

# CENTRAL *focus*

Winter 2016

*the magazine for alumni & friends of central connecticut state university*

***The Campus of the Future is Now!***

Willard & DiLoreto Atrium



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

In 2005, when I opened the University's academic year for the first time in my presidency, I spoke about where CCSU stood and where I saw that it needed to be. I concluded my presentation with a list of priorities. At the top was (and always will be): "Put students first." And that meant that one of the most essential enabling actions must then be: "Build and renovate desperately needed facilities to support student success." As you'll see in this issue, we are on a campus build out of historic proportions.

It is, on the one hand, very gratifying to see the great strides we have made toward completing the University's Master Plan for the campus. Even more rewarding, however, is recognizing how well the newest additions and renovations have enriched our students' collegiate experience. From new classrooms to new "dorm" rooms, from expanded athletics and recreation fields to new dining facilities, from state-of-the-art technologies to richly textured, sustainable landscaping, we have created a welcoming and supportive campus where students can truly make their years here among the best times of their lives.

I hope you will visit the campus, either to attend one of our alumni events or Blue Devil games or just to walk around your university on a fine day. As indicated in the article, you can also examine a recent detailed online report on the current and near-term status of our most significant facilities projects. I am confident that you will see that we have both stewarded state funding very well and provided an exceptional campus.

Jack Miller  
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 Anonymous letters will not be published.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. Write: Central *focus*, Central Connecticut State University, 1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT, 06050. Or email: [Centralfocus@CCSU.edu](mailto:Centralfocus@CCSU.edu).

### Class Notes and Other Alumni Information

Please send information for Class Notes, Marriages & Births, and In Memoriam to: [ClassNotes@ccsu.edu](mailto:ClassNotes@ccsu.edu) or Class Notes, Office of Marketing & Communications, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT, 06050-4010.

### Alumni Information Update

Help us to stay in touch with you! To keep current with the University and the many alumni events and opportunities, please update your information online at: [www.ccsu.edu/alumniupdate](http://www.ccsu.edu/alumniupdate).

### Central focus Staff

**Editor:** Mark Warren McLaughlin, PhD

**Design:** Diann Thomson

**Photography:** John Atashian, Michael J. Fiedler; **Blue Devils photography:** Steve McLaughlin.

**Writers:** Kate Callahan '14, is a writer and one of Connecticut's most widely honored singer-songwriters. Catch up with Kate at <http://kate-callahan.com>.

**Tom Pincince** MS '14, is the Blue Devils Assistant Athletics Director for Communication and Media.

Additional writing provided by CCSU Office of Marketing & Communications:

**Keith Hagarty, Sintia Arelus '16, Janice Palmer**

**Central focus is published by Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT 06050 for alumni and friends. Central Connecticut State University is an AA/E0 institution and a university of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities System**

**All content copyrighted by Central focus. Reproduction by any means in whole or in part is prohibited without expressed permission.**

### ADVERTISING

**Central focus accepts ads at the editor's discretion for goods and services considered to be of value to CCSU alumni. Ad publication does not constitute endorsement. Please send inquiries to [ads@ccsu.edu](mailto:ads@ccsu.edu) or Editor, Central focus, Central Connecticut State University, 1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, 06050**



Peter Hauser '94

6

## Features

---

- 2** *The Campus of the Future is Now*
- 5** *Megan Clark Torrey '96, MS '08  
Confronting Worldwide Women's Issues*
- 6** *Peter Hauser '94  
Breaking the Silence*
- 8** *Kateryna Wowk '04  
Fortifying Our Natural Shorelines*

## Around Campus

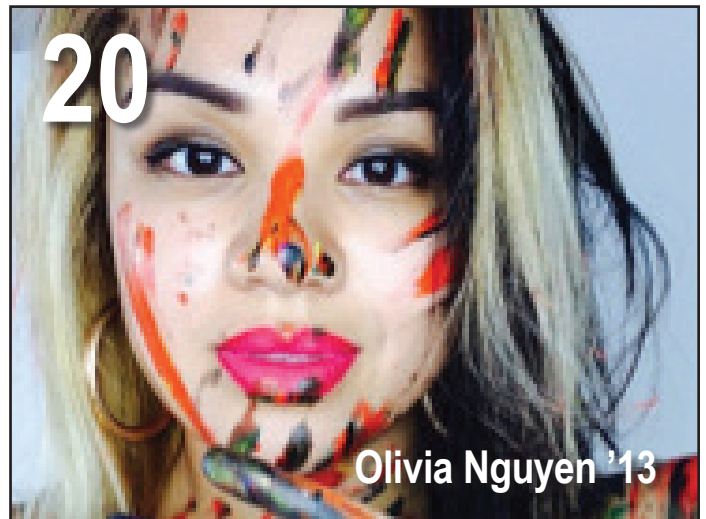
---

- 10** *Preparing the Next Generation of  
Higher Education Leaders*
- 11** *New Dean of the  
School of Business, Ken Colwell*
- 12** *Alumni, Faculty & Staff  
Honored as 'Men of Color'*

## Alumni News

---

- 14** *Alumni Association Awards*
- 18** *Live to Learn, 1950-59 Reunion*



Olivia Nguyen '13

## Recent Alumni

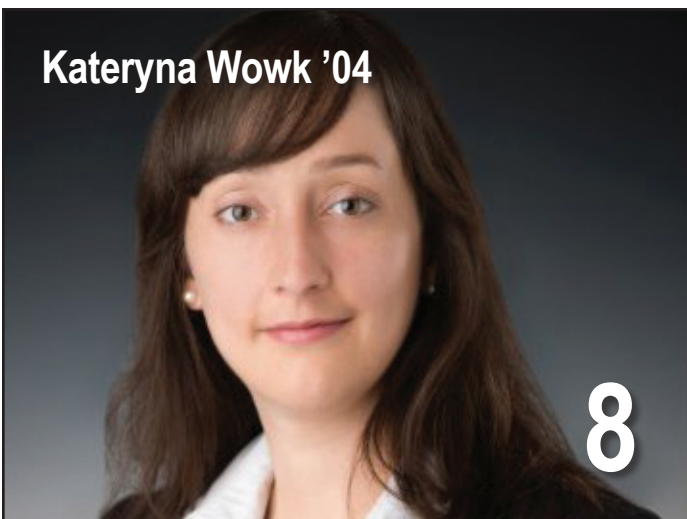
---

- 20** *Olivia Nguyen '13  
Paintings Reach Hip-Hop Icons*
- 21** *David Brant '14  
How to Save a Life — A Personal Story*

## Donors

---

- 22** *Stanley Lotko '51  
Generosity Creates Curriculum Lab & Establishes Scholarship*
- 23** *Norman Schain  
Following a Mitzvah & Establishing a Family Scholarship*
- 24** *Donors Meet Scholars*



Kateryna Wowk '04

8

## Departments

---

# The Campus of the Future is Now



The new Mid-Campus Residence Hall on Harold Lewis Drive and Ella Grasso Boulevard opened with the 2015-16 academic year.

“This University is undergoing a building program the likes of which the institution has never seen,” according to President **Jack Miller**, speaking to the campus community at the opening of the academic year.

According to Dr. **Richard Bachoo**, CCSU’s Chief Administrative Officer, “These new and renovated facilities will allow Central to remain in the vanguard of higher education by expanding and enhancing opportunities for Connecticut’s sons and daughters to explore, create, and grow.”

Most notable because of its sheer visible presence on Ella Grasso Boulevard is CCSU’s new **Mid-Campus Residence Hall**. Housing over 600 beds, the new eight-floor, 220,000 sq. ft. residence hall offers three styles of rooms, with each spacious floor containing a kitchenette, three alcoves, and a group study room. The hall’s main floor features a large living room, fireplace, activity/game room, and fitness center.

Touring the new facility, the president said, “Our students deserve it. It makes me feel good to see our students have something this nice. Seeing the living room, the fireplace, gathering spaces, workout room, exercise facilities, study areas, and dorm rooms themselves makes me proud. They’ve done a magnificent job.”

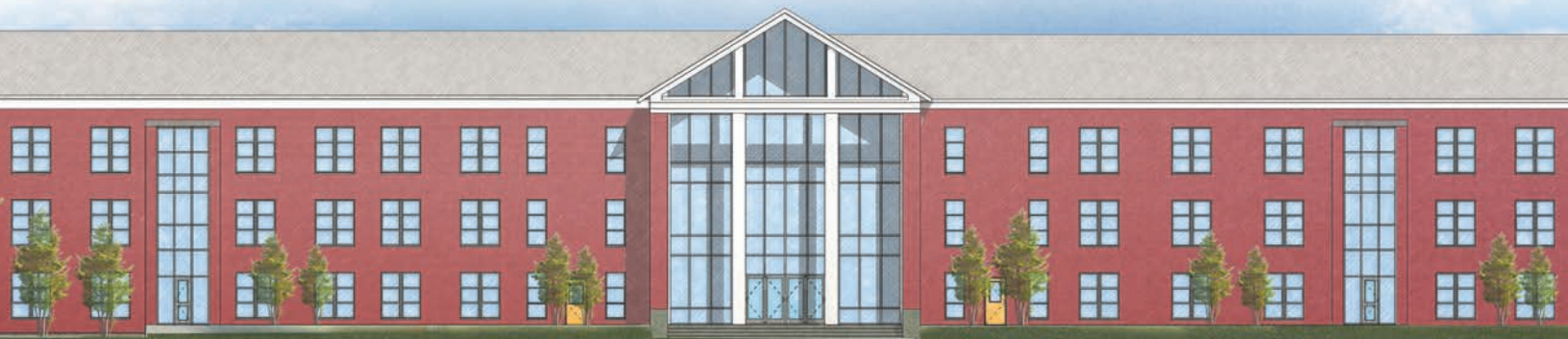
Located near the athletic and recreation facilities, a new 22,000 sq. ft. **food services dining facility** is on schedule for a February 2016 opening (page 4).

“That’s going to be a beautiful facility,” Miller said of the complex, designed to accommodate dining for approximately 1,200 students.

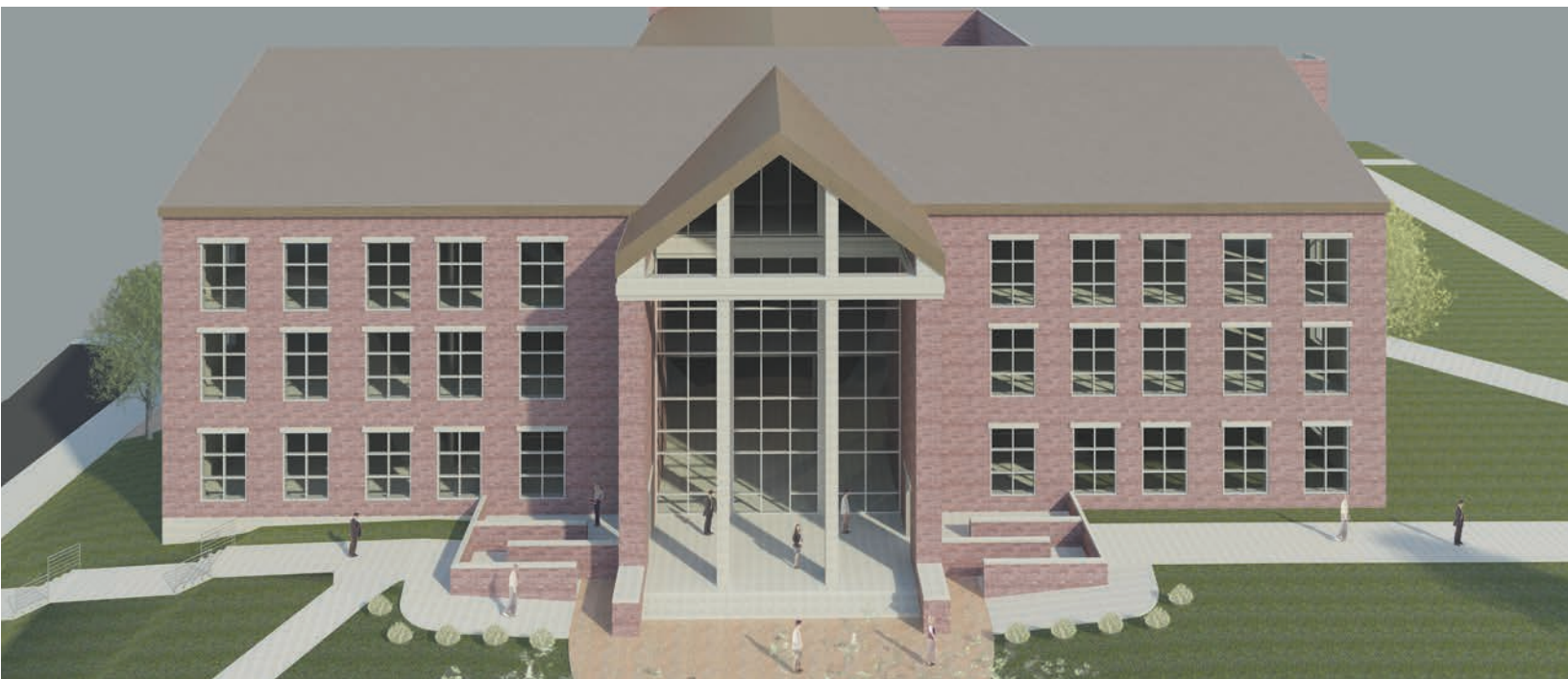
The new residence hall and dining facility join other recently completed University building projects, including the **Helen G. Bichum Engineering Laboratory** (2012); **Social Sciences Hall**, and the **Public Safety building** (2013); and the **Athletics and Recreation Field complex** (2014).

Soon, other projects will begin and steadily build out the student-focused and thoroughly modern campus envisioned in the University’s Campus Master Plan.

- Renovations to **Willard and DiLoreto halls** are in process and scheduled for completion by 2018. In addition to major HVAC and technology upgrades, the buildings will be connected by an elevated glass “bridge,” creating an enclosed open atrium that will provide a dramatically enhanced, modernized, and welcoming academic structure.



Renovations planned for Willard and DiLoreto halls (scheduled for 2018) include enhanced classroom/office space, technology upgrades, an enclosed, open atrium lobby area, and a connecting bridge (Tai Soo Kim Partners Architect).



The renovation of Barnard Hall, a four-story academic facility constructed in 1953, will provide the School of Education & Professional Studies with new faculty offices and new classrooms/labs.

“After years of talking about this, even long before my time, it’s great to finally see the engineering work completed and ready to go,” said Miller.

- Construction gets underway in 2017 for a **new engineering building**, located between the Elihu Burritt Library and the Student Center Parking Garage. The new facility also allows for Nicolaus Copernicus Hall to be dedicated entirely to the sciences.
- Scheduled for late 2018, the **C.J. Huang Center** (student recreational facility replacing the Bubble) will feature a gymnasium area, running track, meeting rooms, classrooms, and more.

- In 2018, renovations to **Burritt Library** will create a new technology center, reflecting what Miller calls “a new world” outlook for libraries. “Clearly, it’s a lot more technology,” he said, “with a lot fewer stacks.”
- Other near-term projects for the University include renovations to **Henry Barnard Hall** (2019), **Memorial Hall** (2019), and **Nicolaus Copernicus Hall** (2020).

For more details on these and other campus projects, see: [www.ccsu.edu/masterplan](http://www.ccsu.edu/masterplan)

— *Keith Hagarty*



The C. J. Huang Recreation Center is a new 70,000 square foot facility located on Kaiser Drive. The multi-story, steel-frame building will be built on the site of the Bubble/Kaiser Annex, which is currently a 39,625 gross square foot, air-supported fabric structure constructed in 1991.



The new food services dining facility.



Located near the athletic and recreation complex, a new, 22,000 sq. ft. food services dining facility is scheduled for February 2016 opening (Tai Soo Kim Partners Architect).

# Megan Clark Torrey '96, MS '08

## Confronting Worldwide Women's Issues

As executive director of the World Affairs Council of Connecticut (WACCT), **Megan Clark Torrey '96, MS '08** works to reverse gender inequality and bring global issues into focus. Torrey oversees the development and delivery of world class programming to educate the statewide community on global affairs, recently implementing a nationwide series on global women's health, coordinating a leadership mission to Brazil, and producing a documentary on former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. Her research interests include citizen participation in foreign policy, and inclusive security and the role of women in post-conflict situations.

Dedicating her career to worldwide women's issue, Torrey was recently named a 2015 Global Impact Honoree by the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame.

"Globally, there are many challenges to the full and equal participation of women in society," says Torrey.

### How are you bringing women's global issues to the state?

At the World Affairs Council, I was part of the team that developed a series of programs called "The Global Women's Issues Forum." These programs focus on issues, like education and healthcare, which are imperative to women around the globe. We've had programs that focus on women and business empowerment and skillset building, globally. We are able to bring thoughtful global leaders on these issues to Connecticut, and connect our community with people and organizations around the world. For instance, we hosted the first female Iraqi minister of the environment.

### How did your experiences at CCSU prepare you for the work you're doing now for WACCT?

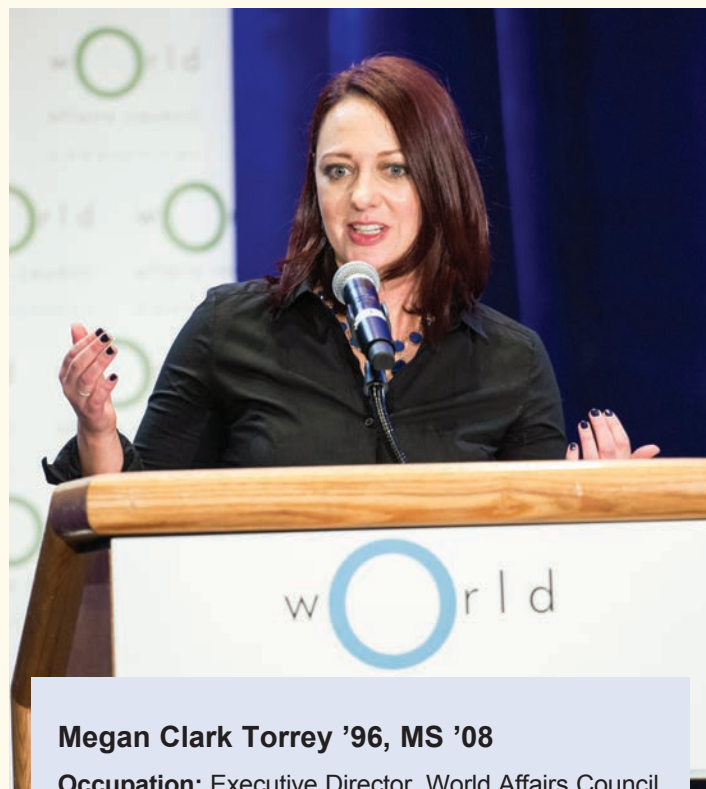
At CCSU I studied International Relations. That gave me a foundational knowledge of all things global. Knowledge and understanding of what is going on in the world, and how it impacts us here in Connecticut, is essential to my role.

### Why did you choose CCSU?

I have always wanted to study global relations and CCSU has the most comprehensive program for one of our state schools. It also offered the flexibility that allowed me to work and go to school at the same time.

### Can you give an example of citizen participation here in Connecticut?

The biggest thing one can do is vote for political candidates that share the same views on foreign policy. We try and connect our community with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and get people excited, involved, and engaged in those issues. We recently hosted a program on Syrian refugees. Chris George from Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services in New Haven, Ellen Billard who founded her own NGO, called "Road to Mafraq," and two local residents addressed the issue of dealing with one of the world's most critical crises. Our hope is that we're connecting our community to critical global issues.



### Megan Clark Torrey '96, MS '08

**Occupation:** Executive Director, World Affairs Council of Connecticut

**Degrees:** BA '96, MS '08 (International Studies)

**Hometown:** Newington, CT

**Global Scope:** Before joining WACC in 2003, Torrey worked with UNESCO's International Year for the Culture of Peace at its headquarters in Paris and the United Nations International Training Research Institute for the Advancement of Women.

**It's A Woman's World:** "So many women have persevered through adversity and used their platform for making the world a better place. A great example is Malala Yousafzai."

### What does being named a Global Impact Honoree by the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame (CTWHF) mean to you?

This year the theme of the CTWHF is Global Impact. It is a tremendous honor to be recognized for all of my work in this arena. To be personally recognized for the work I do in global education and engaging the public in critical global issues here in our state is very rewarding and gratifying to me. It is inspiration to continue on this path.

— Kate Callahan '14

# Breaking the Silence

Dr. Peter C. Hauser



Our only limitations are those we impose upon ourselves, according to **Peter C. Hauser '94** (Psychology), in turning disabilities into possibilities.

Deaf from the age of 5, Hauser has been a member of the Research and Teacher Education Department at Rochester Institute of Technology's National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) since 2002, serving as the deaf clinical neuropsychologist and full professor in the American Sign Language and Interpreting

Education Department; director of Rochester Bridges to the Doctorate (training program funded by the National Institute of Health); and director of NTID's Deaf Studies Laboratory (DSL) (affiliated with the National Science Foundation's Science of Learning Center on Visual Language and Visual Learning).

Hauser's research focuses on three core elements: language, cognition, and psychosocial development: With deaf individuals dependent on visual cues to help communicate, Hauser says the DSL's research efforts strive to expand our understanding of how visual language shapes the experience of growing up deaf—how language influences cognition, identity, and academic success. Under his leadership, DSL has developed assessment tools used for research programs throughout North America and Europe.

Hauser's book *How Deaf Children Learn: What Parents and Teachers Need to Know* (with Marc Marschark; Oxford, 2011) has received numerous accolades and awards. His skill in the classroom has been recognized by the Eisenhardt Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Exemplary myCourses Teaching Award, and the Isaac

L. Jordan, Sr., Pluralism Award.

**Focus.** How did CCSU help guide your professional journey?

**Hauser.** I have always been interested in psychology, and CCSU really gave me the opportunity to explore different disciplines within psychology. My undergraduate research experiences helped me decide that I wanted to pursue a research career (later earning his PhD in Clinical Psychology from Gallaudet University). As part of my elective senior year thesis, I worked with collaborators, developed stimuli, and applied for Institute Review Board for Human Subject Approval. I studied the impact of different visual language presentations on deaf students learning and memory. Today, I do the same things regularly to initiate and complete studies on deaf individuals' cognitive, language, and psychosocial functioning. It all started at CCSU.

**Focus.** What are the rewarding aspects of your career?

**Hauser.** What I love most is serving as a mentor for my students. I love watching my students learn and grow. Many of my deaf and hard of hearing students have gotten into doctoral training programs.



I love that I am helping to increase the number of deaf and hard of hearing individuals working in science disciplines.

**Focus.** As a deaf student, what were some common misconceptions you faced?

**Hauser.** One of the common misconceptions is that deaf people are not able to succeed. I remember in one class, during the first day, a professor was reviewing the syllabus and mentioned that all students must give a presentation at the end of the semester. The professor then looked at me and said, "You don't have to present, don't worry about it." The professor assumed I could not present because I'm deaf, but I gave presentations regularly by signing and having an interpreter voice for me.

**Focus.** What special accommodations did you have to aid in your classroom instruction?

**Hauser.** I had sign language interpreting services and note-taking services. It was a challenge in the beginning because the CCSU Office for Students with Disabilities was not very accommodating. In some classes, I had an interpreter for only 25 percent of the time. I had to make a federal complaint that my rights were being violated, and had to go through a mediation process with the Connecticut Department of Justice to get my needs met.

**Focus.** What were some of the challenges you faced as a student?

**Hauser.** I was always worried whether or not I would have an interpreter for my class any given day. It was always difficult to sit in the class and watch a lecture begin without an interpreter. I would wait and hope that an interpreter would show up. Many times, there was no interpreter, and I was too embarrassed to leave class, so I just sat through the class. It was very difficult when the classes were smaller and the professors expected each student to participate. Sometimes everyone had to take a turn to say something and when it was my turn, students would laugh because I had no idea what was being discussed, or what they expected me to say. My speech was not that intelligible either.

**Focus.** How did you overcome these obstacles?

**Hauser.** My proudest achievement was when I fought with CCSU's Office of Disability Services to get the

accommodations I needed to successfully receive a bachelor degree. I knew my own rights and needs. I hope I have made things better for future CCSU students with disabilities.

**Focus.** Who made a difference for you while at CCSU?

**Hauser.** I really miss CCSU's Department of Psychology. I worked in a psychology laboratory at CCSU and had my own access to the laboratory. The faculty were very supportive and provided me with both research and clinical experiences that shaped me into the scientist I am today.

**Focus.** It sounds like you took full advantage of the program's learning opportunities.

**Hauser.** The flexibility of CCSU's curriculum allowed me to take independent studies to be able to work in research laboratories and to have a clinical internship at a psychiatric hospital. I worked with one of the psychology faculty members on studying eating disorders in college students, then I worked with another psychology faculty member to study learning theories using pidgins. I also volunteered on the weekends at a local in-patient psychiatric hospital that had a deaf ward. This experience helped me understand the mental health infrastructure, psychopathology, and the roles different professionals play in individual patients' treatment.

**Focus.** While at Central, did you receive any lasting advice that you've been able to impart to your own students?

**Hauser.** The best advice I got was when someone from CCSU told me to fight for my rights. I teach my deaf and hard of hearing students now on how to self-advocate. I learned the vital importance of self-advocacy, and this has carried me far in life.

**Focus.** What would you tell a deaf or hard of hearing student preparing for college?

**Hauser.** I would tell them that they can do anything they dream to do. Sometimes the infrastructure and services might not be the most accommodating. Work with the university personnel to make it work for you. As you do that, you will not only make your dream come true, but you will make it easier for others to achieve their dreams.

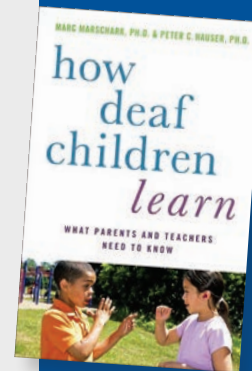
## “One of the common misconceptions is that deaf people are not able to succeed.”

In part because of Peter Hauser's efforts and the advocacy of others at CCSU, the University has made significant strides in understanding the diversity of student learning abilities and approaches and what students need to be successful. These advances are reflected in the Student Disability Services (SDS) office's commitment to providing relevant

modifications to programs, services, and facilities to enable students with disabilities to pursue their educational objectives. SDS also provides a range of assistive devices and services, including academic coaching,

academically helpful apps, sign language interpretation, note taking services, and other accommodations to ensure that all students are welcomed and supported.

CCSU is also fortunate to have the resources of the Helen Bichum Trust for Students with Disabilities. The fund supports those students with the cost of tuition and fees, room and board expenses, and books, as well as with the cost of adaptive technologies such as speech enabled computers for blind or visually impaired students, blinking lights and vibration devices to help hearing-impaired students, robotic arms and other assistive devices for people with dexterity or mobility impairment, and software to help students with learning and developmental disabilities deal more effectively with reading and writing tasks.





## Kateryna Wowk '04

**Occupation:** Senior Social Scientist to the Chief Economist, US National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

**From:** Middletown, Connecticut

**Current Residence:** Washington, DC

**Degrees:** BS, Ecology (Political Science minor), CCSU, 2004; MPA, Environmental Science and Policy (School of International and Public Affairs), Columbia University, 2005; and PhD, Marine Policy (International Relations), University of Delaware, 2011.

**Favorite Activities:** Hiking, cooking, playing guitar, reading, and spending time with friends

**CCSU Influences:** “Professor of Biology Clayton Penniman and Associate Professor of Political Science Ghassan El-Eid were instrumental to my success. They encouraged me to pursue my passion to bridge science and policy, and continuously challenged me to do the best I could—and better! I’d also like to thank Professor of Biology Douglas Carter and (former CCSU professor) Dr. Ali Antar who deepened these connections and helped me see the world in new ways.”

# Fortifying Our Natural Shorelines

## Kateryna Wowk '04 Consults for Government on Coastal Protection

Serving as Senior Social Scientist to the Chief Economist at the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), **Kateryna Wowk '04** is making waves to conserve our coasts.

Home to 39 percent of the nation’s population, America’s shorelines are becoming “increasingly vulnerable” to the impacts of natural disasters, haphazard development, and degradation, according to Wowk.

“This becomes especially evident when these vital areas are hit by severe weather events like Hurricane Katrina in 2005, which resulted in a tragic loss of life of at least 1,500 as well as over \$100 billion in damages,” says Wowk.

Seven years later, Hurricane Sandy resulted in 285 fatalities, and an estimated \$67 billion in damages across several northeastern states.

“The need to strengthen resilience to weather and climate events is one of many reasons why some counties and companies are changing the way they do business along our coasts,” says the Middletown-native.

“They’re embracing sustainable practices that balance economic, social, and environmental concerns across management and operations.

“We have to do a better job in fostering an understanding that the value of natural assets people rely upon is not zero,” she adds. “Otherwise, this ‘natural capital’ will continue to lose on our balance sheets and in our decision-making processes, which puts us all at increasing risk.”

### What are your primary duties and responsibilities at the NOAA?

I support NOAA’s chief economist on a number of social science topics, ranging from work with the private sector on incorporating natural capital into business planning, to providing more effective recommendations on risk communication and behavior, to closing knowledge gaps on the costs and benefits of natural infrastructure approaches along our nation’s coasts.

### What are some of the more rewarding aspects of your position?

By far, I enjoy getting to work on such a breadth of issues. I get to meet and work with experts from all walks of life, from administration officials at the White House, to scientists out on ships—I’m really lucky to have a diverse network of insightful and talented folks. This also means that I’m always learning new things.

### By contrast, what are some of the challenges you face?

It’s no secret that government can be bureaucratic. Change doesn’t happen quickly, which is frustrating. The politics can also be challenging. The right solution may be in place, but if there’s dissent in one branch, or sometimes even by one key decision-maker, even the best solutions can be halted. That’s been difficult to accept.

### In your research, you’ve discussed how natural habitats can minimize coastal damage caused by storms. How could these findings help advance resiliency efforts along shoreline regions?

Natural infrastructure along our coastlines (e.g., beaches, dunes, wetlands, reefs, mangroves) can provide significant coastal protection benefits. We realized after Hurricane Sandy that many towns had natural infrastructure that lessened the storm’s damage, whereas neighboring towns without that infrastructure suffered more damages. With renewed interest and trust in these approaches, many agencies directed their Sandy Supplemental funding toward increasing implementation of these approaches. By helping public and private entities understand where and under what conditions these approaches are likely to provide cost-effective protection, we’ll be able to advance the ball even further.

### How else can nature aid coastal preservation efforts?

The benefits provided to humanity by marine ecosystems and resources are huge and invaluable. As the primary regulator of climate, the ocean generates half the oxygen we breathe, absorbs about one-third of all anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> released into the atmosphere, and has absorbed 80 percent of all heat added to the global system. Coastal habitats filter pollutants, such as pesticides and heavy metals out of the water flowing through them, and provide retention, lessening coastal erosion. Ocean and coastal areas are also troves of rich biodiversity, provide food for billions of people, and many marine ecosystems exhibit unique genetic characteristics with untold values for medicinal, pharmaceutical, cosmetic, and biotechnological fields.

### How did Central help you set sail on your career path?

CCSU provided a great opportunity for me to expand my horizons. The ability to deepen my education through high quality teaching helped immensely. There was a lot of one-on-one attention, even in larger classes, which I really needed. I had a tough time coming out of my shell, so the relationships the teachers were able to develop with the students helped me to formulate and express my ideas in a trusted environment. It's an institution to which I'll always be grateful.

— Keith Hagarty



**CCSUCCESS**  
CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE  
UNIVERSITY ANNUAL GIVING

### Damien Westerman '18

**Major:** Music Performance, Clarinet

**Goals:** MBA, Accounting Business, Concertizing

**Achievements:** Outstanding GPA; Pettinico Family Fund Scholarship

**Faculty Praise:** "I truly don't know where the top will be for this young man, a fine young clarinetist and musician in every regard."  
Professor of Music Brian Kershner

**Damien Says:** "Scholarships mean a lot. Receiving one pushes you to do more, to work hard to show that you deserve the scholarship. They set up your future for success, too. Instead of worrying about how to pay off college loans, you can focus on your career or put money into your business."

Gifts to CCSU make a world of difference for our students, enabling them to succeed in the classroom and creating opportunities for future success, whether it's starting their own business or performing in the concert hall.

You can make a secure online gift at [www.ccsu.edu/give](http://www.ccsu.edu/give); or call 860-832-1740; or return the attached envelope with a check/money order/credit card. Thank you for considering CCSU and helping students like Damien to succeed.

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

# CCS4U

## Advance Your Career Build Your Business

CCSU's Downtown New Britain Campus offers programs in business & professional development, plus summer tech programs for K-12 students!

Learn more at [www.ccsu.edu/CCS4U](http://www.ccsu.edu/CCS4U)



# PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION OF HIGHER ED LEADERS

## CCSU Launches New Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership (EdD): Higher Education Strand



Associate Professor of Educational Leadership, Policy & Instructional Technology **Linda E. Clark**, co-coordinator of Central's new doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership (EdD): Higher Education Strand.



Clark moderates a classroom discussion during an Educational Leadership course.



Associate Professor of Educational Leadership, Policy & Instructional Technology **Ethan Heiden** engages in an Educational Leadership classroom discussion.

As America's workforce in higher education ages, Central is preparing the educational leaders of tomorrow.

"There is a real need to figure out who the next generation of leaders are going to be," says Associate Professor of Educational Leadership, Policy & Instructional Technology **Linda E. Clark**, coordinator of Central's new Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership (EdD): Higher Education Strand.

Debuting this fall, the doctorate program's higher education strand is designed to enhance the skill set of current higher education professionals who aspire to leadership positions. It provides an opportunity for each student to design and focus on an area of individualized specialization of higher education.

"Doctoral students are aware that the leadership demographic is changing," Clark says. "CCSU stays relevant by responding with a cohort-model program based on an already solid K-12 segment. It's a natural progression."

Using a cohort-model (about 20-25 students total) the structure allows students to move through the program at the same pace, or in unison, according to Clark.

"We've seen that this promotes collegiality, intellectual stimulation, professional development, and networking," she says.

What makes this program unique? While the courses are highly focused within the field of higher education, students have to complete an individualized, 15-credit sequence in conjunction with a CCSU faculty member.

"This allows students to really create a career track for themselves, and develop an expertise in something that their aspirations are in line with," according to Clark, saying the program offers the opportunity for students to merge their passions and enhanced skills with leadership positions at colleges and universities across the state and beyond.

"Higher education has become more complex," she says. "We're dealing a lot more with accreditation and pushes for assessment. We also have a lot of ethical debates going on, as well as the fiscal piece of higher education: facing escalating costs, and affordability.

"Ultimately, Clark adds, "there's a real need for leaders who are trained to deal with current issues, understand what is at stake, and prepared to juggle it all while maintaining the things that make the US higher education system great."

With the next cohort starting in January 2018, applicants can look for calls for admissions material in Spring 2017. For more information about the program, see [www.ccsu.edu/seps](http://www.ccsu.edu/seps).

— *Kate Callahan '14*

# Dean Ken Colwell

## “Academic Entrepreneur” Leads the School of Business



Dean of the School of Business, Dr. Ken Colwell

CCSU welcomes Dr. **Kenneth Colwell** as dean of the School of Business.

After engaging in numerous conversations with school stakeholders over the summer, Colwell, a self-described “academic entrepreneur,” is in the process of formulating a strategic plan emphasizing positive growth and change.

“As an entrepreneurship professor, I spent a lot of time working with

and studying entrepreneurs, and their way of thinking rubbed off on me,” he says. “I am constantly on the lookout for opportunities to build and grow academic programs for the benefit of our current and future students.”

Colwell, who received his PhD from the University of Oregon (2003), and an MBA from San Francisco University (1999), has accumulated over 25 years of industry and academic experience. He previously served as associate professor and dean of the School of Business, Public Administration, and Information Sciences at Long Island University Brooklyn.

“Ken brings to this position a strong record of scholarship in the field of entrepreneurship,” says **Carl Lovitt**, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs.

One his highlight initiatives at LIU Brooklyn was instituting a comprehensive review of the school’s academic programs, determining if it met the needs of students and potential employers in terms of relevancy and timeliness.

“The result of this review was a large number of new or revitalized programs that helped to differentiate us in the hypercompetitive New York City higher education market,” says Colwell. “I believe we need to undergo the same sort of review here at CCSU.”

Similarly, he credits his role at the University of Miami for providing a strong foundation for his ongoing work with external stakeholders, developing co-curricular experiential education programs, and tireless fundraising efforts.

His previous positions include director of Entrepreneurship Programs within the University of Miami’s School of Business Administration (2009-2013); and an assistant professor of Strategy and Entrepreneurship at Drexel University’s LeBow College of Business/ Baidada Center for Entrepreneurship (2003-2009).

Colwell’s industry experience includes administrative roles with Charles Schwab & Co, Inc. from 1991 to 1999, serving as director, senior project manager, manager of fixed income operations, branch

supervisor, and registered representative. He’s also held positions as an account executive with Dean Witter Reynolds (1990-1991), and was a financial analyst at Roy F. Weston, Inc. (1987-1990).

Today’s college students, according to Colwell, base the value of their education on affordability and relevancy.

“It is no secret that the skyrocketing cost of higher education is making it a luxury that many working families struggle to afford,” says Colwell noting our nation’s \$1.3 trillion outstanding student loan debt. “Yet at the same time, for most students, a college education is the surest path to a stable and fulfilling professional career. We need to find ways to make the cost of earning a degree lower for our students, and ensure that their time and money are well spent.”

In terms of relevancy, Colwell wants to see student commitment net a higher return on investment.

“The days of graduating students without specific job skills and expecting employers to train them are largely over,” says Colwell. “Employers expect their new hires to hit the ground running and make a contribution right away. We need to give our students the skills and experiences to do so.”

He cites the CCSU School of Business’s recent successful push to attain AACSB accreditation as a testament of fortitude and perseverance.

“That initiative required a huge amount of time and attention and understandably was the main focus of the faculty and administration. This effort was well founded,” says Colwell. “AACSB accreditation gives the school a critical point of differentiation and a strong signal to the market of the quality and rigor of a CCSU business education.”

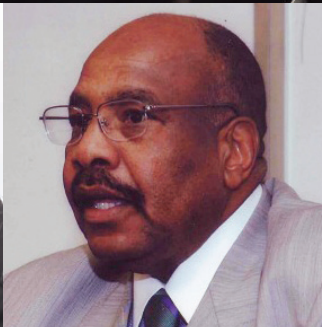
As the school prepares its strategic planning process, garnering input from stakeholders (internal and external), Colwell, careful not to offer any specific examples until the process is completed, says a general outline of his vision for the school emphasizes program relevancy, differentiation, and student entrepreneurial empowerment.

“The result of this process will be a set of actionable and measurable goals and objectives that move us toward our collective vision of what the school can become,” he says.

—Keith Hagarty



# CCSU Reps Honored During 100 Men of Color Gala



The Annual 100 Men of Color ceremony recognized CCSU alums **Larry Hall** '89, MS '96, Director of Admissions (far right in top photo above); **Bilal Afolabi** '15 (second from right in photos immediately above), and posthumously recognized **Ebenezer D. Bassett**, 1853 (far right, immediately above); along with (l-r, top image) Dr. **Richard Bachoo**, Chief Administrative Officer; **Warren Perry**, Professor of Anthropology; **Serafin Mendez-Mendez**, Professor of Communication; (l-r immediately above) CSU Professor of Philosophy **Felton Best**; and Adjunct Professor of Philosophy **Ben Foster**. At the very top, CCSU Associate Athletics Director **Michael Ansara** congratulates his honored colleagues.

The ceremony honors those whose exemplary leadership, entrepreneurial success, and community service has made a significant difference in the lives of others. Proceeds from the event provide financial support for programs promoting the advancement of young men of color.

# BLUE DEVILS FALL WRAP UP



Jevon Elmore disrupts pass play



Makenna Lommori sets up spike



Nicki Turley saves again

Northeast Conference **Men's Cross Country Coach of the Year Eric Blake** and the 2015 Central Connecticut **men's cross country** team reached a place where only two other programs in league history has ever been. Blake, now a five-time Coach of the Year, including two straight, and his men's cross country program won their seventh straight NEC title this fall, a feat bettered just once in league history.

The men's team was led by second, fifth, sixth, eighth and ninth place finishes by the Blue Devils, and their seven straight titles matched the seven straight won by the Mount St. Mary's women's tennis team from 1989-95. Next fall the Blue Devils will attempt to match the Quinnipiac women's cross country team who won eight straight titles from 2005-12.

Junior **Ryan Hertzog** was the top finisher for the Blue Devils finishing the 8k course in a time of 24:57.7. He led a group of five Blue Devils who finished in the top nine to lead the Blue Devils to the title. Senior **Matt Walker** finished fifth (25:17.8) followed by freshman Austin Trainor who was sixth with a time of 25:28.6. Freshman **Alex Norstrom** was eighth in a time of 25:38.5 and junior **Joe Gioielli** was ninth in a time of 25:41.0. The Blue Devils team score of 30 was 49 points ahead of second place Sacred Heart.

Blake's **women's cross country team** posted their highest championship finish since 1999 when they finished second in 2015, led by sophomore **Brittany Mendelson** who won medalist honors by placing first among the 80 overall finishers.

The second year under head coach **Pete Rossomando** saw the **Blue Devil football** team finish in a tie for third place overall with a 3-3 conference record. Despite dropping games to the top two teams in the league standings (Duquesne, St. Francis U), the Blue Devils posted wins over Bryant and Sacred Heart who also finished with a 3-3 league mark. Junior cornerback **Jevon**

**Elmore** was named a Third Team All-American following the season.

The Blue Devil **women's soccer team** posted an 8-5-4 overall record and a 3-3-2 league mark and finished in sixth place. Central did fare well in the post-season award column as junior goalkeeper **Nicki Turley** was named the league's top keeper for the second time and sophomore **Jennifer Cafferky** was named the league's Defensive Player of the Year for the second time in her two seasons with the Blue Devils. Central had four First Team All-Conference award winners, the most of any school in the league.

The **men's soccer team** finished 6-9-2 overall and 3-4 in league play as four players earned Second Team All-Conference nods following the season. Senior **Ben Knight** helped pace the Blue Devils on the year with a team-high four assists. Sophomore **Ryan Taylor** was the team's top scorer with 15 total points, including a team-best six goals in his second season with the Blue Devils.

The **women's volleyball team** finished the season with an 11-16 overall and a 3-11 mark in the NEC. Senior **Makenna Lommori** capped off a stellar career with the Blue Devils with a Second Team All-Conference nod. The honor marked the fourth time in her career that Lommori had been named All-Conference, making her just the third Blue Devil to earn All-Northeast Conference honors four times. She joins **Jennifer Cote** (2001-2004) and **Jamie Baumert** (2006-2009) as the only other four-time All-NEC honorees in program history. She completes her CCSU career fourth all-time in assists with 3,290 and 10<sup>th</sup> in digs with 940.

— Tom Pincince, MS '14  
Assistant AD,  
Communication & Media Services



CCSU Alumni Association President Ed Vescovi (l) with award recipients Carl Krein, Sue Ann Collins, Jude Page, Mayor Erin Stewart, Robin Crothers, Robert Smith, Nicole Sanders, and David Monti

## The 2015 Alumni Association Awards

Eight individuals making a positive difference in the Central community were honored at the 2015 CCSU Alumni Association Awards. Held each spring, the annual ceremony recognizes alumni and friends of the University who make significant contributions to help advance its mission and bring positive recognition to CCSU.

**Sue Ann Collins** '75 (BA, Mathematics) and **David Monti** '64, MS '68 (Literacy, Elementary and Early Childhood Education) each received the **Distinguished Alumni Award**, recognizing outstanding professional and/or personal achievements, garnering credit for both the alum and the University.

Collins is senior vice president and chief actuary at TIAA-CREF, overseeing the company's actuarial activities. She also serves on the CCSU Foundation Board of Directors and is president of the Hartford Stage Company's Board of Directors.

Monti has been teaching at CCSU for over 40 years, and is currently a doctoral faculty member in Education Leadership. Serving on the School of Education & Professional Studies Advisory Board, he's also held roles as chairperson of the Graduate Studies Committee, and president of NEW, the self-governing body of the School of Education & Professional Studies.

Receiving the **2015 Young Alumni Award** were New Britain Mayor **Erin E. Stewart** '09 (BA, Political Science-Public Administration) and **Judith "Jude" (Page) Barry** '97 (BS, Business). The award recognizes professional and/or personal achievement of CCSU alums 40 years of age or younger.

As the youngest mayor in the history of New Britain (elected in 2013 at the age of 26) Stewart is the city's 40<sup>th</sup> mayor, and the second woman to hold the office. Some of her initiatives include curbing homelessness and developing an eco-friendly "Smart City" plan, spearheading the largest solar power project in city history. She is a proud, lifelong learner of the state's public school system, and education advocate, previously serving on the New Britain Board of Education.

Representing Aflac Insurance since 2001, Barry (president of CCSU's Class of 1997) set the record for Connecticut's highest sales figures, qualifying for the coveted President's Club sales award more times than any agent in the state. As a member of Aflac's prestigious Million Dollar Club, she attributes her career success to the meaningful, long-term relationships developed with her 150-plus clients.

**Nicole Sanders** MS '05, EdD '09 (Educational Leadership) and **Robert J. Smith** '68 (Education) received the **Community Service Award**, recognizing extraordinary community service, and contributions advancing the improvement of society.

As principal at Northend Elementary School in New Britain, Sanders was named Civil Educator of the Year, the New Haven Savings Bank Teacher of the Year in Excellence Award, and the 2013 NAACP Woman of the Year.

Recently retiring as founding director of the Center for Arts and Humanities at the University of St. Joseph, Smith has received

numerous awards for his contributions to the arts. He served as chairman of English and director of Theatre at Woodstock Academy, adjunct professor in Theatre at CCSU, Graduate Education at Eastern Connecticut State University, and consulting faculty in Theatre at Charter Oak State College.

**Robin Crothers** and **Carl F. Krein** received the **Friends of the University Award**, recognizing a non-graduate individual or organization demonstrating distinguished leadership and/or service to Central.

Actively involved in Blue Devils Athletics, Crothers honored her late husband, Raymond, a highly accomplished runner, inducted in 1983 to the Blue Devil Athletics Hall of Fame. In tribute, the Alumni Track and Field Club and Athletics Department annually host the Raymond Crothers Memorial 5K X-C Race, awarding the Crothers Scholarship to a student athlete embodying high levels of dedication, talent, and achievement in track and field.

As CCSU's retired head athletic trainer and former US Olympic athletic trainer, Krein established a nationally respected athletic training curriculum, and a scholarship fund in his namesake. Inducted into the CCSU Athletics Hall of Fame in 1995, Krein received CCSU's Distinguished Service Award, and the Distinguished Athletic Training Educator Award of the National Athletic Trainers' Association.

— Keith Hagarty



# Alumni Books & News

**June Archer**, *Yes! Every Day Can Be a Good Day: The Keys to Success That Lead to an Amazing Life* (Uptown, 2013)

**Joe Clifford** '05, *Lamentation* (Oceanview Publishing, 2014)

**Tim Garth Connelly** '83, *The Bambi: A Novel* (CreateSpace, 2015)

**Eileen Gonzalez** '12 & **Joyce Gonzalez** '14, *Tumult in Tenochtitlan: A Saga City Adventure* (Amazon Digital Services, 2015)

**Joan Hellthaler** '77, *Saving Saltaire: The Hurricane of 1938* (CreateSpace, 2015)

**Edward W. Larkin, Jr.** '68, *Good Ol' Fish Creek: Fifty-Eight Years of Adirondack Camping* (Lulu, 2013)

**Lorna (Brown) Little** '89, *Mum's the Word! A Memoir of Family Secrets* (A Little Guidance, 2015)

**Donna Maheady** '73, EdD, ARNP, *The Exceptional Nurse: Tales from the Trenches of Truly Resilient Nurses Working with Disabilities* (CreateSpace, 2014)

**William J. Mann** '84: 2015 Edgar Allan Poe Award for Best Fact Crime for his *Tinseltown: Murder, Morphine, and Madness at the Dawn of Hollywood* (HarperCollins, 2014)

**Denis M. Medeiros** '74, PhD, RD, *Advanced Human Nutrition*, 3d ed., (Jones and Bartlet, 2015)

**Nicky Penttila** '96 (MS, TESOL), *An Untitled Lady* (Wondrous Publishing, 2015)

**Cindy L. Rodriguez** '07, *When Reason Breaks* (Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2015)

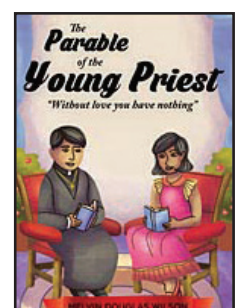
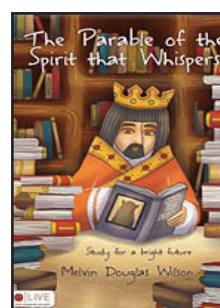
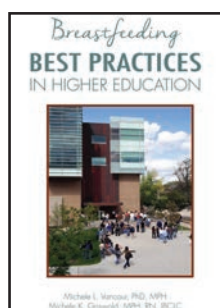
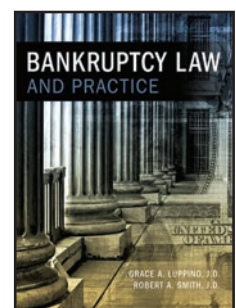
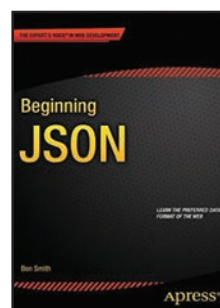
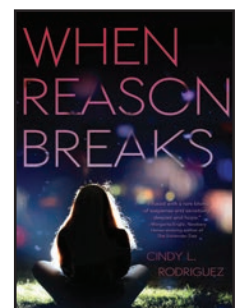
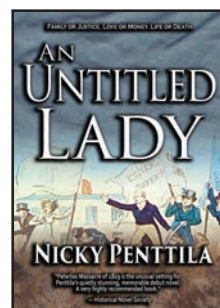
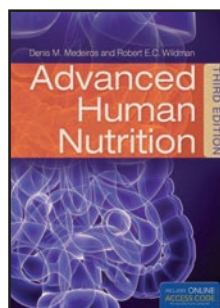
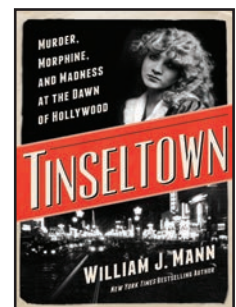
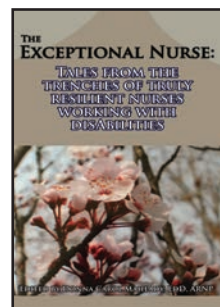
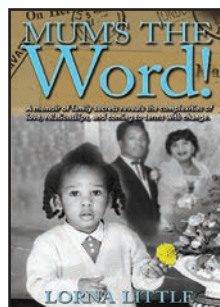
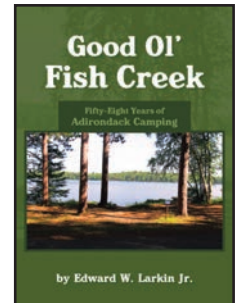
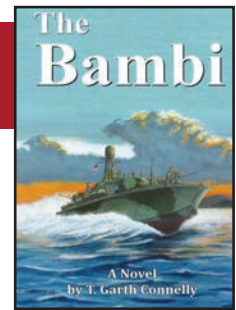
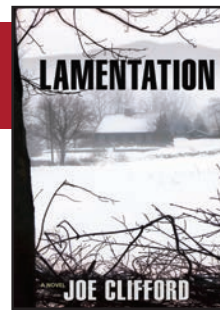
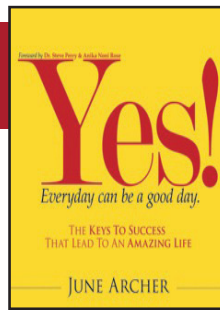
**Joseph Simoneau** '68, PhD., *Chez François: Who Planted the Rhubarb on Pa's Grave?* (AG-Press, 2011)

**Ben Smith** '04, *Beginning JSON* (Apress, 2015)

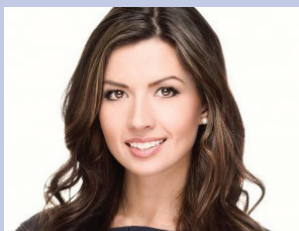
**Robert A. Smith** '97, with **Grace A. Luppino**, *Bankruptcy Law and Practice* (Pearson Higher Education, 2015)

**Dr. Michele L. Vancour** '92, co-editor, *Breastfeeding Best Practices in Higher Education* (Hale Publishers, 2014)

**Melvin Douglas Wilson** '09, *The Parable of the Spirit that Whispers*, and *The Parable of the Young Priest* (Tate Publishing, 2015)



# ALUMNI NEWS



Maggie Slysz '10

FOXCT morning news team anchor **Maggie Slysz** '10 (BS, Management) was named the 2015 Best Local Newscaster as voted by readers of *New Britain Herald's* "Best of New Britain Awards." Working the last two years as an anchor and social media reporter at WTIC-TV, Hartford's FOX affiliate, the 28-year-old from Farmington began her television journalism career covering entertainment, lifestyle, and holiday programs before quickly transitioning to her role as anchor of the morning news broadcast.



Gary Makowicki '74

Retiring as athletic director of Norwich Free Academy (NFA), **Gary Makowicki** '74 (BS, Education-Math) was honored by the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference with a merit award during April's state high school basketball championships. Named Athletic Director of the Year by the Connecticut High School Coaches Association, Makowicki's 37-year career as an educator for NFA (his alma mater) included serving as president and interim executive director of the National High School Athletic Coaches Association.



Kelly McDermott '04

**Kelly McDermott** '04 was named executive director of the Wallingford Housing Authority. She previously managed Wallingford's Housing and Community Development Department for ten years, receiving the Public Housing Resident Network's Outstanding Developer Award in 2013. She also serves on the Board of Middlesex County Habitat for Humanity and Middlesex United Way Young Leaders Society.



Tom Phillips '75

**Tom Phillips** '75 (BA, Political Science), president and CEO of Capital Workforce Partners, was featured in the "Business Scene" professional, one-on-one interview section of *Bristol Press*. Working for CWP since 2001, a nonprofit association of business and labor leaders, government officials and educators overseeing public-private partnerships for workforce training, Phillips offered insight into emerging business trends, issues, and labor practices facing the state and American workforce.



Cindy C. Rigling '01

**Cindy C. Rigling** was named principal of Hamilton Avenue School in Greenwich. An educator for 27 years, Rigling '01 (sixth year certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in Educational Leadership) previously served for seven years as the founding principal of the Capitol Regional Education Council (CREC) International Magnet School (IMS) for Global Citizenship, launching an award-winning inquiry-based program designed to close gaps in achievement between urban and suburban students.



Allison Kinard '09

**Allison Kinard** was named Emmett O'Brien Technical High School's Teacher of the Year. Kinard '09 (BS, Education-History) has been an educator at the school in Ansonia since 2009, saying she is both humbled and honored by the award, with school officials calling it a testament to her combined passion for history and student engagement.



Shelly Somers '96

Central Middle School (CMS) Principal **Shelley Somers** '96 (sixth year certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in Educational Leadership) was named the 2015 CT PTA Middle School Principal of the Year. Honored during April's Connecticut Parent-Teachers Association (PTA) Outstanding Administrator Awards program, Somers, who has been principal of the Greenwich public middle school for the last six years, was nominated by the CMS PTA, and chosen for the award based on her record of outstanding leadership, communication, community involvement, and professionalism.

# ALUMNI NEWS

**Nancy Ladish '01** (MS, Reading & Language Arts) has been named the 2015-2016 Teacher of the Year for Farmington Public Schools. Ladish has been teaching in the state for over 40 years and has been a second and first grade teacher at West District School for 15 years.



Nancy Ladish '01

**Susie Da Silva '97** (BS, Education: Spanish, Elementary), '00 (MS, Reading & Language Arts), '05 (EdD, Educational Leadership) is Darien Public Schools' new assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. She previously served as principal of Kings Highway Elementary School in Westport.



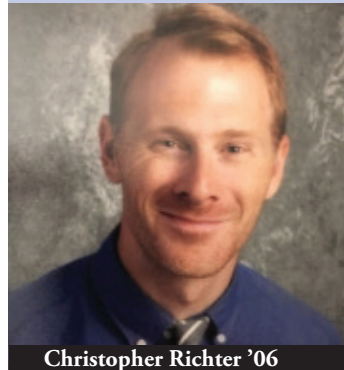
Susie Da Silva '97

**Michael Vose '79** (BS, Education: History) was appointed new director of instructional technology for Bethel Public Schools. He previously served as an administrator in Killingly Public Schools, lending his expertise and experience to integrate technology into teaching and learning opportunities.



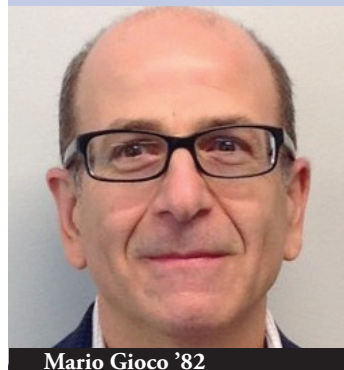
Michael Vose '79

**Christopher Richter '06** (BS, Education: Social Science), '09 (MS, Special Education) was named Southington Public Schools' 2015-2016 Teacher of the Year. The Kennedy Middle School social studies teacher of eight years was also recently honored by Southington school officials as an educational advocate and inspiration for teaching and learning.



Christopher Richter '06

**Mario Gioco '82** (BS, Accounting) was named chief financial officer of Polamer Precision, Inc., overseeing the New Britain-based company's corporate strategy and corporate business development.



Mario Gioco '82

— *Keith Hagarty*

# Live to Learn: 1950-59 Reunion



At 85 years old, **Winifred Bolles Gentile** '52 stands just over five feet tall in a roomful of Teacher's College of Connecticut (TCC) alumni. Her peers are also 80-years-old or so and have gathered for a joint reunion for the classes of 1950-59. Today we know TCC as Central Connecticut State University.

Gentile's best friend of over 50 years, **Frances Bell Dunn** '52, MS '75, sidles up close to her, touching shoulders. Gentile smiles at Dunn, "If I went back to school, I would study law," she says. Dunn takes the cue and says, "Not me. I would take all the creative classes I could." Gentile and Dunn play bridge each week and have clearly given further education some thought.

"I've always been in the forefront of women's progress," Gentile explains. "I was the first woman to serve on the Board of Selectmen in the town of Canton, Connecticut. I appreciate that in my lifetime, I've seen women become recognized for their abilities in *all* areas: science, technology, teaching, and service."

Dunn remembers being recognized as an undergrad. She was asked to illustrate the cover for the Teacher's College of Connecticut handbook. "I wonder if it's in the archives?" she says. Dunn taught Kindergarten for 35 years, receiving a Masters + 6<sup>th</sup> year in Early Education from CCSU. She's a quilter now, but if she returned to college she would take painting and fabric art courses. Gentile says, "She's very good at what she does."

Across the room stands **Robert (Bob) Haffner** '58. He's in a dark blue suit jacket and seems to be surveying the room. Haffner is the retired Information Officer for Westover Air Reserve Base. Originally part of the class of 1953, Haffner enlisted to fly for the Air Force in the Korean War and

postponed academics until 1955. In his career he taught high school history in Greenwich, Connecticut and marketing at Post College, eventually returning to the Air Force.

Haffner muses about what he would study if he had the opportunity to return to college. "Economic Geography," he says. "If you look at the automobile industry, most cars were made in Detroit. But look at a car by its parts: steel, rubber, glass, leather, and there's more geography to consider.

Haffner goes on, "These elements came from different regions. Rubber, for instance, started here in Connecticut. George Goodyear was a resident. In the old days," Haffner laughs, "you knew you were in Naugatuck by the smell of rubber." He offers a discourse in Economic Geography into my recording device, and it's clear he could teach courses in the subject himself.

At a banquet table, not far from Haffner, sits **Barbara Ferguson Detrick** '50. Her husband, the late **William (Bill) Detrick** also graduated in 1950. The Detrick Gymnasium on campus, his namesake. Mrs. Detrick attends all the reunions as well as scholarship ceremonies benefitting student-athletes in honor of her late husband. What would Mrs. Detrick study if she returned to college? "Ageing," she laughs. "I like to know what's going on with people my age."

**Catherine Jost** '74, Associate Director of Alumni Affairs said, "It was great to see what an impact TCC had on the education of Connecticut's children." This roomful of retired teachers might chuckle to know that state schools in Connecticut offer reduced-to-free tuition for senior citizens wishing to take courses. Gentile quips, "You'll see me try my first case when I'm 90!"

— Kate Callahan '14



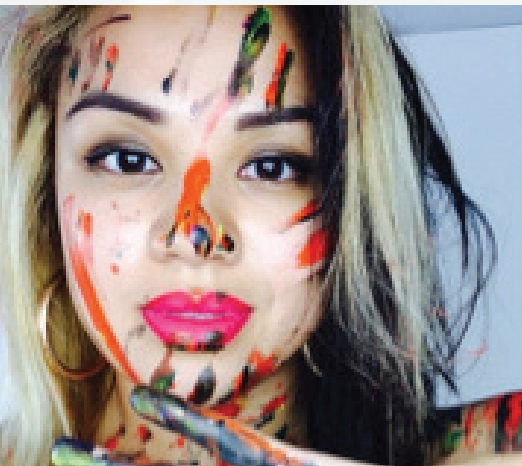
# Homecoming 2015



**SAVE THE DATE: Homecoming 2016, October 7-9**

# Olivia Nguyen '13

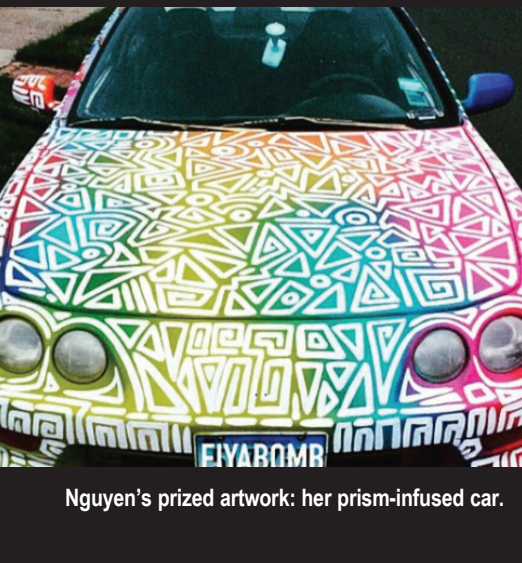
## Paintings Reach Hip-Hop Icons, 50 Cent, Alicia Keys, and Big Sean



Olivia Nguyen '13 makes a colorful splash in the art world.



Seeing double. Hip Hop star Big Sean poses with Nguyen and his painted likeness.



Nguyen's prized artwork: her prism-infused car.

Art, opportunity, and passion define **Olivia Nguyen '13** (BA, Art). Known in the art world as “FiYaBOMB,” Nguyen’s inspired creations hang in the homes of prominent hip-hop icons, including A-list celebrities like 50 Cent, Big Sean, and Alicia Keys. She colorfully recalls how the motivation to follow her dream came in a snap.

“After college I worked at a nail shop for a while,” says Nguyen. “One day I was doing a pedicure and the women’s toenail hit my mouth. In that moment, I knew what I had to do. I quit and started focusing on my passion—ART!”

Nguyen returned to campus in July as keynote speaker for the annual Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) luncheon.

“Olivia is an amazing example of what success looks like if you follow your passion,” says EOP Director **Awilda Reasco**.

Nguyen credits the program for supporting her passion and determination, keeping her on track and focused. She points to the EOP’s valuable lessons of perseverance for her tireless, entrepreneurial drive today.

“I was a Marketing minor, and to be completely honest I was not good at it,” she admits, “but I made it through, and learned some great fundamentals.”

Seeking ways to make a living as an artist without teaching a class, Nguyen knew the 12 months after graduation would test her determination. Her solution? Use her social media networks as a referral tool to help promote her art.

Her “FiYaBOMB” online avatar comes from a 2009 Rihanna song referencing the term “Fire Bomb.” Soon after setting up her social media accounts, “FiYaBOMB” began streaming live online painting showcases, some of which were as an invited guest of New Britain Mayor **Erin Stewart '09** and (then) Hartford Mayor Pedro E. Segarra. With each completed artwork, her social media followers and fans took notice and began tagging specific celebrities, linking their profiles to her

representative individual pieces. This targeted social media blitz quickly gained the attention of hip-hop heavyweights, like Big Sean, 50 Cent, Rick Ross, and Swizz Beatz, all of whom purchased portraits of their painted likeness.

This apparent overnight success has not come easy, according to Nguyen, who says she is still trying to catch her breath. With parents continually pushing her to find a path leading to a career in teaching or law, she believes her proudest moment was finally attaining their recognition as an artist.

“From the teachers and family members that wanted to see me succeed down to the people who wanted to see me fail,” she says. “All of it made me work harder.”

Artistic fulfillment, Nguyen has learned, comes from capturing the wonders of everyday life.

“I love being driven by my emotions or whatever I’m feeling in the moment, and it reflects in a lot of my pieces,” she says. “I will carry this outlook on art wherever life takes me.”

It now takes her to Atlanta, GA. Embarking on the next step in her career, Nguyen does it in her most prized art piece: her car. Her vehicle’s colorful tapestry reflects her own effervescent outlook on art and life: opportunity comes from taking risks.

“I’m extremely nervous because I’m relocating to Atlanta by myself. But I chose Atlanta because I want to see how I’ll do in a major city that isn’t New York,” she says. “I’m very big on comfort zones, but I feel like I want to throw myself out in the wilderness, see how I survive, and fend for myself.”

— *Sintia Arelus '16*



Dave recovering after donating bone marrow. With him is his friend, alumna Ashley Brooks '15.



## David Brant '14

### How to Save a Life — A Personal Story

My experience of donating bone marrow has been extremely rewarding. So much so that I encourage anyone I can to sign up for the marrow registry.

It all started when I stopped by to donate blood at CCSU's semi-annual blood drive. I have a fear of needles and I always have tried to combat that fear by donating blood. I see that fear as a small obstacle to overcome to do something good for another. After the procedure, I noticed a booth for people to register for the bone marrow registry. The attendant informed me that it was a quick process: just a quick cotton swab around the mouth and you were in the registry. I and a few of my friends decided to enter the registry and wait and see what happens.

Just a few months later I learned that I was a match for a 19-year-old male with acute leukemia. I instantly said that I wanted to move forward with the process. I was 21 and approaching my senior year at CCSU. I thought back to the great years I had at Central and thought that someone should be able to enjoy the years ahead of them as I did.

The next few months leading up to the official donation consisted of small tests and physicals to make sure I was the perfect match and healthy enough to go through the procedure. The procedure was scheduled in March of 2014 at Boston

General. I was extremely nervous because I had never gone through something like this before. But my mind was put at ease when I thought about how I was helping someone else continue their fight with cancer.

The procedure seemed to fly by, and there was almost no pain! I came out feeling a little sore but not nearly as much I had expected. The recovery time took less than a week until I felt 100% again.

I wouldn't be able to meet the recipient until 12 months after the donation. The wait was long, but when the day finally came I couldn't have been more excited. That's when I finally got in contact with Brandon. Once I read an email from Brandon and his family I started to tear up. This process that was so simple made a huge impact on a family and a community, and I couldn't help but feel emotional.

As I write this, I've learned that Brandon is doing well, and he is in true remission. My relationship with Brandon and his family continues to grow, and I think about how lucky I am to have had the great opportunity to grow my family.

I strongly encourage anyone who reads this to take the time to sign up for the registry. It has been an incredible and rewarding experience. The operation doesn't hurt, and you truly do have the opportunity to save the life of another.



**Every year more than 14,000 patients suffer from a variety of bone marrow functioning diseases like leukemia and lymphoma and need a transplant for survival. Seventy percent of bone marrow patients do not have matching donors in their family and turn to the Be The Match registry to find a donor who is willing to give them a second chance at life. Registration is simple and requires paperwork and a cheek swab sample from the inside of the mouth. The chances of matching a patient is only about 1 in 500.**

**For more information: [bethematch.org](http://bethematch.org). To join, visit [bethematch.org/join](http://bethematch.org/join) and enter promo code "ccsualumni" when prompted. The swab kit will be mailed.**

# Stanley Lotko '51

## Generosity Creates Curriculum Lab & Establishes Scholarship

**Stanley Lotko '51** viewed life as an open book: each page, each day offers another opportunity to learn something new.

“Our ‘Uncle Gus’ was a man who embraced learning, and a zest for life,” his nephew, John Lotko, said following April’s dedication ceremony of the new Stanley A. Lotko Curriculum Laboratory. Located on the third floor of Elihu Burritt Library, the curriculum lab provides resources and materials to assist educators in curriculum planning, classroom planning, and student assessment.

The life of Lotko (1923-2011) was a celebration of learning. Before retiring as head librarian at the State University of Chicago, he served his country in World War II, earning his high school diploma in a US Air Force hospital while recovering from injuries sustained in an airplane crash. In 1951, he earned his undergraduate degree from the Teachers College of Connecticut (now CCSU).

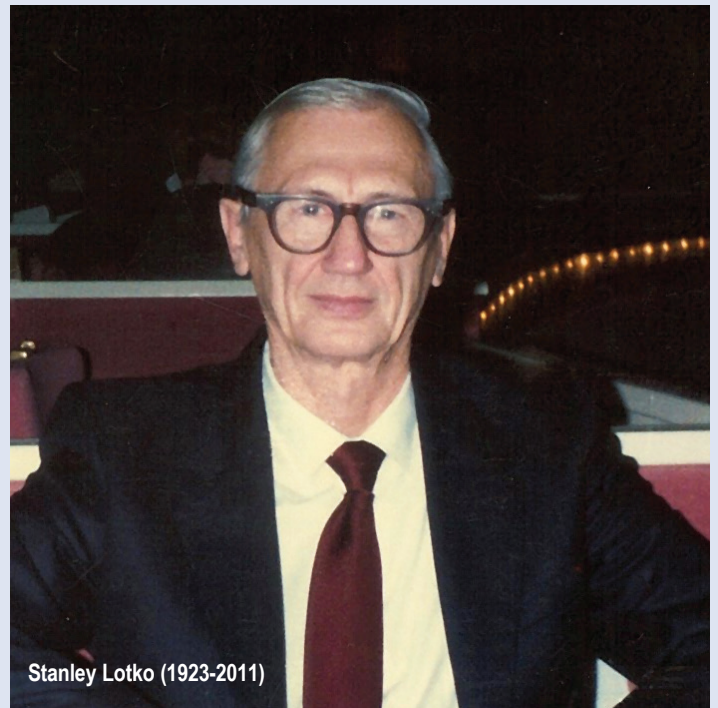
“As a librarian in higher education, his reference section work, and all of his interests in libraries makes this a fitting place for Stanley’s name,” says President **Jack Miller**.

While available to the entire CCSU community, the new curriculum laboratory primarily serves students and faculty in the School of Education & Professional Studies. According to the library, the dual focus of the collection of materials is to offer

teachers the resources to help plan curriculum and replicate a positive school library and media center. Combining the collections of materials into the new lab setting provides an inviting hub where teachers and students can create curricula, either individually or in groups.

“We’re so appreciative of his tremendous generosity to the University,” Miller says of Lotko’s legacy. “Not many people have the resources to do what he did, and even some of those who have the resources, don’t choose to do what he did.”

The lab is the latest example of the valued relationship forged between the Lotko family and Central, with donations totaling \$1.1 million to date, including the establishment of the Stanley Lotko Scholarship, awarded to qualified students of Polish descent.



Stanley Lotko (1923-2011)

*“Education is the unifying, common thread amongst all.”*

*— Stanley Lotko (1923-2011)*

“We’re very pleased about all of the resources this is going to be able to support,” says Miller. “The name ‘Stanley Lotko’ is a remembrance, but the real legacy will be all of the students who are supported through his generosity.”

Lotko’s selflessness and charitable spirit were only rivaled by his indelible, candid nature, and determination, says Associate Vice President of Institutional Advancement **Nicholas Pettinico**.

“He knew what he wanted to do, get done, and by gosh, he got it done,” says Pettinico. “His estate gift of \$1.1 million was one of the largest CCSU has ever received, and it will provide scholarship for students for generations to come. That’s really quite magnificent.”

According to his nephew, “Uncle Gus” was a voracious reader with a passionate pursuit of knowledge, as evidenced by the mountainous stacks of books and reference materials in his apartment. He was a man who loved to travel, was always plugged into an audio book, and ever proud of his Polish roots.

“Stanley’s gift to CCSU is two-fold,” says Lotko. “It says ‘thank you’ to Teachers College (a term he used fondly) for jumpstarting his educational journey. His gift also gives back to that Polish community that gave unselfishly to him. His love of learning lives on in each aspiring Polish student who receives his scholarship.”

*— Keith Hagarty*





## Norman Schain Following a Mitzvah & Establishing a Family Scholarship



Norman Schain offers a helping hand to fellow MFT students, founding the new Schain Family Endowment Fund scholarship.

No one enters the field of counseling to get rich, says **Norman Schain**, a student in the Masters of Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) program.

“In Hebrew we call it a mitzvah, which translates to a commandment or good deed, and this describes what many of our students are doing,” says Schain, founder of the new Schain Family Endowment Fund scholarship for MFT students.

“They’re not doing it for the money,” he says of his peers’ compassion. “They’re doing it for the reward of doing it—for touching a life.”

While scholarship parameters are still in development, MFT Director **Ralph Cohen** applauds the announcement, calling it a “noble cause,” mirroring the “spirit of generosity” embodied by the students it helps.

“It’s a reflection of Norm’s understanding of the importance of the work that marriage and family therapists do to improve the quality of life for many people,” says Cohen.

### ANSWERING THE CALL

“The cost of education shouldn’t be an impediment for those interested in the MFT program,” says Schain, motivated to start the scholarship while working on his practicum at Cassidy Counseling Center in Waterbury.

“I was very affected going through the practicum, hearing the personal stories of my

fellow students—I’m genuinely impressed by what they’re doing,” he says. “They touch the lives of children in the community, working at a level that is beyond the scope of what I would have imagined.”

He cites their ability to make a difference in the lives of others as a key catalyst.

“They work with children in dysfunctional families, and try to save them from peril so they can have a future of love and support where they can feel valued,” he says. “They take children who are forlorn, who could’ve been forgotten by the system they’re in because they may not have parents who routinely provide the support they need. They go in there, mentor them, give them therapy, and give them security.”

With careers in the mental health field far too often “undervalued and underpaid,” Cohen says the majority of students entering the MFT program do it because it’s their “calling.”

“Most of our students have stated that they are in the program because it fits with *who* they are, rather than *what* they want to be,” he says.

### CHECKS AND BALANCING ACT

Working as a full-time tax accountant for much of his career, Schain yearned for more. After taking a personality inventory test (Myers-Briggs) multiple times, he soon realized his heart was drawn to the field of counseling.

“I can’t live to merely exist and breathe. There needs to be an emotional fulfillment,” he recalls telling his mother, shortly before her passing two years ago. “If you’re only in it for a paycheck, then you may be headed for trouble down the road.”

For the last eight years, Schain has been actively involved at Congregation Beth Israel Religious School in West Hartford and Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation-Emek Shalom in Simsbury, teaching Hebrew and tutoring students preparing for their bar and bat mitzvahs.

Surprisingly, Schain says working as a tax accountant actually helped further clarify his interest in developing and nurturing meaningful connections.

“It’s dealing with people and relationships over generations, not just numbers,” he says.

“When I work with people, I like that. It creates a whole story.”

Enrolled in the MFT program’s part-time track since 2012, he says his academic pursuits are fueled by the desire to make a major impact in a way that would “touch the community” both here at Central and throughout the state.

“I want to affect change to help families and children,” he says. “Create calm in the family environment, and help reduce the violence that is occurring within our homes and schools.”

He proudly embodies the counselor approach of instilling a sense of calm and peace for those in need.

“We’re taught the skill of how to be an active listener,” he says, “how to pick up on nuances of both verbal and non-verbal communication cues so we can go in, sit down with a family, and help them communicate more effectively.”

### ALL IN THE FAMILY

“My family has a tradition of giving,” says Schain, who after his mother’s passing assumed full responsibility and oversight of his parents’ namesake Raphael and Natalie Schain Charitable Remainder Unitrust.

“I had been a trustee for quite a few years, managing the investments in partnership with a brokerage firm, and we ultimately donated over \$360,000,” he says of the closed unitrust, with funds distributed equally across a dozen beneficiaries, including some of his parents’ favorite charitable organizations, such as their house of worship, several other religious organizations, state services for the blind, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and the American Cancer Society.

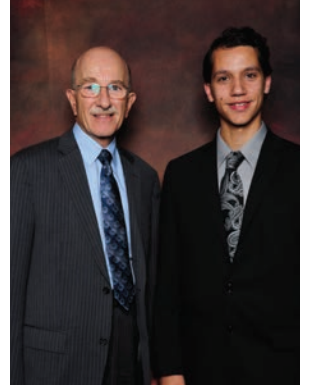
Carrying on the family’s philanthropic mission, Schain is dedicated to honoring his parents’ traditional spiritual focus, but excited to embark on his own charitable path, exploring new opportunities to lend a helping hand. First stop, Central Connecticut State University.

“What I’m doing here for CCSU,” he says, “this is *my* wish.”

— Keith Hagarty

# Donors Meet Scholars

The University hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Scholars and Donors reception, bringing together scholarship recipients and the generous donors whose support helped make their academic success possible. During the 2015 FY, CCSU broke previous records by providing over \$1 million in scholarships awarded to 547 students.





SCHOOL OF  
**GRADUATE**  
STUDIES

## Graduate Studies @ CCSU will prepare you to think, decide, act, and lead!

Graduate Studies @ CCSU offers a wide array of postgraduate programs, including these fine professional degree programs:

- Biomolecular Sciences
- Communication
- Computer Information Technology
- Construction Management
- Criminal Justice
- Data Mining -- Online
- Educational Technology
- English
- Global Sustainability in Biology or Geography
- Information Design
- Marriage and Family Therapy
- Public History
- Technology Management

*Move your career forward or discover a gateway to a new one!*

**2 New Programs!**  
MBA  
&  
MA, Spanish, Online  
[www.ccsu.edu/grad](http://www.ccsu.edu/grad)



**Central Connecticut State University**  
New Britain, CT (860) 832-2350 [www.ccsu.edu/grad](http://www.ccsu.edu/grad) [graduateadmissions@ccsu.edu](mailto:graduateadmissions@ccsu.edu)

# CLASSNOTES

## 1962

Members of the Class of 1962 have raised the required funds to endow a class-named scholarship to be awarded each year to a CCSU student planning to become a teacher. Class President **Dr. Tom Lewis (MS)** and **Gennaro Devito** spearheaded the effort.

## 1970

**Nick Dukas's** latest CD "One and Forever Love" was released earlier in 2015. It has been honored as a Disc Makers' Design Studio Winner and Global Music Award Winner. For more information about Nick's music visit his website [nickdukasmusic.com](http://nickdukasmusic.com)

## 1977

**Dr. Jannette Carey** heads a biophysics research laboratory at Princeton University and runs an NSF REU Training Site that offers summer research experiences for undergraduates from community colleges and non-research schools. She visits her family in New Britain frequently.

## 1981

**Dennis Rivenburgh (MS)** recently began working as the director of the Physician Assistant Program at Anne Arundel Community College in Hanover, MD. He has previously held positions as physician assistant in numerous programs including St. Anthony's Primary Care in St Petersburg, FL, Tampa Bay, Florida Emergency Physicians and Tampa Bay Orthopaedic Specialists, and was head athletic trainer at The George Washington University Department of Athletics for 11 years.

## 1984

**Henry Frederick** is the winner of nine journalism awards for 21 stories, 3 blogs, and top internet site with use of social media with [HeadlineSurfer.com](http://HeadlineSurfer.com), 24/7 internet newspaper serving Daytona Beach-Orlando metro area. He is recipient of multiple journalism awards for 97 stories and is author of three books, "Creepy Ass Cracker" (August); "Wrestling ReWind" (November); and "The Day NASCAR Died: 15th Anniversary of Dale Earnhardt's Death in the Daytona 500" is planned for publication in February 2016.



## 1986

**Judith Spaar** was featured in a Hartford Courant special edition article on Connecticut educators. She has been a kindergarten teacher in Branford schools for over 20 years.

## 1985

The Connecticut Health Council, a strategic initiative of the MetroHartford Alliance, is pleased to announce the appointment of **Amy Hewitt Cunningham** as its first executive director. The Council, established in December of 2012, is comprised of a network of health sector leaders throughout the state. Its focus is to promote Connecticut as a center of health excellence and support the development of businesses and initiatives that will enhance health care and wellness both locally and nationally.

## 1988

**Leslie Civitello**, the new executive director of the chamber of commerce, sees her job as having many facets. Civitello, who took over the job late last year, is responsible for managing chamber events from Cornfest to monthly meetings, marketing the town to business, and recruiting and retaining members.

## 1988

Breckenridge Pharmaceutical, Inc. announced the appointment of **Larry Lapila** to the position of President. Lapila previously served as Executive Vice President and has been with the company since 2001.

Please send notices to [ClassNotes@ccsu.edu](mailto:ClassNotes@ccsu.edu)



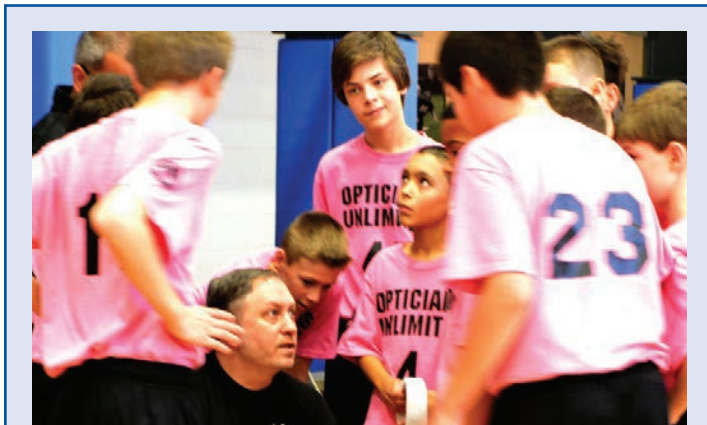
## 1992

**James Glanville** has joined Inn by the Sea, a luxury boutique hotel in Cape Elizabeth, Maine, as general manager. His more than 20 years of experience in resort management includes a stint as the general manager of the Vermont National Country Club in South Burlington, VT. He is credited with the successful expansion, during his twelve year tenure as vice president and general manager, of The Essex Resort and Spa in Essex Junction, Vermont, from country hotel to 4 Diamond Culinary Resort.

## 1989

Stage and film animal trainer, Humane Society of New York director, animal rights activist and author, **Bill Berloni**, along with his wife Dorothy and daughter Jenna, are featured in a new Discovery Family Channel (DFC) show titled, *From Wags to Riches*.

**Lorna Little** debuts her first book, *MUM'S THE WORD!*, an emotionally driven, autobiographical account of the author's painful discovery and journey to learn about and reveal a long-held family secret about her adoption.



## 1990

**Stewart Miller** was named a national finalist for the 2015 Positive Coaches Alliance Double Goal Youth Coach of the Year Award. For 26 years Stewart coached in the boys junior division of the West Hartford Youth Basketball League. Besides volunteering his time as coach, Stewart also held multiple officer positions on the league executive board. Through his business Opticians Unlimited in downtown Hartford Stewart continues to sponsor one of the league teams. After the 2014 season he stepped down from coaching a team, but continues coaching through private lessons and staying involved with the league summer program.

# CLASSNOTES

## 1995

**Susan Czaplá** is the new principal at Silas Deane Middle School in Wethersfield. The veteran educator was an administrator at South Windsor High School for seven years, most recently assistant principal. Susan began her career at Hartford Public Schools, spending almost 20 years teaching fourth grade and then middle school, eventually becoming a science teacher and a science curriculum coordinator.



## 1999

The Human Resource Association of Central Connecticut (HRACC) has honored **Andrea Thiede**, human resource consultant at Kardas Larson in Avon, with the 2014 Service Award which recognizes excellence in the human resources profession.

## 2002

The Connecticut Senate Republicans have expanded their efforts to engage urban communities by hiring **Avery Gaddis** as the Director of Urban Affairs. As Director, Gaddis is responsible for organizing outreach to large and small cities as well as outreach to minority groups across the state. In this role, he will help Senate Republican lawmakers by communicating the needs of minority groups and sharing Republican policy ideas with urban communities.

## 2004

**J. Tobias Freeman** was named one of the Connecticut Society of CPAs (CTCPA) New and Young Professionals to Watch for 2014. He is manager at CohnReznick Hartford office, where he coaches younger staff and helps recruit new hires at open houses and career fairs. He is a member of the firm's Affordable Housing Next Generation Leaders Program and co-leader of affordable housing training for staff and seniors. Freeman serves as vice president of the National Association of Black Accountants Greater Hartford. Freeman is also a familiar face in the Connecticut Society of CPAs leadership, having served four one-year terms as a member-at-large of the Advisory Council as well as two terms on the Nominating Committee.

## 2012

**Paul Duarte** — after graduating from CCSU, Paul took a year off and pursued a Master of Arts in Professional Writing at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth from 2013 to 2015. After graduating, he became a technical writer for Canary Systems, Inc. of New London, New Hampshire. In addition, he's currently a member of the Society of Technical Communication and have served as student liaison at the national level and serve on the New England Chapter council as vice president.

## 2013

**Carol Patterson-Martineau** is a 2015 Doctoral Candidate, 19th Century Political History, University of Maine, Orono.

## MARRIAGE ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Erin J. Brady '10 & Antonio Capasso '07**, 12/13/2014

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

**Christine M. Stuart '99** and Douglas E. Hardy: daughter, Caitlin Stuart Hardy 2/9/2015

## DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

### 1961

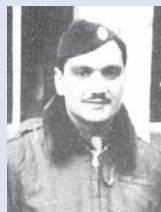
**John (Jack) P. Gilchrist**, 4/23/14, Former class officer; teacher and principal in Stamford, 1961-1996

### 1970

**Rolayne Kapelner**, 9/29/15

### 1975

**Maureen Colbert**, 3/2/15



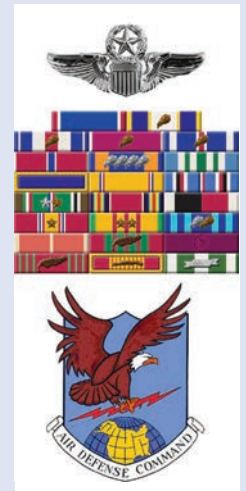
## 1937

Major General **Michael J. Ingelido '37**, US Air Force (Retired), died at his home in Colorado Springs in April 2015 at the age of 98. He graduated from Teachers College of Connecticut (now CCSU) in 1937 with a BS in education, and, after pursuing graduate studies, taught school for three years in Connecticut. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in February 1941.

During World War II, he flew 195 combat missions in Europe as a fighter pilot in British Spitfires and US P-39 and P-47 fighter aircraft. Rising to become a Group Commander, Ingelido was credited with destroying 12 German aircraft in the air and 10 on the ground. He was highly decorated for his service, being awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, 21 Air Medals, the Order of the British Empire, and the French and Belgian Croix de Guerre.

Following the war he remained on active duty with the US Air Force for 31 years, retiring in 1972 as Commander of the 14th Aerospace Force at Ent AFB in Colorado Springs.

He is survived by his wife of 73 years, Elinor, their three sons, grandchildren and great grandchildren, and his two sisters.



Please send notices to  
[ClassNotes@ccsu.edu](mailto:ClassNotes@ccsu.edu)



**Achieve Financial**  
CREDIT UNION

# Banking with Purpose



**On Campus, At Home,  
Online, On Your Phone  
We're With You - Wherever you go!**

- Auto Loans
- Checking
- Mortgages
- Certificates
- Home Equities
- Financial Advisor
- Refinances
- Insurance

**Alumni, Employees, Students & Family of the CCSU Community -**



**GIVE BACK - with the  
Achieve CCSU Debit Card**

## Make a Purchase. Make a Difference.

Every time you make a purchase of \$10 or more with the Achieve CCSU Debit Card, a donation will be made to the University Scholarship Fund. Existing Achieve Financial Debit cardholders can receive the CCSU Debit Card by calling the Credit Union or by sending us a message through their Online Banking Account. The Debit Card is linked to an Achieve Financial Checking Account.

Federally Insured by NCUA

EOL

**AchieveFinancialCU.com • 860.828.2790**



## Diversity reflects who we are.

We are an insurance company dedicated to creating an inclusive environment full of many perspectives. A diverse workforce helps us learn, grow and share fresh insights. Travelers provides varied opportunities for employees to network and develop their leadership skills.

**We invite you to consider joining us. You can apply for current openings at [travelers.com/Careers](http://travelers.com/Careers).**

Travelers was recognized by DiversityInc magazine for its commitment to diversity and inclusion.

**TRAVELERS**   
*It's better under the umbrella®*

[travelers.com](http://travelers.com)

© 2014 The Travelers Indemnity Company. All rights reserved. Travelers and the Travelers Umbrella logo are registered trademarks of The Travelers Indemnity Company in the U.S. and other countries. M-17282-14 New 6-14



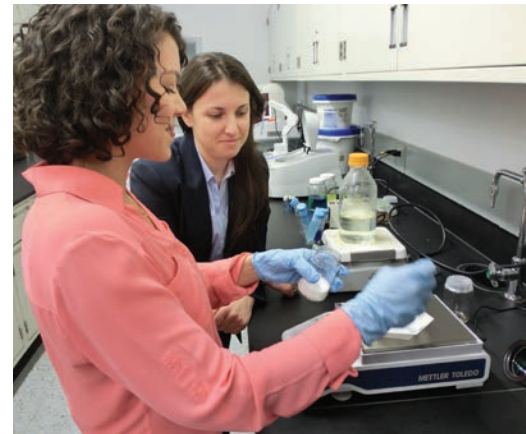
# CENTRALfocus

1615 Stanley Street  
New Britain, CT 06050-4010

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
NEW BRITAIN, CT  
PERMIT NO. 939

## CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY KEEP THE LEGACY STRONG



Do you have a high school junior or senior in your house who is considering colleges? Do you have grandchildren or other relatives starting a college search? Why not recommend CCSU? Central played an important role in your life. Committed to academic excellence and offering an array of exceptional academic and social programs, CCSU is one of the most highly regarded public universities in the region. To learn more: [www.ccsu.edu](http://www.ccsu.edu) or send an email to [admissionsdepartment@ccsu.edu](mailto:admissionsdepartment@ccsu.edu).



Start with a dream. Finish with a future!