(b) markets at ING. DelSesto has nearly 10 years of experience in the retirement plan industry. **Rachael (Zimnoch) Manzer** MS '98, an educator at Annie Fisher STEM Magnet School, has been training for a commercial space



flight as part of the Teachers in Space Program. **June S. Sanford [MS]** serves as state director of career technical

education and Perkins Program manager responsible for grant administration, performance accountability data, statewide program monitoring and implementation of the Connecticut Career Clusters/ Pathway Initiative for the Connecticut State Department of Education. Former UConn Assistant Coach **Pat Sellers** was hired as an assistant basketball coach at Hofstra University in Hempstead, NY. Sellers was at UConn for six

years, had one season as an assistant coach at UMass (2003-04), and four years at his alma mater, CCSU (1999-2003). **Timothy S. Sheridan** is senior director and chief accounting officer for CIGNA's healthcare business.

92

For Great Physical Education, an educational consultant company founded by **Mark Farnsworth** and **Chris Tamborra**, recently developed a graduate course titled "Establishing the Learning Environment in Physical Education" for K-5 educators to be taught at The Hall at Patriots Place and Gillette Stadium with the New England Dairy Council and their Fuel Up to Play 60 program. Farnsworth and Tamborra also were selected to present at the 18th Annual Character Education conference in San Francisco in October for their work on "Setting the Structure for a Successful Recess." **Michael D. Golden** has been hired as head strength and conditioning coach at the University of South Florida in Tampa, FL. Most recently Golden served in the same position at East Carolina University for five seasons. **Michael S. Libera** is employed at Mohegan Sun as an event production supervisor in the sports and entertainment department. **Goziem Moemeka** is the managing director of Resource Group Staffing & Consulting (RGS), a provider of staffing and outsourced human resource services in West Hartford that he and two of his brothers took over in 2008. **Jon T. Romeo** MS '95 is principal at Macdonough Elementary School in Middletown. **Gina (Bento) Scherbner** has been promoted to vice president, business development officer at Union Savings Bank in Danbury. Rev. **Patrick M. Sullivan** accepted a position as administrator and pastoral care pastor at Calvary Assembly of God in Walkersville, MD.

93

Anthony Valenti joined R. Calabrese Agency LLC, a value-added full service real estate firm based in Waterbury, as a broker. He specializes in the retail and hospitality sectors, including site selection and strategic planning. Previously, Valenti pursued a career in the hospitality industry. In 2000 he established a hotel development company which currently has ownership stakes in two Hampton Inns in Connecticut.

95

Shawn A. Briggs has joined the energy division, as a project manager, in the New England office of Burns & McDonnell, a company providing engineering, architecture, construction, environmental and consulting services to clients throughout North America and abroad. **Penny (Needs) Crump** is a web editor and writer at the nonprofit Save the Children in New York City. Before joining Save the Children Crump was manager, web content and e-communications, at AmeriCares Foundation in Stamford. **Christopher W. Doyle** works at Walt Disney Pictures Theatrical Marketing Division as an online picture editor. Doyle and his wife, Claire, a makeup artist, reside in Los Angeles, CA. He enjoys traveling and mountain biking, and is an automobile enthusiast. The Connecticut High School Coaches Association (CHSCA) has chosen Middletown High School (MHS) wrestling Coach **Mark Fong** as the CHSCA Outstanding Wrestling Coach of the Year. Fong is a physical education/health instructor for Middletown Public Schools and varsity boys cross-country coach at MHS. Attorney **Richard L. Green** has joined the Hartford office of McCarter & English LLP as a partner in the firm's intellectual property/information technology practice, providing legal and

business counsel to Global 2000 corporations, Wall Street banks, emerging companies and individual inventors in matters involving the sourcing, commercialization, use and protection of intellectual property, technology and technology-enabled products and services. Green formerly served as North American general counsel and corporate secretary for a publicly-traded UK-based technology and business process outsourcing company. **Annemarie Seifert**,



associate vice president for student affairs and enrollment management at Georgia Southern

University (GSU), has been named associate vice chancellor for student development at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Prior to joining the GSU administration, Seifert served at the University of Texas at Austin, first as a student affairs administrator in the dean of students office and then as director of student activities and leadership development. **Joseph F. Shiman III** is a partner in Robert Hensley & Associates LLC Insurance and Financial Services in Avon.

96

EJ Howard joined Willis North America, an insurance information and consulting services firm, as assistant vice president in the Hartford office. **Jason**



M. Schuck is treasurer at St. Germain Investment Management in Hartford.

Schuck has more than 10 years experience in investment operations, financial analysis and accounting, and was previously an investment analyst for Babson Capital Management, and before that worked as a securities administrator

for The Hartford Investment Management Company. **Vicky Valery** has joined Mintz & Hoke Communications Group as an interactive producer.

97

Kathy Athorne CPA has joined Filomeno & Company, a CPA and business advisory firm in West Hartford, bringing 10 years experience to the firm's audit practice. **Joyce L. Betts** is chief operating officer of Families in Crisis, Inc. in Hartford, an organization that serves at-risk children, offenders and their families. Betts has been with Families in Crisis for 13 years. She is also an adjunct professor in CCSU's social work department. The Washington Trust Company has promoted **Steven D. Dabkowski** to the position of audit officer, responsible for leading and conducting operational and financial audits, assessing controls over assets, and performing Sarbanes Oxley 404 compliance testing. **Jodi R. Klim** is a senior marketing consultant at The Hartford in Simsbury. **Noelle Griffin Smetana** is a vocal music teacher for Paradise Valley Unified School District at Echo Mountain Primary/Intermediate School in Phoenix, AZ. **Victoria T. Trzcinski**, special education program specialist/instructional leader for Plainville Community Schools, has been named the director of special education and pupil services for the Plainville school district.

98

Professional golfer **Kyle Gallo** shot a three-day best of 5-under-par 205 to capture the 102nd Massachusetts Open



Championship by one stroke at Oak Hill Country Club in Fitchburg, MA on June 29th. **Scott Gaudet**, principal of Green-Hills Elementary School in Bristol, has been named principal of the adjacent

under-construction Forestville K-8 school. Greene-Hills is scheduled to close as part of the school district's reorganization. **Spiro A. Koulouris** is general manager



at Hartford's popular Firebox restaurant, an eatery that, as part of Broad Street's successful Billings Forge redevelopment complex, is well known for its farm-to-table menu. **Perri S. Murdica** MS '02, 6th Yr '05 has been chosen to head the special education programs, a senior coordinator of pupil personnel services, for Southington public schools.

99

Jessica (Maringola) Bruenn, a fifth-grade teacher at Strong Elementary School in Plantsville, has been chosen as the 2011-12 Southington Teacher of the Year. Southington Superintendent **Joseph V. Erardi, Jr.** '77, MS '86 said "programs such as KIDSMARATHON, which (Bruenn) developed as a way to get students throughout the district more active, are a prime example of the talent she brings to Southington." Jerome Home in New Britain has added exercise physiologist



Susan (Beckert) Dawczyk MS '10 to the Good Life Fitness program. She comes with experience as a lecturer on fitness and wellness at CCSU. She previously was a Marine Corps combat instructor of water survival. After four seasons with the New Orleans Saints as an offensive assistant, **Michael L. Cerullo** has joined the UConn football program as a program aide. **Christine Stuart**, former reporter for *The Journal Inquirer* in Manchester, is the owner and editor-in-chief

of CTNewsJunkie.com. Stuart and her contributors have become known for breaking news first, and using not only words, but also video, photos and audio to report. **Anthony J. Truino** is a financial planner, financial services representative and investment specialist for Barnum Financial Group, an office of MetLife, in Shelton. Truino also serves as the president of Barnum's Foundation for Life, providing grants and volunteers for initiatives in area towns.

00

Christian J. Harrison is a senior loan officer at First World Mortgage Corporation in West Hartford. **Michael P. Rafferty** MS '03 is a probation officer for the U. S. District Court in Hartford. Rafferty also provides diversity training for the Anti-Defamation League in Hamden and 10-week training sessions to individuals arrested for and/or convicted of hate-motivated crimes. **Charmaine (Hadley) Wright** [MS] is a foreign language teacher, and chair of the foreign language department, at Sacred Heart High School in Waterbury.

01

Jennifer R. Michalek [MS], an eighth-grade mathematics teacher at Chippens Hill Middle School in Bristol was chosen as Bristol's Teacher of the Year. Michalek's classroom has been recognized as a model co-teaching classroom by the State Education Resource Center. She is the math curriculum coordinator at the school and a mentor for new teachers. **Philip P. Moriarty**,



third- and fourth-grade teacher in the integrated day program at John Lyman Elementary

School in Middlefield was honored as the town's Teacher of the Year. **Sharon (Grubb) Vickers** announces that she has a 1-year-old daughter named Camellia and has been awarded the position as helicopter pilot working for Ochsner Flight Care with Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans, Louisiana.

02

Stephen V. Burdo is political director at Kathleen Russell Consulting in Mill Valley, CA



where he manages accounts involving legislative advocacy, electoral campaigns, grassroots organizing, media relations, strategic planning and community outreach. Senior officer at American Savings Foundation **Maria A. Falvo** [MS], who has overseen the New Britain nonprofit's growing scholarship program for more than a decade, has been promoted to a new position as chief operating officer.

03

Christopher "Chip" Rourke, an instructional assistant at Griswold Alternative High School, was appointed the Griswold High School boys varsity baseball coach.

04

Elisabeth E. Finnegan MS '10 is an art teacher at Hockanum Elementary School in East Hartford. Finnegan's own work was on display at an exhibit in New Britain City Hall in January.

05

Brittany Bonchuk, a former New England Patriots cheerleader, served as the Hartford Colonials cheerleader director for the 2011 United Football League season. **Rachael A. Zebedeo** is a kindergarten teacher at Chamberlain Primary School in New Britain.

06

Melony M. Brady [MS] is principal of Annie Fisher STEM Magnet School in Hartford.

Jessica L. Coppa is a service associate at Farmington Bank in Plainville.



Christine M. Quinn has joined the New Business Development

Team at MEYER Fulfillment of Stratford-based William B. Meyer Inc. She is responsible for the business development of multiple MEYER Fulfillment services, including warehouse storage and retail distribution, along with marketing literature and e-commerce store support and fulfillment.



Teresa "Rasheeda" Johnson, of Bassetere, St. Kitts, graduated from the Edward Via College of Osteopathic

Medicine (VCOM) in Blacksburg, VA with the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree.

07

Members of the Avon High School chorus, orchestra and wind ensemble, and the Avon Middle School arioso chorale ensemble tremble combined to perform John Rutter's "Mass of the Children for Choir and Orchestra" this spring under the direction of **Andrew Brochu**, choral director at Avon High School. **Christie Congdon** is a research assistant for Third Point LLC, an employee-owned hedge fund sponsor in New York City. **Jessica Johnson** competed



in the World Tang Soo Do Championships in Cardiff,

Wales, which featured over 1,000 international competitors. Johnson placed third in adult women, third degree black belts class. **Kathryn Sousa** is office manager for the Sousa Corporation in West Hartford. **Lisa M. Zaremba** teaches a split class of nine fourth-graders and 13 fifth-graders at John M. Moriarty Elementary School in Norwich.

08

Jason W. Fagan is a product definition engineer with Pratt and Whitney in East Hartford. Nutmeg State Federal Credit Union has hired **Mark D. Bosse** as vice president, sales and service, in Rocky Hill.



Corey D. Hansen has joined The Donaldson Group, an image communications firm in Simsbury, as assistant account manager/content manager. **Collin L. Marino** graduated from the state police academy in Meriden, and was sworn in as a patrol officer for the New Milford Police Department.

Kelly A. Michnowicz is a customer service representative for Webster Bank NA in Avon. **Nicole B. Thorogood**, readiness business engineer, USIG Service Strategy: Readiness COE, MassMutual Financial Group, recently received her MBA, with concentration in entrepreneurial studies and innovative practices, from BayPath College.

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Jamie E. Duhaine is a fifth-grade teacher at Woodside Intermediate School in Cromwell. **Danielle Eckert** is an art director at TracyLocke, a Wilton integrated marketing firm offering a full menu of services to highlight brand names. **Craig E. Height**, who played hockey at CCSU, is an instructor at Connecticut Crease, a training center for goalies, at the Champions Skating Center in Cromwell.

Height has been an evaluator at the state level for USA Hockey, works with goalies of all ages and levels at the Crease summer camps, and has been the head goalie coach for the Connecticut LaZers youth program. **John E. Lawrence** is employed by ESPN in Bristol. **Lindsey C. Lewis** [MS] is employed at Bentley University as a reporting specialist in the department of institutional research and planning. **Edward A. Roden** [MS] is a nurse anesthetist at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital. Roden served in the Army National Guard from 1992 to 2005 and the Air National Guard since 2005. His current rank is captain. **Jon A. Saucier**, a recent graduate of the



Connecticut Police Academy, has joined the Canton Police Department. Prior to being hired by Canton Saucier worked at the YMCA in Plainville as its sports director. The Glastonbury Exchange Club has selected Lt. **David Thurz**, a 13-year veteran of the Glastonbury Fire Department, as its 2011 Firefighter of the Year. In addition to being a member of the Glastonbury Fire Department, Thurz is the training officer for the Hebron Fire Department, where he works as a career firefighter/EMT.

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Sean Allaire, Blue Devils Northeast Conference Player of the Year in 2010, joined the the Washington Wild Things, a professional baseball team based in Washington, PA, a member of the East Division of the independent Frontier League. **Jessica L. Hite** is a registered nurse at Hartford Hospital. **Andrew T. Lefebvre** is the band director at Bulkeley

High School in Hartford. **Benjamin T. Pierpont** is a case manager for Community Solutions Inc., a nonprofit organization that promotes self-reliance, responsibility and accountability for at-risk and disadvantaged youth and adults in Hartford. **Brian D. Sarkozy** MA '11 is combining a new job with his love of travel as he heads off for a two-year position as a high school social studies teacher at the Majuro Cooperative School, a private school in the southeast corner of Majuro Atoll, the capital of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. **Melissa Traynor** is a town news reporter for *The Hartford Courant*, covering town, education and public safety news in East Hartford. **Carly Woodward** is an air management systems manufacturing engineer at Hamilton Sundstrand in Windsor Locks.

Marriages -

T. Grace Firnhaber '54 & John B. Fuller '44 5/21/11

Judith (Edmonston) Mansfield '60 & Paul A. Falcigno 8/15/10

Paula Liistro '71 & Frank Naczi '70 5/1/11

Tara M. Piers '05 & John-Michael Scrivano 4/15/11

Bethany June Trievel '05 & Kyle B. Cover 6/17/11

Jillian Powell Ziman & Steven J. Pollock '06 5/7/11

Megan Kathleen Atwood '11 & Jason A. Smith 6/4/11

In Memoriam -

26
Bertha Kaplan 10/25/04

32
Genevieve Grendzinski Dale
06/03/11
Bernadette T. Hemlock 04/08/11

36
Ruth Perkins Gibson 02/27/11
Henrietta Riva Tycz 01/08/11

37
Verna Calmbach MacMillian 01/27/11
Jean Fowler Parsons 02/08/11

38
Constance Geiger Miller 02/20/11

39
Robert B. Grace 02/12/11

40
Adele Shapiro Sussman 02/15/11

41
Frances Alling Lang 11/05/10

42
Priscilla Tomlinson Griffiths
01/17/11
William J. Weitzke 04/08/11

45
Elaine Streeter Heline 05/09/11

47
Carol McVeigh Lenihan 03/05/11
Julia Nimrod Sargis 01/13/11

48
Barbara Benson Gaudette 01/01/11

49
Marion Munson Church 04/16/11
Patricia A. Howley 01/23/11
William J. Naughton 05/26/11

50
Sabina O'farrell Cappellano
03/06/11
Henry A. Gajda 05/26/11
Joseph R. Horanzy 05/02/11
Eugene J. Moye 03/14/11

53
Thomas E. Haney 05/28/11

54
Pauline Sandmeyer Cudlipp
01/10/11

58
Elizabeth Muszynski Johnson
02/03/11
Lois Keeney Wankerl 01/18/11

59
Robert J. Burbank 01/08/11

60
Robert P. Carbray 12/26/04
Walter E. Krupa 02/17/11
Frederick S. Okula 09/23/10
Mario Piazza 03/17/11
Judith Drake Wood

61
Frances Lasewicz Bassett 04/04/11

62
Frank Rasmussen 06/19/83

64
Lillian Goldberg Kimenker 05/20/11
Yolande Petit Petrin 06/15/11

65
Mary-Jo Burriesci 06/21/11

66
Celeste Garfunkel LeWitt 03/06/11

67
Jean Mcdonald Bagley 01/12/11
Richard C. Minagil 04/16/11
Ann Crowley Mirizzi 01/24/11

68
Frances Sutherberry Marshall
02/12/11

69
Patricia M. Clark 05/23/11
Neil F. Gallagher 01/11/11
Frances Lalas Malin 03/20/11

70
Richard R. Cote 02/23/11
Daniel J. Michl 01/06/11
Raymond D. Suprynowicz 06/13/11

71
Kristine Payne Douglas 03/20/11
Patricia E. Duffy 05/18/11
Richard C. Erbal 03/06/11
Russell H. Maclin 01/07/11
Nicholas P. Maglio 02/02/11
Carol Morse Ratliff 04/08/11
Nancy Matczak Young 01/02/11

72
Josephine Dabkowski Banach
01/08/11
Ann M. Muirhead 01/11/11

73
Brian R. Cassidy 03/01/11
Robert H. Cichowski 05/18/11
George J. Pappas 06/02/11
June B. Parsons 02/07/11

74
Jane Traskos Auger 02/25/11
Joyce J. Bauer 02/21/11
Frederick A. Drapala 05/07/11
Laurent J. Dulac 06/08/11
Thomas A. Zingle 05/20/11

75
JoAnn Marotto Charette 04/07/11
Frank J. Petosa 05/09/11
Frank J. Pinto 01/15/11

76
Michael P. Augliera 04/11/11
Thomas P. Henry Jr. 05/15/11

77
Linda Costella Salisbury 05/23/10
Louise Krawiec Sanders 06/05/11

78
M. Susan Condren 04/28/11
Nancy L. Considine 05/15/11

79
June Halberts Cramer 02/19/11
Gerald Dorner 01/10/11

80
Ann Crowley Downes 02/23/11
Victor B. Freedman 01/19/11
Leatrice Seidell Johnson 02/18/11

81
Robert J. Moir 02/07/11

82
Mark K. Dickman 06/18/10

84
George Carnaroli 05/06/97

85
Gbolahan A. Oni-Orisan 05/15/11

86
Joan D. English 03/20/11
Florence K. Farrell 06/15/11
Suzanne Carroll Fracasse 03/21/11

87
Joyce B. Adams 03/10/08
Catherine Laskos Kimball 05/08/11
Salvatore F. Lagano 01/18/11

92
Dewain A. Greer 08/06/07

93
Virginia M. Wilcox 03/22/11

94
John Boyd Jr. 01/06/11
Patricia C. DiNallo 02/07/11

95
Michael B. Gessford 01/14/11

96
Joseph S. Milardo 02/06/10

97
Gary R. Turner 08/22/02

98
Linda Lipman Bush 03/23/11
James G. Wino Jr. 05/02/11

00
Katherine C. Belmonte 01/09/11

01
Mary A. Terni 01/05/06
Maribeth Todisco 11/16/10

02
Cindy K. Baxa 01/12/11

03
Glenn W. Buckley 06/16/11

04
Thomas A. Berube 02/25/11

07
Karen C. Shanahan 03/15/11

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The University offers a wide range of opportunities for alumni and friends to support educational programs they are passionate about. Below are a few to consider. Gifts to these funds may be made online at www.ccsu.edu/giving. If a fund you are interested in supporting is not listed, you may simply type it in, in the "Other" category and be confident that your contribution will support the fund you have indicated. For more information: alumnidept@ccsu.edu or 860-832-1740.

Institutional Support

Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library Fund provides support for the Elihu Burritt Library in order to enhance teaching and research and meet the diverse educational needs of the CCSU community. The Fund provides program and acquisition support to augment institutional monies appropriated for a quality public university library.

Welte Society

The Welte Society provides funds for special cultural programs to enrich and broaden the lives of Central's student, faculty and neighbors.

International Education

James-Hauser International Exchange Fund

Originally established to support faculty, administrative, and student exchange opportunities with institutions in East Asia, South America, and the Caribbean, the James-Hauser Fund has recently been expanded to support the strategic goals of the George R. Muirhead Center for International Education and supports exchange opportunities throughout all of Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East.

Scholarships

CCSU Alumni Association Scholarship

The CCSU Alumni Association Scholarship Fund provides scholarships for undergraduate (junior or senior level) students who are children or grandchildren of alumni and 1) completed at least two semesters at CCSU; 2) enrolled for 9 credits or more during the term when the scholarship is applied; 3) minimum GPA of 3.0; 4) evidence of service, leadership, and academic achievement; and 5) documented efforts to finance educational costs.

Educational Support Services Scholarship

This fund support for students enrolled in any University program aimed at providing access and opportunity to economically disadvantaged or educationally underprivileged students (e.g. Educational Opportunity Program, Connecticut Collegiate Awareness and Preparation Program).

Foundation Scholars

The Foundation Scholars Fund provides scholarship support for high-achieving, incoming first-year students who rank in the top 25% of their graduating class and have achieved a minimum of 1100 on the SAT.

Graduate Student Association Scholarship

Provides support for matriculated graduate students who have completed a minimum of 15 academic credits in residence at Central Connecticut State University, have earned a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.50 or higher and have demonstrated exemplary involvement and leadership in student or community service activities.

Student Government Association Scholarship

Provides scholarship support for a full-time matriculated undergraduate student who has demonstrated exemplary involvement and leadership in the University community and who has earned a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher.

Veterans Scholarship

Awarded to the undergraduate student(s) named as the Student Veteran of the Year at the annual Veterans Recognition Program, or similar program, regardless of the expected graduation date of the recipient(s). To be eligible for the Student Veteran of the Year award, a student must 1) be in good academic standing; i.e., minimum of 2.5 GPA; 2) have junior or senior class status; i.e., minimum of 53 credits, 3) show evidence of exemplary service to the University, the community and/or the country, and 4) have served active U.S. Military duty for a minimum of 90 days other than training.

Athletics

Frank Marietta Athletic Scholarship Fund

The Frank Marietta Athletic Scholarship Fund provides much needed support for grants-in-aid to CCSU student athletes.

Athletic Development Fund

The Athletic Development Fund provides support for the intercollegiate athletic program at CCSU.

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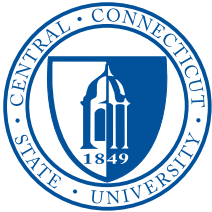
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