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NEWS FROM CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

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Students in the Civil Engineering program use surveying equipment on campus—part of their Introduction to Engineering Surveying and Advanced Surveying classes.

Civil Engineering Program Builds Bright Future for Grads

Marvels of civil engineering date back beyond Egypt's pyramids and the Roman aqueducts, observes Clifford Anderson, Associate Professor of Engineering and Program Coordinator of CCSU's four-year civil engineering degree program, launched in 2009.

Today, civil engineers with creative, curious, analytical, and detail-oriented minds continue to shape our world. Consider these modern wonders singled out by the American Society of Civil Engineers: the England-to-France Channel Tunnel; the CN (Canadian National) Tower of Toronto, Canada, the world's highest public observatory; and the Netherlands North Sea Protection Works whose hydraulic system improves water balance to protect Netherlands from storms and high sea levels.

Civil engineering—one of the oldest types of engineering—involves design, construction, and maintenance of buildings, dams, bridges, tunnels, highways, water supplies, and sewage systems. Civil engineers use physical laws, mathematical equations, and theories of mechanics in their work. They must use available resources (expertise, materials, manpower) to complete a project mindful of the given time span, expenditure, environmental issues, and physical hazards involved.

Anderson explains that civil engineers often have a specialty, with typical areas being environmental, geotechnical, structural, transportation, municipal, water resources, construction, and surveying.

"These technical fields require extensive

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Civil Engineering

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professional experience, and often advanced education, and our civil engineering program provides a solid foundation for graduates,” says Anderson. “Since many civil engineers manage people and projects, it’s an asset for a civil engineer to be able to work well with various personnel, including technicians, architects, city planners, landscape architects, and elected officials.”

Civil engineering graduates are prepared in advanced mathematics and several areas of science. Upon graduation, students will have knowledge of the fundamental engineering sciences common to most engineering disciplines (statics, dynamics, fluid mechanics, thermodynamics, and mechanics of materials) and a solid command of general civil engineering principles, enabling continued education at advanced levels.

“These technical fields require extensive professional experience, and often advanced education, and our civil engineering program provides a solid foundation for graduates.”

The civil engineering program prepares students to successfully complete the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying Fundamentals of Engineering examination that is the first step toward professional engineering registration.

The civil engineering curriculum was established to meet the accreditation requirements of the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). According to Anderson, CCSU will apply for accreditation when the first class of civil engineering program students graduates in May 2012. Upon ABET approval, accreditation will include this class.

Hands-On Projects

The curriculum prepares students for promising careers by introducing them to real-world civil engineering projects. Courses offer “hands-on” experience. Students are often seen on campus surveying to make exact measurements, and they learn to do even more precise measurements in the advanced Global Positioning Systems course. In Soil Mechanics, they get their hands dirty evaluating soils in a laboratory setting. In Hydrology, they work with an open channel flume to study streams and understand the mathematics and physics of water flow; in Fluid Mechanics they examine the flow of various materials through pipes; and students use computer programs employed in actual civil engineering practice to do such tasks as hydrology and water network analysis.

Senior Gregory Funk describes a design project in his upper-level Civil Engineering Professional Practice course. He is part of a student group looking into Route 7 rehabilitation in New Milford. The project includes a field survey of the area to get roadway and bridge locations, along with a topographic survey of the surrounding area to look at flooding issues, and at replacing the existing bridge with a new four-lane bridge at a higher elevation to alleviate flooding and traffic congestion. He says, “We have had to go out to the site and do site-work such as surveying (I was wading through the Housatonic River). We will also have first-hand experience in designing the roadway and bridge, which will include determining the loads the bridge must carry and sizing the bridge members appropriately to carry such loads.”

Faculty Expert in Preparing Grads for Workforce

A cadre of experienced faculty teach the civil engineering courses: Assistant Professor Bin Zhou (transportation engineering); Associate Professor Swamy Basim (geotechnical and structural analysis); and Associate Professor Anderson (structural, hydrology, surveying and environment).

“There’s a strong demand for civil engineers in the Connecticut workplace,” observes Anderson. “According to a recent American Society of Engineering report card, America’s infrastructure is crumbling and our state’s bridges, highways, and dams need to be rebuilt.”

Civil engineers commonly find employment with federal and state agencies and municipalities, as well as with the civil engineering consulting firms that serve such entities.

Enrollment Requirements

Admission to the civil engineering program requires eligibility to enroll in calculus and freshman composition courses. “High school students planning to enter the program should take mathematics courses that include trigonometry and pre-calculus,” recommends Anderson. “High-school calculus and physics courses will provide added value. Many students can begin by enrolling in the engineering science associates degree program at most Connecticut community colleges, where they can complete two years of the four-year civil engineering degree.”

Further information about the program can be obtained online at www.set.ccsu.edu/ programs or by calling 860-832-1815.

– Geri Radacsi

Shamir Ratansi

Captivating Insights into Criminal Justice

Moving students from reliance on assumptions and impressions to an understanding of the realities of the criminal justice system, Associate Professor Shamir Ratansi creates an open learning atmosphere. He says, "I want my students to feel safe sharing their ideas, while challenging those ideas and their formation. Students learn that their experiences are not necessarily representative of the reality of the criminal justice system and that the facts about the system are discovered through research."

Asked to give examples of crimes, students in Ratansi's Crime and Capitalism class (co-taught by Ammon School of Arts & Sciences Dean Susan Pease) invariably tick off such offenses as burglaries and convenience store stick-ups. "What's the most harmful act committed?" prods Dr. Ratansi, a member of CCSU's Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice since 2005. A chorus of voices responds: "Murder."

Jonathan Smith, a senior Criminology major, hesitates. "Heinous crimes are on a spectrum," he believes. "Yes, violent acts such as murder and rape fall into that category. Still, great harm was caused by Bernie Madoff whose Ponzi scheme and the collapse of his fraudulent investment firm had wide-spread effects on banks, hedge funds, and investors around the world. It resulted in foreclosures turning thousands of peoples' lives upside down—doesn't that fall under a heinous crime?"

Ratansi continues fueling the discussion, encouraging exchange, clarification, and transformation of information. His goal? "I want students to become better critical thinkers," he says. He strives to overcome the obstacle of students' preconceived ideas about how the criminal justice system works.

Ratansi emphasizes incorporating everyday social realities and advances in academic research into class discussion. "When we discuss controversial issues such as the death penalty in Connecticut, I stress that criminal justice policies should be backed by sound research and theory rather than emotion," declares Ratansi.

Jake Hasson, a graduate/research assistant in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, says of the Quantitative Analysis graduate course, which deals with statistics and data analysis: "While it was a very difficult class, I took away a lot of information and skills, which I use in my research."



Senior Benjamin Harvey, a transfer student from Manchester Community College, recalls Ratansi's Criminology class. "We studied the Routine Activities Theory, which deals with how people fall victim to crimes. Several factors come together for a crime to occur: a motivated offender, a vulnerable target (for example, a hitchhiker), and lack of a 'capable guardian,' that is, someone to protect the target in close proximity to deter the offender. I was able to see how theory and reality came together."

It was "eye-opening," says Ratansi, for students in his International Criminal Justice class to study two weeks abroad in 2007 where they went to the Chinese Police Academy in Jinan, courts, and other sites. "I wanted students to look at how the role of police in the US differs from that in China," explains Ratansi, "so that they would gain insights not only into how the criminal justice system operates in this country, but also globally." He says the US-China Business Center and the Center for International Education provided support in making this opportunity possible.

To keep his instruction fresh and informative, Ratansi is an active scholar focusing on the areas of policing, risk assessment, evolution of criminal justice programs, and crime prevention. Having grown up in Canada, he holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Calgary. He then earned a masters in criminal justice from the University of Central Florida, and a Ph.D. in criminal justice from the University of Cincinnati.

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Associate Professor Shamir Ratansi of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice poses questions to his students in a criminology class group discussion. Nicole Thibeault (right) readies a response.

Focus on Scholarship

Yanan Ju

Crossing Boundaries Through Intercultural Communication



“Where do you come from?” People commonly pose this question to CCSU Professor of Communication Yanan Ju in his travels—some 50 trips between China and the US in the past decade to do research and visit family. It never fails to give him pause.

Ju comes literally from his native Shanghai and is a US citizen. He comes from CCSU and from an intellectual perspective that has driven him to write or co-author over a dozen books in English or Chinese on a variety of subjects and topics ranging from cultural, communication, and Chinese studies to art and literature. He is also a translator and novelist. And, in April 2011, he wrote the script of a multi-media historical play, *Qu Yuan*; the title character was a cabinet member in the Chu Kingdom of China’s Warring States period 475–221 BC.

Ju decided to address the facets of his own identity in his latest book, *Don’t Ask Where I Came From – A Book of Essays* (Shanghai, Fudan University Press, August 2010). He describes the personal essays as “the voices from my heart.” He elaborates, “I’m often confused about where I’m from. Each time I go back to China, where I grew up, I see a lot of changes. Some I love and others are disturbing, like the 3,000 high-rises in Shanghai.” The essays address such existential questions as the joys and sorrows of being human and what “living afar” means to Ju.

The book also examines the “home of scholars,” a place Ju has inhabited for so long that he is able to detail what he believes dictates good scholarship. He elaborates, “I think a scholar needs to have an independent mind, possess a critical eye, be a truth-seeker looking for some-

thing new to say, and break away from stock paradigms by being informed of the scholarship produced in other corners of the world.”

Ju’s own scholarship has had an impact in China as well as in the US. His *Principles of Public Relations* in Chinese by Fudan University Press has sold 1.5 million copies. When the first edition appeared in 1989, it was a pioneering work because public relations was a new concept in China.

A graduate from Fudan University, where he taught in the mid-1980s at its prestigious School of Journalism, Ju is credited with playing a leading role in laying the foundation for the growth of public relations as a field of academic research and as a profession in mainland China.

For the past five years, Ju has been intrigued with the concept of “relational humanism,” which resulted in a 2006 book titled *Relationship Management: An Integrated Approach* (Fudan University Press).

“Public relations as relationship management can be measured at the human and person-to-person levels,” explains Ju. “Managing relationships in a variety of contexts—person to person, organizations to organization, and nation to nation—covers such dimensions as emotions, power, conflict and change.”

What’s Next on the Horizon?

Ju’s next research project, which he intends to turn into a book with the working title, *China: A Learning Country*, aims to document his newly developed concept that China has become, exemplarily so, a Learning Country for the past 30 years or so.

“A Learning Country is defined as one that encourages and facilitates the learning of its institutions and its people, and continuously transforms itself in order to survive and prosper in a fast-changing and shrinking world,” he explains. Ju proposes four qualifying conditions for China to be considered a Learning Country: a historically learning culture; a hard-learning people; a pragmatically-oriented fast-learning

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He has published his research in professional journals, contributed book chapters, and given conference presentations, often with colleagues at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology.

He has collaborated in the preparation of technical reports, which are systematic evaluations of criminal justice initiatives, such as the recent evaluation, co-authored with Stephen Cox, of juvenile review boards, and an evaluation, co-authored with Benjamin Tyson, of racial and ethnic disparity in the state's criminal justice system.

"I'm most proud to have been involved in these evaluations, both of which deal with juvenile offenders," states Ratansi. "Here we see two different stakeholders involved in the criminal justice system – the police through the Police Activities League; and community members, school and city officials through their Juvenile Review Boards. These stakeholders came together in innovative ways, and first-time juvenile offenders were given a chance to right their wrongs without being sent directly into the criminal justice system."

– Geri Radacsi

Yanan Ju*continued from page 4*

government; and a reluctant, and yet pressured-from-head-to-toe, learning political system including the Chinese Communist Party.

Ju's research objective? "China's ascendance should not be viewed as a 'death threat' to the United States or other competing (and collaborating) countries, nor should it be bragged about as the 'best' development model," he says.

"China, with all its successes and failures weighed, has been no more and no less than a Learning Country, an exemplary one, one that begs to be documented and critically examined."

The four China books Ju has authored and co-authored since the early 1990s when he joined the CCSU faculty have laid a foundation for the current project.

Ju says that China's ascendancy to the world spotlight has not been just an economic phenomenon. "Many of the told stories about its cultural, moral, and political repercussions have become so inviting to scholars and practitioners across a variety of disciplines that the Chinese studies field has become very crowded, though not without contradictory propositions and opposing conclusions," he observes. With his unique position as an insider looking from the outside and with his outstanding publishing record, Ju hopes to contribute substantive and new knowledge to better global understanding of China.

– Geri Radacsi



**New Chief Financial Officer
Charlene Casamento**

Charlene Casamento has been appointed Chief Financial Officer at CCSU. Casamento, who comes to Central with over 20 years of progressively responsible fiscal and administrative experience, most recently served as Bureau Chief of Finance and Administration at the Connecticut Department of Transportation. She also held various positions with the Connecticut Department of Children and Families. Casamento, who joined CCSU at the end of February, earned her MBA at the University of Hartford.

English Professors Receive Excellence in Teaching Awards Nominees Share Passion for Work, Knowledge, and an Interest in their Students



Left to right, CCSU President Jack Miller, full-time EIT Award winner David Cappella, Provost & Vice President Carl Lovitt.



Part-time EIT Award winner Amanda Greenwell (second from right) with EIT Awards Committee members (left to right) Viatcheslav Naoumov, Sarah Stookey, Mary Collins, and Eric Adams. Committee member Barbara Clark is not pictured.

Two members of the University's English Department, one who served as a mentor to the other, received Excellence in Teaching Awards at a ceremony March 2.

David Cappella, a poet and author, who said he believes a good teacher gives 100 percent in every class, won the award for full-time faculty.

Amanda Greenwell, who has been recognized for her ability to motivate all her students, received the adjunct faculty award. She is also a CCSU alumna and one of Cappella's former students.

Cappella and Greenwell were honored before a group of 150 educators and friends. Thirty-three of their university colleagues also received special recognition for their teaching abilities.

CCSU President Jack Miller said the awards, which start with student nominations and include colleague interviews and classroom visits, are among the most important at the university. "Teaching is, first and foremost, the work of the university," he said. "Our students respect the people who hold high standards for themselves and their students."

David Cappella

Cappella has taught in high schools and colleges since 1970, joining the CCSU faculty in 2000. Last year he became a full professor here.

"There is almost a spiritual component of teaching," said Cappella. "When you're 'in the moment,' your students know that. You take all of your own expertise and knowledge and want to give that to them. To be a good teacher, you have to be 100 percent all the time." That's what makes the job fulfilling and exhausting, he said.

Cappella is described by colleagues as "one of the most intellectually engaged professors," they know. They also describe him as a guide, mentor, and coach.

"He sets a very positive environment in the classroom. He gives of himself emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually," they wrote, and avails himself to students even after they graduate.

Cappella said he especially likes working with future teachers, instructing them on how to teach writing, because he said it is his vision to further enhance the teaching profession.

He has authored books of poetry, as well as books about teaching poetry by eliminating students' apprehension toward the subject. In 2003, he was the resident teacher/poet for the Frost Place Conference on Poetry and Teaching. In 2004, he won the Bright Hill Press Poetry Chapbook Competition. He is a former co-chair for the National Council for the Teachers of English's Commission on Poetry. Cappella has presented workshops on the teaching of poetry in public schools in Connecticut and throughout the US, including for the National Endowment for the Humanities. His poems have appeared in *The Connecticut Review*, *Diner*, *The Bryant Literary Review*, *The Bradford Review*, the *Providence Journal*, and other publications.

Amanda Greenwell

Greenwell is the kind of instructor who can engage everyone from the excited student in the front row to the guy in the back with the baseball cap pulled low over his eyes, her colleagues said.

"My philosophy of teaching is quite simple," Greenwell said. "Begin by envisioning the end result and work backwards from there. Meet the students where they are, but expect them to rise to excellence."

Asked how she does that, Greenwell jokes, "Growing up with two younger brothers helped. My former colleagues (at Avon High School) and I joke that when you're a teacher, you're the only one on the planet not afraid of a group of teenagers. I just dig right in there."

Among her mentors were award-winner Cappella and Kara Russell, also a finalist for the Excellence in Teaching award.

"It's wonderful to work somewhere where teaching is appreciated on a very large scale," she said.

Greenwell said she had her first teaching experience

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Wealth, e-Books Examined in Annual Study of America's Most Literate Cities

President Jack Miller's national survey of America's Most Literate Cities (AMLC), for the first time, examined the connection between the wealth of cities and their literacy, while also factoring in e-books. Washington, DC was ranked as the nation's most literate in the overall standings; it was DC's second appearance at the top.

The study, now in its ninth year, is conducted annually by Miller, in collaboration with the Center for Public Policy and Social Research. It is designed to measure a key component in America's social health by ranking the culture and resources for reading in America's 75 largest cities.

The top 10 cities are:

1. Washington, DC
2. Seattle, WA
3. Minneapolis, MN
4. Atlanta, GA
5. Boston, MA
6. Pittsburgh, PA
7. Cincinnati, OH
8. St. Louis, MO
9. San Francisco, CA
10. Denver, CO

The study ranks cities based on research data for six key indicators of their citizens' use of literacy resources: booksellers, educational attainment, Internet resources, library resources, newspaper circulation, and periodical publishing resources. The information is compared against population rates in each city to develop a per capita profile of the city's literacy.

As one of several factors in the Internet category, the inclusion of e-books had a modest impact on the Internet rankings and only a slight impact on the overall rankings. This was the first year for which reliable research data (from Scarborough Research) was available.

Examining the relationship between a city's wealth and its literacy was also a new facet of the study this year. Using US Census data for income in the relevant cities, Miller discovered that, "Wealthier cities are no more likely to rank highly in literacy than poorer cities. For example, Cleveland ranks second lowest for median family income (among the AMLC) and yet, thanks to its great library system (ranked #1 in the AMLC) and strong newspaper (#6) and magazine (#5) circulations, it is ranked 13th most literate in the survey. On the other hand, Anchorage is ranked 5th in median family income and only 61st in literacy."

Other notable cities that exemplify Miller's finding are St. Louis, which ranks 70th in median family income but #8 in literacy; Henderson, NV (#7 in wealth and #53 in literacy), San Diego (#8 in wealth and #33.5 in literacy).

Miller also found that while poverty has a strong impact on educational attainment, its impact on literacy is much weaker. These findings suggest that a city's quality of literacy has to do with many decisions that go beyond just how wealthy and highly educated is the population. Even poorer cities can invest in their libraries. Low income people can use the Internet. Low income cities can produce newspapers and magazines that are widely read throughout the region.

"This demonstrates that if cities are truly committed to literacy, they can find a way past poverty and other socio-cultural challenges to create and sustain rich resources for reading," according to Miller.

The complete rankings are available online at: www.ccsu.edu/amlc2011.

– Janice Palmer

Excellence in Teaching Awards

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as a 7th grader when she had to tutor another student. "I really enjoyed watching her learn," she recalled.

Greenwell, who earned her post-baccalaureate degree in English education at CCSU, has taught at the University for the last three years.

"CCSU is a great place that prepared me wonderfully for my career," said Greenwell, who teaches English composition and Young Adult Literature classes. "I'm indebted to all the teachers I've watched and learned from."

Greenwell earned her bachelors in English from Fordham University in 2001 and a masters from Trinity College in Hartford in 2008.

Other finalists for the awards included Russell; Abigail Adams, chairperson of the Anthropology Department; Candace Barrington of the English Department; Fred Latour of the Mathematics Department; and Seunghun Lee of the Linguistics Department.

The Excellence in Teaching Committee spent nine months selecting the award winners, whom they said shared a passion for their work, a deep knowledge of their subject, and a sincere interest in their students. The committee included Professors Mary Collins, Barbara Clark, Eric Samson, Viatcheslav Naoumov, and Sarah Stookey.

– by Claire LaFleur Hall

African-American History Month at CCSU

2012 Amistad Lecture Dr. Abdul Karim Bangura



Dr. Abdul Karim Bangura (above) delivers a powerful speech at the 2012 Annual Amistad Lecture, titled “The Life and Times of the Amistad Returnees to Sierra Leone and Their Impact: A Pluridisciplinary Exploration.” Bangura’s lecture discussed the struggles of the African people who were taken from their homes in Sierra Leone in 1839, transported to Havana, and subsequently ended up aboard the Spanish ship *The Amistad*, the setting of an important slave revolt. Bangura holds doctorates in political science, developmental economics, computer science, linguistics and mathematics and has authored 65 books and over 550 schol-

arly articles. He has also served as President and United Nations Ambassador of the Association of Third World Studies and is fluent in twelve African and six European languages. A banquet following the lecture included a poetry reading from Associate Professor of English Beverly Johnson, a historical reenactment of Aviator Bessie Coleman by Tammy Denease Richardson of the Historical Firsts Cultural Foundation, and CCSU President Jack Miller’s presentation of the Amistad Award for Contribution to Human Rights and Outstanding Academic Achievements to Bangura.



Dr. Kalilah Brown-Dean

Dr. Kalilah Brown-Dean (left) speaks about imprisonment statistics for the New Haven area during her lecture “Negotiating Citizenship: The Politics of Punishment in the United States,” which focused on the perceptions of bias in the United States criminal justice system. Brown-Dean has served as a political advisor, analyst and commentator for several news agencies including CNN and the *Wall Street Journal* and is a professor of Political Science and Philosophy at Quinnipiac University.

The African-American History Month Lecture Series was coordinated by CSU Distinguished Professor of Philosophy **Felton O. Best**, Professor of Political Science and African-American Studies **Walton Brown-Foster**, Adjunct Lecturer of Political Science **Stephen Balkaran**, The Center for Africana Studies, **Bulaong Ramiz** of the Mosaic Center, and Co-Chairs of the Amistad Foundation, Professor of Educational Leadership **Olusegun Sogunro** and Professor of History **Gloria Emeagwali**.

Reverend Arthur Price

When Reverend Arthur Price of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, spoke at CCSU during African American History Month, the audience found it impossible not to be compelled by his powerful and emotional delivery. The event, "The Role of Religion and the Civil Rights Movement," looked back on the turbulent times of 1960s America and what is commonly referred to as the largest social movement in the world. Price explained how churches were the African American community's main sources of solidarity and social gathering during the Civil Rights Movement.

Price's speech served as a concise history of the events leading up to the Birmingham Campaign and also revealed how African Americans held on to faith by relating their struggles to those found in the Bible. Much like Jesus having to go through Samaria, Martin Luther King, Jr. had to bring his bravery and ingenuity to Birmingham to further the non-violent movement taking place.

African Americans "vacillated between being in America and not being of America" according to Price, but spurred on by the victory of the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955, increased the scope and power of their non-violent protests and organized the Birmingham Campaign in the spring of 1963. This widely publicized campaign brought much needed attention to their cause, although not all of it was helpful. In September 1963, the 16th Street Baptist Church was bombed by the Klu Klux Klan, resulting in the deaths of four little girls. According to Price, Birmingham was nicknamed "Bombingham" because of the

frequent terrorist attacks at the time. This tragedy was the catalyst that turned Civil Rights into not just the problem of African Americans, but of the entire country; the bombing "pricked America's conscience" and served as a turning point in the 1960s Civil Rights Movement.

Price brought the lecture to a close by connecting the struggles of the past to current times. "What are we settling for today?" he asked after reminding the crowd of the uncompromising attitudes African Americans exhibited during their struggles and how that mindset must still be used today to fight injustices. The speech was met with a standing ovation from a truly receptive and appreciative audience that won't soon forget Price's first ever visit to Connecticut.

Additional African-American History Month events and lectures at CCSU included "Racial Conciliation" by Thomas DeWolf and Belvie Rooks; "The Relevance of Black Studies to Closing the Achievement Gap in Education" lecture from Benjamin Foster, Jr.; and the Black Inventions Exhibit presented by the Center for Africana Studies.

– Adam Saucier



Reverend Arthur Price, Jr. presents his impassioned speech "Role of Religion and the Civil Rights Movement" to a captivated audience.



Donna McDaniel

Author and former educator and news reporter Donna McDaniel (left) presents her lecture "19th Century African-American Female Abolitionists" during African American History Month.

Student in the Spotlight:

Elvis Chidozie Bright Mind, Warm Soul

Without a well-worn passport, one might not guess that in the tropical climate of Nigeria, winter descends on the land with a cold, gray hand. Elvis Chidozie, an international student from Nigeria, says, "Winter is cloudy, windy, and depressing" in his homeland. Chidozie cups his hand over a broadening grin and laughs, recalling the shock of his first winter at Central. "It was very cold, snowy, and sunny! I would look at the sky and wonder," he chuckles, "if that was a big flashlight in the sky. How could this be? How could the sun be shining at full strength, yet we cannot feel one atom of warmth? I still can't explain it," he admits.

A year later, having weathered all four seasons in New England, Chidozie, who is majoring in Computer Engineering Technology, feels that he has come to the right place. Diverse weather patterns aside, he left Nigeria with a progressive vision: to study in a nation where advances in technology would put him at the leading edge.

"I always wanted to be a computer engineer. It's a beautiful career; it's so diverse. You can work as a networking assistant or an IT specialist. Hardware companies need you, and you can certainly be self-employed," he notes.

A sophomore, Chidozie looks ahead to graduation with an open mind. His job prospects will determine whether he remains in the US or reunites with his family in Nigeria. "I came [to Central] at the beginning of my adulthood; it's really shaped me as a person," he reflects. The thought of having to choose between career opportunities and returning home as an adult leaves a bittersweet look in Chidozie's eyes.

"CCSU is a beautiful campus," he muses, "not only because of its physical beauty but for the people who are warm and receptive. I expected to find a society where I would really be a foreigner. I expected to have to strive to adjust myself—and my ethics—to fit in. But it wasn't that way at all. I met a lot of people who took an interest in me and where I'm from. It wasn't difficult. I didn't feel excluded from the culture here."

Chidozie's relatively smooth transition has allowed him to excel academically. He holds a 3.86 grade point average and finds time to work in CCSU's Office of Recruitment and Admissions. Additionally, he's one of several students helping to establish the CCSU chapter of International Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and he participates in the Christian Students at Central (CSAC) club.



Down the hall from Admissions, Chidozie works in the department's operational unit. As lead student in the department's transition to a paperless review process, he's been instrumental in digitalizing hard-copy, verifying student records, working with staff in operations, and ensuring things are organized in a strategic way.

Director of Recruitment and Admissions Larry Hall thinks of Chidozie as a "very polished young man," but he is most impressed by his character and eloquence on the job. According to Hall, the department needed a student representative to sit on a search committee for a new assistant director. Hall says, "Chidozie floored me! He brought balance and thoughtfulness to his questioning and reasoning. He was outstanding. That's when the staff said, 'wow.' People were very pleased—even amazed."

So who inspires this amazing young man? "So many people, but my true inspiration is my mom," he says. A professor of hematology at the National Veterinary Research Institute in the town of Vom, Nigeria, Vivian Chidozie inspires him academically and morally. "She has contributed to making me the most of what I am by nurturing the important parts of me—my ethics, my zeal, and my goals in life."

Chidozie believes his love of life connects him to multicultural US society. "I see representatives of every part of the world here. I see people enjoying life, making the best of it. That's the one thing I can say cuts across all cultures here." Chidozie, who expects to graduate in May 2014, sees CCSU as a diverse microcosm of the world around it. He learns as much from his multicultural friendships as from his world-class computer engineering studies.

— Kate Callahan

Student in the Spotlight:

Megan Funaro

Leading through Hard Work and Determination

Megan Funaro's multi-faceted involvement on campus can be traced back to freshman orientation when one of the first things she did was join the Education Club; her passion for leadership roles became apparent as she later became treasurer, and then president of this club.

During her first year at CCSU, she was hired as a student worker with Event Management; shortly thereafter, she was promoted to student manager—a position she continues to hold. She has also worked as a First Year Experience peer leader, an orientation leader, and is currently one of two student representatives on the Safety and Health Committee. She is state chair of the Connecticut Education Association Student Program, after serving as vice chair last year.

Originally from Cheshire, Funaro chose Central because her mother is an alumna and because she believes that Central is "obviously one of the best schools for teaching." Although she started out as an education major, Funaro is on track to graduate in May with a BA in history with a minor in Spanish. She hopes to someday pursue a career as a history professor at a university.

Of all of Funaro's involvement on campus, her work at Event Management has had the most impact on what kind of person she is today. During the academic year, even with her extracurricular activities and schoolwork, Funaro finds time to work 19 hours a week and full time during school breaks. As a student manager, it is her responsibility to create the student worker schedule, to help out in the various departments that are overseen by her supervisor, and to help set up and get information from clients regarding their events.

Susan Kelly, an Event Coordinator at Event Management, views Funaro as a very valuable employee. "Megan is a very hard worker who takes her job very seriously. She is also a very responsible person who has a driven personality to succeed in whatever task she takes on. I think she is the type of person who enjoys a very heavy workload. This in turn benefits our department as she is always on call, day and night, for all our student workers if they ever have any questions while they are working their shifts."

Through her participation in campus life, Funaro has learned leadership, time manage-



ment, and problem solving skills. Being a student manager has helped her grow in all of these areas: "Probably the two most important things that I've learned are time management and problem solving...being able to manage which events I need to be at, plus school work, plus my own work that I have to do is difficult. And then I'm kind of the one people call when they have a problem so I have to have an answer for them. So it's definitely helped me improve on not panicking and staying focused on solving the problem." She firmly believes that her employment on campus has given her many skills that she can take to other jobs in the future.

Event Management helps set up and run all kinds of programs from concerts to graduations to dance recitals to lectures, both on and off campus. Funaro's favorite events to manage are the spring and fall concerts. The New Found Glory show in April 2010 stands out in her memory, and Funaro explains why: "I usually get to meet the band, watch their sound check...sometimes it's just cool that I get a behind-the-scenes look." Megan loves the concerts, but she notes that a lot of hard work goes into their preparation.

Although Funaro's plans for her future are not yet set in stone, one thing is clear—wherever she goes and whatever she does—she will be a determined, hard worker and she will use all of the skills that she acquired through her involvement at CCSU.

— Alayna James

Student Athlete in the Spotlight:

Jillian Cipriano "Teaming" with Enthusiasm

Jillian Cipriano makes lists. She's organized. She covers her workspace with sticky notes. Growing up she could be found in the backseat of her parents' car, en route to various activities, working on her homework. Now, Cipriano's dedication is paying off. A forward for the women's soccer team and recipient of athletic scholarships over six semesters, senior Cipriano finished her four year collegiate soccer career last fall with an average of 18 games played each season.

Women's soccer coach Mick D'Arcy says "her enthusiasm on and off the field is contagious."

Not surprisingly, her energy on the soccer field mirrors an unbounded interest in the classroom. An aspiring elementary educator, Cipriano soon starts her student teaching at a school in Connecticut.

Adjunct Lecturer of Special Education Marie Hopkins remembers having Cipriano as a student. "Her interest in teaching was uncommon as she enthusiastically studied and mastered the science and the art of teaching children with special needs," Hopkins says, "Jillian is a remarkable young woman."

What sets Cipriano apart is her clarity. When she enrolled at CCSU she wanted two things. "I wanted to play Division I soccer and I wanted to be a teacher." CCSU has given her extraordinary experience in both. As a freshman she started many and played a total of 23 games. "Coming in and...playing as a freshman was a nice feeling—to know that everything I worked for in high school, the club soccer teams—it all paid off. We won our conference that year and played in the NCAA tournament."

Division I athletics ignited the fighter in Cipriano. "I had my ups and downs throughout—people come in and want to take your position, so there's



a lot of competition, but we've been playing all our lives. You have to worry about yourself and know that you're helping out the team."

Cipriano holds a "team" perspective when it comes to education. "I asked a mentor teacher what his philosophy was, and he told [me] he thinks of educating students as a tricycle: the three wheels representing the students, the families, and the teacher. Without all three, students aren't as successful." Cipriano agrees and much like playing soccer, views her role as a future teacher as part of a larger system in place to support children.

Reflective of her own education, Cipriano's experience at Central shows off her belief in a larger concept of support. She chose CCSU so that her parents could come to her games. "My dad's only missed two games in four years." Cipriano shares that at the end of her soccer season she and her dad were driving somewhere and he said, "You know, I'm proud of you." Cipriano remembers, "It was a big moment. I hadn't known my dad to be an emotional man."

Cipriano's supportive family made an impression on Coach D'Arcy who says, "She comes from a fantastic family and once you meet her mom, Rosa, you realize that the apple didn't fall too far from the tree."

Cipriano reflects, "I always thanked my parents for not just making me only play soccer when I was young. I got to do dance and basketball. Otherwise I think I would have burned out. But in my case, the reward of completing four years at the college level is a big accomplishment."

— Kate Callahan

Travelers Lecture Hall Dedication



At right, CCSU President **Jack Miller** (right) and Travelers Vice President of Financial Planning and Analysis **Anthony Torsiello** (left) officially dedicate the Travelers Lecture Hall in Vance Academic Center in February. Pictured above, friends and alumni from Travelers, members of the CCSU community, and Travelers EDGE Scholars celebrate the new hall with a walk-through and complimentary refreshments.



CCSU Wins EPA's National Waste Minimization Award

Congressman Chris Murphy and Environmental Protection Agency representative Jeri Weiss (second and third from the right) presented CCSU with the 2011 Game Day Challenge Award during a visit to campus in late January. Over 75 colleges and universities across the country participated in this competition to lower waste produced at college football games. EPA officials say Central generated the least amount of waste per person during an October game. All combined, the competing schools recycled or composted over 500,000 pounds of game day trash. On hand to receive the award were (left to right), Director of Environmental Health & Safety **Domenic Forcella**; Director of Intercollegiate Athletics **Paul Schlickmann**; students **Katie Lang**, **William H. Ball**, **Meghan Burke**, **Michael Reilly**, and **Lauren O'Kelly**; CCSU mascot **Kiser**; EPA representative **Weiss**; Congressman **Murphy**; and CCSU President **Jack Miller**.

Community Central and CCSU: Free Walk-in Wellness Clinics for New Britain Residents

Staying healthy isn't always easy, but Assistant Professor of Nursing **Stacy Christensen** hopes to show the New Britain community that staying ahead of their health can be simple and painless, regardless of their insurance coverage (or lack thereof).

CCSU senior nursing students, together with students from the New Britain Health Academy, have been hosting free walk-in wellness clinics at Community Central in downtown New Britain on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Christensen, who coordinated the clinic with Nursing Professor **Jill Espelin** and Community Central director **Hannah Hurwitz**, knew that she wanted to engage the community and provide a vast array of healthcare services, including blood-sugar and cholesterol level checks, weight loss counseling, basic vision screening and even relaxing foot soaks. "With many people being uninsured these days, we thought a wellness clinic would be a great way for our students to interact with the people of New Britain and provide a valuable service to them, while also helping our students in the nursing program," Christensen says. Informational pamphlets and diagrams in the lobby also offer visitors a better understanding of their own health.

The clinic can benefit anyone from the community who is 18 or older, whether they feel unwell or not. During the first two weeks of the program, Christensen and the nursing students discovered high cholesterol and low iron levels in individuals who, otherwise, would not have known. In one case, they sent a patient to the emergency room. "Someone came in feeling okay but had very high blood pressure levels, and we were afraid the person was going to have a stroke, so we called 911. It's an example of someone not feeling ill but having a really bad number that could cause real damage to the brain and heart if left untreated."



(From left to right) CCSU Nursing senior Colleen Nightingale, Assistant Professor of Nursing Stacy Christensen, CCSU fitness instructor Michelle Traynor, and Community Central director Hannah Hurwitz examine one of the many informational diagrams at the wellness clinic located at CCSU's Community Central at 117 West Main Street in New Britain.

While the screenings do not diagnose conditions, they can pinpoint potential health issues. Christensen explains, "Anyone can come in for screenings and we can refer individuals at high risk of developing a condition to a primary care provider in the community for further diagnostic tests."

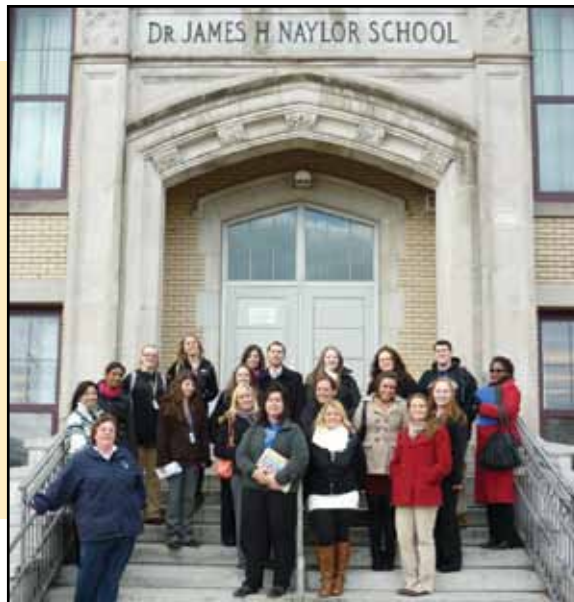
In addition to free health assessments, the clinic also offers health discussions led by the CCSU nursing seniors every Monday at 11 a.m. Topics range from understanding food labels to tips on using the Internet for health information. Nutritious snacks and fresh apples are provided courtesy of Roger's Orchards in Southington.

While the New Britain community benefits from the health screenings, so too do the CCSU nursing seniors and the Health Academy students, who are being mentored while also receiving valuable hands-on experience. The nursing program already partnered with the New Britain Health Academy last spring for a health fair, and Christensen hopes that the wellness clinic can continue beyond its currently scheduled ending date of April 30; which, if the community has anything to say about it, won't be very difficult. "Patients that have come in here have been thrilled," says Christensen. "They're not being forced to come; they're walking in because they want to be here."

— Adam Saucier

CCSU Students Walk to Learn

More than 100 CCSU students and faculty from the School of Education and Professional Studies participated in a Hartford Community Walk centered in the Franklin Avenue neighborhood in February. This 15-year-long tradition marks the beginning of students' semester of fieldwork with the Naylor/CCSU Leadership Academy (NCLA), a professional development school.



Alzheimer's Awareness Night

Assistant Professor of Social Work Delia González Sanders, and seniors Nalíz Paternina and Rebekah Francisco were honored at Alzheimer's Awareness Night in February, by the North Central CT Regional Alzheimer's Association. Sanders, who is a member of the Alzheimer's Association's Medical Scientific Advisory Committee and a leader in research into diverse care giving of individuals with Alzheimer's disease, was instrumental in developing the relationship between CCSU and the Alzheimer's Association to ensure student volunteer positions. Paternina and Francisco have been with the chapter since early fall, serving as support caregivers with the 24-hour helpline. Upon graduation, the two seniors will have completed 700 hours each of field placement work, 400 of which were devoted to the chapter.

Left to right, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics **Paul Schlickmann**; Assistant Professor of Social Work **Delia González Sanders**; CCSU President **Jack Miller**; North Central Regional Director of the Alzheimer's Association, Connecticut Chapter, **Patty O'Brian**; **Rebekah Francisco**; and **Nalíz Paternina**.



Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation Awards \$1,500 Scholarship to CCSU Freshman

CCSU English major **Samantha Wilson** was awarded a \$1,500 scholarship from the Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation in February. Wilson's focus is secondary education, and she hopes to, one day, share her love of literature and writing with her students as an English teacher. The Foundation, begun in 1998, takes its name from the president and co-founder of the Subway restaurant chain who was given a \$1,000 loan from a friend in 1965 to start his own submarine sandwich shop. Subway is now the largest restaurant chain in the US and Canada, and the DeLuca Foundation's goal is to inspire its scholarship recipients to achieve their own aspirations.

The Arab Spring: One Year Later

Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Philosophy **Ned Lamont** spoke about his recent visit to Tunisia and Egypt in his lecture "The Arab Spring: One Year Later." The February event, presented by the CCSU Peace Studies Program and the Arts and Sciences Public Committee, allowed Lamont to answer questions about his views on current events in the Middle East. "Arab Spring" refers to the chain of activities from political protests to civil war that happened in a number of Arab countries in early 2011 — about one year ago.



Left, the Dragon Dance is performed by Asian Performing Arts & Ju Long Wushu Center. Below, the solo dance (Creation of Dance) is performed by Lorelei Chang.



Large Audience Gathers to Celebrate Chinese New Year

CCSU hosted the 2012 Chinese New Year Gala in Welte Auditorium in January. The event featured cultural, music, and dance performances, and speeches by Senator Richard Blumenthal and Provost and Vice President **Carl Lovitt**. Almost 2,000 people joined together to celebrate hope, good fortune, and the beginning of the year of the Dragon (symbolic of strength and charisma), and cultural diversity in the greater Hartford community.

Helping Children Realize Their Creative Potential

Left to right, Larry Hunt of Masque Theater Company stands behind his creations at Community Central with CCSU Professors **Barbara Clark** and **Jerry Butler**, who all helped coordinate the project "Unmasked: Echoes from a Child's Soul." The event, which took place in February, focused on the importance of using music, dance, poems, and other forms of art to help children express themselves and realize their creative potential. Current and future educators from CCSU helped students from DiLoreto and Gaffney elementary schools present their various projects to family and friends in Welte Auditorium.



New Zealand Professor Brings Literary Competition to Central



In February, 81 students from grades five to seven competed in the second annual Kid's Lit Quiz US Finals held at CCSU. The event's quiz master and creator **Wayne Mills**, at left, who is a senior lecturer at the University of Auckland and is currently a visiting professor in the Reading and Language Arts Department, first started the competition in 1991 to encourage and reward children's love of reading. The Quiz is run entirely by volunteers, including Reading and Language Arts Professor **Catherine Kurkjian**, who serves as a US coordinator for the event. Each team, made up of four 10-13-year-old students, answered questions from various genres of children's literature with correct answers winning books and cash prizes. The ultimate prize, however, is the opportunity to travel to New Zealand in July for the national and world finals, where the winning US teams will compete against others from New Zealand, the United Kingdom, South Africa, Canada, and China.

Earlier this academic year, CCSU became involved in the Educational Talent Search (ETS), part of the federally funded TRiO Program. The goal of the program is to increase the number of youth from disadvantaged backgrounds who complete high school and enroll in post secondary education. The program is primarily geared toward children who will be first generation college students and who meet a certain income criterion. Nationwide there are 321,000 middle and high school students involved in 462 programs that are a part of TRiO.

Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs **Joseph Paige**, who heads the program, wrote a large part of the grant proposal, and is primarily responsible for bringing ETS to Central. ETS Director **Thomas Menditto** and Assistant Director and Project Advisor **Jeffrey Ambrose**, who is a product of a TRiO program at UConn, are both CCSU alumni. In the words of Menditto, this makes their work “especially meaningful.” Menditto and Ambrose, along with 14 undergraduate tutors and three university assistants, work with students and families from New Britain High School and five New Britain middle schools (Roosevelt, Slade, Pulaski, DiLoreto Magnet, and HALS Academy).

The Consolidated School District of New Britain faces a crisis in terms of their graduation rate. Menditto spoke about the high dropout rate, “It is somewhere around 26 percent, which is about three times the state average. So, it is significant and it has been for some time, although there is a tendency now that it is lessening, it’s still a concern, so we need to help them to do their best in the classroom and pass their courses.”

Some of ETS support aimed at keeping New Britain youth in school and encouraging a college education includes: tutorial services, college entrance exam fee waivers, workshops for the students’ families, exposure to college campuses, and career competency development.

ETS is also determined to offer educational opportunities to people who have not completed high school. Students working toward obtaining their General Equivalency Diploma (GED) are offered tutorial services at New Britain High School and at Community Central, in New Britain, twice a week.

Family involvement in the program is crucial, and family-oriented events, such as a Hispanic Day Conference planned for May 19 on campus, educate families about the support system necessary for a young adult to obtain a post-secondary degree. The one-day program will not stop there though; it will also focus on giving parents information on



CCSU TRiO Educational Talent Search (ETS) Program students from New Britain High School recently participated in a New England Educational Opportunity Association (NEOA) TRiO Day event held February 23–24 at the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell. The conference included visits to New England college campuses, a talk given by keynote speaker Congressman Chris Murphy, a college fair, and many workshops designed to reflect on the importance of educational opportunities in higher education.

going back to school to obtain either their GED or a post-secondary degree, and offering assistance in doing so.

The Hispanic Day Conference is just one of many out-of-the-classroom learning experiences offered by the ETS staff. Over the summer, a program for middle school students will provide innovative ways to encourage continued education in math, science, engineering, and technology. The proposed program includes teaching children about robotics and, perhaps, having them build a remotely-operated, submersible vehicle.

In February, 14 New Britain High School juniors attended a conference, hosted by the New England Educational Opportunity Association, with all expenses covered by ETS. The two-day conference included an overnight stay in a hotel and offered activities such as Scholars Bowl games and a college fair. It was the first large event that CCSU’s TRiO program sponsored and was designed to encourage the students to start thinking about going to a college or university.

Although the program is new to Central, the ETS staff is confident in its efforts and is encouraged by the number of students already enrolled in the program. Long term plans include applying for additional TRiO grants, which will further benefit the students of the New Britain School District.

– Alayna James

CCSU Brings Charities of Hope to Campus; or How Your Old Clothes Can Help Stop Hunger



Charities of Hope employees Jermaine Hudson (left) and Andrew Cefarelli (right) stand by a donation bin.

You may have noticed the large Charities of Hope donation bin in the Dunkin Donuts parking lot just off campus. Each year, this bin overflows with students' clothing on moving day at the end of the spring semester. This year, President Miller's Environmental Sustainability Initiative Committee has partnered with this non-profit organization, so this semester, instead of making the long walk to the corner of Stanley Street and Paul Manafort Drive, students can bring old clothes to two temporary bins inside Memorial Hall.

Charity of Hope's mission is to help reduce textile waste (clothing, shoes, etc.) and turn it into

revenue, promoting a greener earth and funds for those in need. Last year the non-profit paid out approximately \$70,000 to other charities, school programs, and community projects.

CCSU graduate **Siobhan Becker '93** is the facility coordinator at Charities of Hope. "This is our first time collaborating with an institution as large as CCSU," she says. "Between May 1 and May 16 students can drop clothing, shoes, and books off at the bins in Memorial Hall." She notes that in the case of overflow, both bins will be serviced daily. "Charities of Hope then takes the donations, sorts and weighs them, and based on poundage makes a donation to the Sodexo Foundation, the charitable arm of Sodexo, Inc. which is committed to being a driving and creative force that contributes to a hunger-free nation."

CCSU groups, clubs, and Greek societies are encouraged to hold individual clothing drives to raise funds for their favorite charities or community organizations. In addition, students interested in volunteering or gaining experience with a non-profit are welcome to help at Charities of Hope. "Young people have a lot of energy and think outside of the box. It's exciting to work with students who can see something differently than I can see it," Becker enthuses.

Students with an interest in hosting their own clothing drive or volunteering can contact Siobhan Becker at 860-416-0435 or email Siobhan@charitiesorhope.org. Also, learn more about the Sodexo Foundation's STOP Hunger Program at SodexoFoundation.org.

— Kate Callahan



CCSU Head Over Heels for "Forks Over Knives"

In February, Student Activities sponsored the event, "Forks Over Knives," which included dinner with, and a lecture by Dr. Caldwell Esselstyn, his wife Ann Esselstyn, and their son Rip Esselstyn. The dinner in Memorial Hall was prepared based on the plant-based diet developed by the doctor and included dishes such as Caribbean black bean soup, Mexican-style bean and rice casserole, and chickpea guacamole, as well as the crowd favorite, fruit cobbler with sorbet (being prepared, left).



Following the dinner, the Esselstyns spoke in Alumni Hall, focusing on the proven benefits of a plant-based diet, including the avoidance of heart disease and other chronic medical conditions.

In March, the Theatre Department presented playwright August Strindberg's "**A Dream Play**," which addresses a variety of topics from lucid dreaming, Freud, and Indic cosmology, to sexuality, death, and the nature of reality. This was the Theatre Department's third main-stage production of the 2011-'12 academic year.

CCSU's **Saturday Art Workshop**, an art program that meets for eight weeks on Saturday mornings each semester, has provided opportunities for enrichment for its teachers and students for over 30 years. Student teachers gain hands-on experience while its participants, aged 5 to 16, have a chance to become more involved with the arts.

In February and March the Department of International Studies hosted a film series titled **Social Movements and Forms of Resistance**. Focusing on both international and domestic issues, professors from the History, Anthropology, Political Science, and Communication departments presented films that addressed inequalities and social justice movements. The subjects of the films ranged from women's roles in the Middle East to the rebellion by a group of impoverished Mexican farm workers to the rise of the Black Power movement in the US in the 1960s and 1970s.

The Center for International Education held its annual spring semester **Study Abroad Fair** in

February. The fair showcased the numerous educational opportunities available through semesters and courses abroad, and gave all who attended a glimpse of the many, varied cultures represented in the Course Abroad program. For additional information, go to <http://www.ccsu.edu/CIE>, or www.ccsu.edu and search "Study Abroad".

The Habitat for Humanity CCSU Campus Chapter held its first ever **Undie Run** in February. Many brave students removed articles of clothing, which were then donated to a local homeless shelter, as they ran across campus on a cold winter's night. For those who still wanted to donate garments but weren't comfortable with taking off their "pesky pants" and "stuffy shirts" in 40-degree weather, clothing drop-off spots were set up around campus and a hassle-free pick-up service was also offered.

The Elihu Burritt Library held two exhibits in February and March. **The Vintage Radio and Communications exhibit** was on loan from the Vintage Radio and Communications Museum of Connecticut and featured developments in communication technology, such as TV, radio, and telephones, during the 19th and 20th centuries. The **Gay Pulp Fiction exhibit** featured 150 early examples of gay and lesbian pulp fiction publications gathered from CCSU's GLBTQ Archival Collections.



CCSU Skis—and Snowboards!

In February, 53 students from the CCSU Outing Club, CCSU Ski and Snowboarding Club, Central Activities Network, and Student Activities RECentral, escorted by two advisors, left for a weekend-long ski trip to Stratton Mountain in Vermont. In Stratton, the students were joined by CCSU Alumni and Dean Emeritus **David Ross**. The Ski and Snowboard Club also sponsored a day trip to Butternut in March.



The Future of Books in the Internet Age

Professor of History **Robert S. Wolff** (above) holds his latest read while speaking at “The Future of Books in the Internet Age.” The February event examined the impact e-books are having on the publishing industry and readers of the “hyperlink generation.” In addition to Wolff, speakers included CCSU Systems Librarian **Edward Iglesias** and State Librarian Kendall Wiggin, who highlighted the many benefits and potential downsides of reading on electronic devices. The discussion also focused on the emerging method of publishing scholarly books through an open, peer-reviewed process on the Internet instead of through a traditional publishing house.

IN THE news

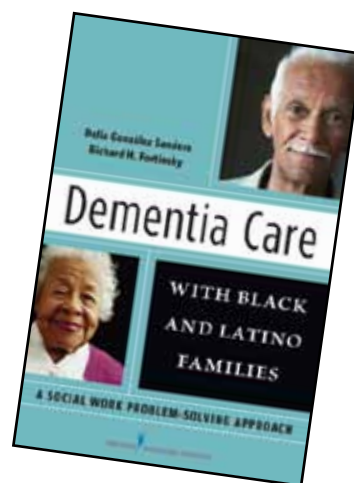
A research team of psychologists including CCSU Professors **Laura Bowman**, **Laura Levine**, and **Bradley Waite**, were featured in the article “Rewired: Cognition in the Digital Age,” published in the February 2012 edition of the *Observer*, the magazine published by the Association for Psychological Science. The study measured multi-tasking abilities in students who read and answered instant messages while reading a lengthy textbook excerpt. Bowman said she doesn’t think that “the majority of students, on their own, will recognize that multi-tasking

slows their productivity.” To read this entire article, please visit www.psychologicalscience.org.

CCSU junior **Bobby Berriault** was quoted in an article in *The New Britain Herald* about his participation in an interactive federal budget workshop held on campus in February. The workshop, attended by US Representative Chris Murphy, was designed for to give citizens insight into the development of the federal budget.

NEW books

Assistant Professor of Social Work **Delia González Sanders’** textbook, *Dementia Care with Black and Latino Families*, was recently published by Springer Publishing. Co-authored with UConn’s Professor of Medicine Richard H. Fortinsky, the text explains the importance of understanding cultural differences related to dementia and the way in which it affects people’s lives. It also offers guidance to social workers on helping families and friends deal with the everyday challenges of interacting with a dementia patient.



In February, 18 CCSU students competed against participants from universities and colleges across Connecticut in the National Association of Teachers of Singing Honors auditions. Freshman **Andrew Choi** of West Hartford, junior **Emily Janacek** of Gales Ferry, junior **Julie Rumbold** of Simsbury, and junior **Tia Leuth** of Bristol, took four of the six top awards in the College 1 and College 2 divisions.

Thanks to CCSU's Adjunct Lecturer of Geography **William DeGrazia**, students at DiLoreto Magnet Elementary School were able to explore our entire continent from the comfort of their gymnasium using a 35- by 26-foot National Geographic map in January. DeGrazia, the co-coordinator of the state's Geographic Alliance, spearheaded the effort to bring the brightly colored map and its accompanying learning tools to the school.

Assistant superintendent of Wethersfield schools **Michael Emmett** will begin his new role as the town's superintendent of schools in July. Emmett has worked in education for over 20 years and is currently pursuing his doctoral degree at CCSU.

The Theatre Department began the spring semester with the production of *Crave*, written by Sarah Kane and directed by CCSU senior **Eve Galanis**. The performances were held in January in Maloney Hall's Black Box Theatre.

"Reconstructed Steel," an exhibit of metalwork by CCSU art professor **Vincente Garcia**, was shown in January at 100 Pearl Street Gallery in Hartford.

In February, The New Britain Symphony celebrated Valentine's Day with "The Many Love Songs of Frank Sinatra" at Mooreland Hill School in Kensington. The program was hosted by CCSU English Professor and Sinatra expert **Gilbert Gigliotti**. CCSU experienced entertainment of its own in honor of Valentine's Day when Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra presented a concert at Welte Hall, featuring CCSU Adjunct Music Lecturer **Jill Maurer-Davis**, who is the orchestra's primary flutist.

Adjunct Lecturer of History **Katherine Harris** took part in a discussion, "Race and Representation in Black Connecticut: From Black Governors to Black Legislators in the Age of Barack Obama," hosted by the Hartford Public Library in February. The event explored Connecticut's African-American legislative representation as well as its significance for the 2012 election.

Bob Waskowitz, Blue Devils' senior team physician, is carrying on his family's long tradition of excellence in sports medicine. In January, Waskowitz received the prestigious Eastern Athletic Trainers Association's David G. Moyer Award, an honor that his father also won 22 years ago.

CCSU Public History major **Alan Zoll** won first place in the *CT Review's* annual writing contest with his essay "A Choice," which explores the struggles he and his wife faced during her difficult pregnancy. Zoll will be honored in April at Southern Connecticut State University and his essay will be published in the *CT Review*.

IN THE community

CCSU's **Athletic Department** received a \$50,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation to promote education through athletics. The grant will enable Central's student-athletes to continue their community outreach initiatives in area elementary schools. The goal of the program is to strengthen a child's interest in school.

In a struggling economy, jobs are difficult to find. For this reason, CCSU Informational Technology's inventory manager **Robert Clayton** meets regularly with New Britain High School and CCSU students with advice on marketing themselves to potential employers. Clayton's labors are part of a larger effort by CCSU, New Britain High School, and nonprofit organizations

in the New Britain area, to make employment opportunities available to young people.

CCSU and Newington's Department of Human Services work closely to ensure that social work majors gain relevant experience in their required internships. Many graduates, such as 1995 alumni **Teri Snyder**, are hired by the agencies they intern for. Snyder recalls the significance of her time as an intern, "I worked with different populations, different age groups, families, younger single individuals, the elderly...I got an understanding of what kind of social work I wanted to do." Social work students, like senior **Kelly Doak**, continue to benefit from this field experience today.

Alumnus Norman Hausmann

'I loved it here, in my own simple way, and I still do.'



Anyone who watched Norman Hausmann walk through the Student Center on a recent March morning, would be certain he is a professor.

Wearing a crisp navy blazer, with a briefcase tucked under one arm, and his scholarly, tortoise-shell eye glasses, Hausmann strolls confidently, greeting many with a warm hello.

CCSU, he will tell you, is a place he loves. Higher education is an opportunity he holds especially dear. And, 58 years after he graduated, the campus is still a place where he relishes spending time.

"I was a terrible student in high school," he said. "I was very shy and introverted. I had no ambition and no motivation."

He earned an A in high school geometry, and the teacher, who was also a guidance counselor, suggested he follow a college track. After high school graduation in 1950, he thought about pursuing teaching, and Hausmann applied to Teachers College of Connecticut (now CCSU).

At that time, an interview was required.

"My knees were shaking, I was so nervous," he said. He had to read aloud to the provost, whom he recalled as an intimidating woman. "I was convinced I blew the interview. I was waiting for a bus home to East Hartford, and I was so angry at myself for being so nervous. I was convinced I would never make it in here, and by then I really wanted to enroll."

"I didn't think I had much potential in life. But, somehow, that potential got awakened here."

A few weeks later, to Hausmann's shock, he received an acceptance letter. He was the first member of his family to attend college.

CCSU was different back then. The New Britain campus was very rural. In fact, Hausmann recalls there was a farm at one end and a cider mill nearby. Tuition for the entire year was \$63. Hausmann was a commuter, and he worked as a short-order cook in his hometown to pay for his education. Most of his classes were either in Davidson Hall or a satellite classroom building in downtown New Britain.

"The classes were very crowded with returning GIs," he said. "But there was a genuine sense of camaraderie among the students."

His first two years were rather uneventful, but by junior year that all changed.

"I just fell in love with the college," Hausmann said. "All of that changed my life in a very positive way."

"I was extremely shy, and small for my age. I wasn't a good athlete. I didn't think I had much potential in life," he said. "But, somehow, that potential got awakened here."

It would be impossible, Hausmann said, to credit one person or one event for changing his outlook. But he believes the combination of the intellectual—new knowledge, ideas and concepts that fascinated him—and the social—associations, friendships and respected professors—gave him a new direction.

After graduation, Hausmann thought he might want to teach college geography. But a two-year stint in the Army (stationed in the Panama Canal) interrupted those plans. When he was discharged, he drove into Hartford and knocked on some doors until he got three job offers. He accepted the highest paying one (\$4,800 a year) working in the pension department at Connecticut General Life Insurance.

"How would you like to work in the group pensions department?" his future boss asked him. Hausmann laughs now. He had no idea what that entailed, but needed a job, so he eagerly signed on.

He thought it would be a temporary job until he found a teaching position, but "within a few months, I was hooked."

Hausmann went on to a career in sales and management of corporate retirement plans. After almost 50 years in the business, he retired from Connecticut Mutual. Many of his customers became his friends.

"It was a terrific way to make a living," he said. "We had a sense that we were helping people have a more comfortable retirement, not just the wealthy, but the people working in factories, the people with families who wanted to send their children to college."

"None of that would have happened if I hadn't come here," Hausmann said. "I loved it here in my own simple way, and I still do."

Looking around the bustle of students during a recent interview at the Devil's Den, Hausmann smiles.

"I'll bet 75 percent of these students don't realize what an amazing opportunity they have," he said. "But that's OK. I didn't realize it when I was their age either!"

Hausmann, a man of boundless curiosity, still takes college classes, attends CCSU basketball

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games, and is a huge Red Sox fan. He is active in local politics and is writing a research paper on the history of Hartford's Bulkley Stadium.

In 1960, Hausmann married his sweetheart, Mary, a nurse, and they had two sons, Daniel and James, whom he describes today as his "best friends." Free time was for family.

Many decades passed when he had no contact with CCSU. Then, six months after he retired, he got a postcard inviting him to attend an alumni lunch. At the last minute, he decided to go.

"At that lunch, I decided to try to do something here. I approached the staff and asked them if I could help them in any way," he said and chuckled. "Now I'm here all the time."

The original plan was to donate a painting or a sculpture to campus, but the idea quickly grew. The Class of '54 decided to create a scholarship fund and—fueled by their 50th reunion—

received many generous donations. So far, the program has aided 10 students in their dreams of becoming educators.

"I think Central provides a wonderful opportunity for young people to get a start," Hausmann said. "We've helped some really good kids." The donors find it satisfying to know they are not only helping the current students, but all the children those graduates will teach in years to come.

"I don't know why every class doesn't create a scholarship, or plant a tree or do something for the University," he said. "It is really important, before all of us are gone, to say, 'This is the Class of 1954. We were here, and here's something we did to give back.' It gives you a terrific sense of satisfaction."

— Claire LaFleur Hall

ALUMNI news

Assistant Coach of Quinnipiac Women's Soccer and co-founder of the Connecticut Football Club (CFC) **Steve Coxon** '90, was inducted into the Connecticut Soccer Hall of Fame in January.

Alumna **Elizabeth DiDomenico** BSEd '07, the instrumental music teacher at South End Elementary School in Southington, was profiled in a recent *Meriden Record-Journal* article. DiDomenico received a grant from the Southington Education Foundation to purchase authentic drums from Ghana to incorporate into her general music lessons.

She also created a morning African Drum club that will run before school for eight weeks. DiDomenico, who also teaches at Kelley Elementary School, learned about the drums during a graduate course on African drumming at CCSU last summer.

Carol Virostek '73, and her husband Paul, long-time supporters of local non-profit agencies and institutions, including CCSU, Community Foundation, and the Friendship Center, were honored at New Britain YWCA's 18th Annual Dinner and Auction in November.

news from the INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

CCSU ITBD and TD Bank hosted an Executive Breakfast Seminar series moderated by CCSU faculty member **David Fearon**. This three part series provided insight on common business issues from a handful of alumni and community business leaders, including founder of CCSU's Community Central project **Sarah Stookey**; Walker Systems Support founder and CEO Katherine Emery; TD Bank Retail Market Manager Diane Eschner; and NQA Regional Sales Manager Andrew Nichols.

ITBD, the Department of Continuing Education, and the School of Engineering and Technology, have come together, under the leadership of associate director of the Continuing Education Center **Richard Cheney**, to train just under twenty students in Computerized Numeric Control (CNC) Machining. The objective of the program is to have students, selected from New Britain High School, Goodwin Technical High School, and Hartford Job Corps Academy, graduate in four months as professional, ready-for-hire CNC machinists.

Correction: Professor of History Jay Bergman's name was misspelled in an article in the February issue of the Courier. We apologize for the error.



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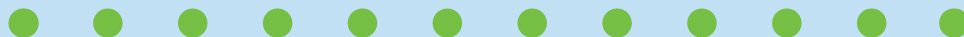
S•A•V•E THE D•A•T•E•S

Laugh with Purpose – April 13



CCSU's improv group Schlock is presenting their annual "Laugh with Purpose" comedy show on April 13, 2012 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. This year they are partnering with Community Central to support the Wounded Warrior Project and New Britain High School's

College for Every Student Program. The show will exhibit improv comedy by Schlock, the winning high school group from this March's Improv Olympics, and headliners Jake & Amir from CollegeHumor.com. Laugh with Purpose will take place at the Main Auditorium at New Britain High School. Student tickets are \$5.00 before the show and \$7.00 at the door. Faculty, staff, and visitor tickets are \$10.00 before the show and \$12.00 at the door. Tickets are available to students at the CENTix box office.



2012 International Festival – April 22

On Sunday, April 22, The Center for International Education will host its annual International Festival, which is sponsored by many CCSU departments and programs. This year's theme, "Crossing Borders," will represent over fifteen countries and five continents, and will feature a "Parade of Nations," as well as performances by dancers, drummers, singers, and storytellers. There will also be booths displaying hand-made crafts and artifacts from various countries. The event will be held in Alumni Hall from 12:00 noon until 4:00 p.m., and is free and open to the public. For more information contact Toyin Ayeni at ayeni_olu@ccsu.edu.

Scene from the 2011 International Festival shown at right.

