



# COURIER

Vol. 39, No. 2 • October 2013

NEWS FROM CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2 Distinguished  
Service Award

3 President's  
Opening Meeting

6 Student in the Spotlight  
Linnai-Anne Camacho

7 Student-Athlete  
in the Spotlight  
Krisztina Dearborn

8 Student in the Spotlight  
Omar Morgan

12-13 In the Community

17 Grad Student  
Charlotte Etier  
at the White House

23 Alumna in the Spotlight  
Bianca Shinn



## The True Value of CCSU's Endowment

According to *The Chronicle of Higher Education's* most recent *Almanac of Higher Education* 2013-14, the value of public colleges' endowment portfolios declined 0.3% on average for the fiscal year ending June 2013. However, as noted in President Jack Miller's opening speech in September, the value of Central's endowment increased by more than 13% from 2012-13, continuing an impressive upward trend that spans the past several years. In fact, the combination of annual donations, substantial gifts, and prudent investing has more than doubled the value of the endowment over the past four years, from \$21.8 million in 2009 to approximately \$48.5 million in 2013.

Because of this positive steady growth, the CCSU Foundation, Inc., which oversees the endowment, is able to do more of what the Foundation was established to do: support student scholarships, fund educational programs, and provide financial resources for research at the University.

Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Secretary of the Foundation Chris Galligan says, "Supporting CCSU students is our top priority, and growing the endowment is one of the best ways to support our students. Every year, we are able to provide more scholarships and grants to deserving students, as well as to support our faculty's educational initiatives and research. This is the true value of the endowment."

The value of scholarships awarded has grown from \$347,605 in 2009 to \$785,696 in 2013, providing crucial financial aid to deserving students. In 2009, 291 students were recipients of scholarships made possible by the fund. In 2012-13, that number increased to 522 recipients. The scholarships serve a variety of student needs, including funding a student's enrollment in the honors program, providing tuition assistance to a high-performing undergrad, or helping a student take part in a study abroad opportunity.

*continued on page 4*



# Head Athletic Trainer and Alumna Kathy Pirog '81 Receives 2013 Distinguished Service Award

**K**athy Pirog received a standing ovation as she was presented with the University's Distinguished Service Award during the President's Opening Meeting on August 27.

Pirog, who is the Head Athletic Trainer for the Blue Devils and Associate Professor of Athletic Training Education, was honored for the countless hours and endless energy she has dedicated to the University and its students.



In presenting the award, President Jack Miller said, "During her 28 years at Central, Kathy Pirog has been many things to many people: athletic trainer, educator, advisor, mentor, researcher, author, colleague. Her achievements in each of these roles speak volumes about her commitment and service to the field of sports medicine and to the CCSU community. Her selfless dedication makes her truly deserving of this year's Distinguished Service Award."

Pirog, who earned a bachelor's degree in physical education at Central in 1981, teaches athletic training courses and serves as a clinical instructor in the Department of Physical Education and Human Performance. In 2000, she was instrumental in obtaining national accreditation for the program.

Her reach extends well beyond the classroom. She is the faculty advisor to the students' athletic training club and is one of three student advisors in the Athletics Department, in addition to her responsibilities as head athletic trainer.

In a nomination letter of support, Director of Athletics Paul Schlickmann wrote, "I have never encountered anyone in this role who cares more deeply about the well-being of student-athletes and about mentoring young men and women in the classroom as Kathy Pirog."

Pirog has been involved regionally and nationally — serving as a site coordinator and host of the National Athletic Trainers Association certification exam and treasurer of the Eastern Athletic Trainers Association. She has held several leadership positions for the Connecticut Athletic Trainers Association and is currently serving on the Past-President's Advisory Committee.

Pirog is an honorary member of the Connecticut Orthopedic Society and is the recipient of a number of awards including NATA's Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award and its Service Award, CCSU Advisor of the Year, and Connecticut Athletic Trainers Association Service Award.

*"Her selfless dedication makes her truly deserving of this year's Distinguished Service Award."*



## Communication Professor Glynis Fitzgerald Named Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs

Glynis Fitzgerald was recently named Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. Fitzgerald, who began teaching at CCSU in 2004, has served as the Chair of the Department of Communication and as Assistant to the Dean of Graduate Studies, and has been an active member of the Graduate Studies Committee, which she chaired for five years. Fitzgerald holds a BA in Communication from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and a PhD in Corporate Communication from SUNY Buffalo.

## The True Value of CCSU's Endowment

*continued from page 1*

Senior history major Mary Denehy realized the value of an international experience just last year, thanks to a partial scholarship that made her course abroad to Ireland possible. Denehy's course included visiting historically important sites and attending daily lectures that provided personal insight and perspective about Ireland's past and ongoing conflicts. Denehy said, "This trip has changed my perspective on learning about history. I'd never traveled to another country before, so I didn't realize the importance of experiencing the people and the culture firsthand."

Associate Director of the Center for International Education Lisa Bigelow reports, "As the economic climate gets tougher, we find ourselves relying more and more heavily on private gifts made to the CCSU Foundation to support students' international education in general, and study abroad, specifically. During the 2012-13 academic year, more than 200 students benefitted from Foundation scholarships to support study abroad across the globe." Bigelow adds, "With the help of new and existing donors, the Foundation will play an important role in helping Central achieve its mission of graduating globally competent students who are ready to engage the global marketplace and advance Connecticut companies' positions in an increasingly competitive environment."

During 2012-13, the Foundation also awarded \$716,589 in grants, which helped fund student attendance at professional conferences, provided support for groups like the Ebony Choral Ensemble, and funded academic enhancement activities, such as the artist-in-residence weekend workshop in the Dance Program, and the Mathematical Sciences Department's Factoring Bee, Integration Bee, and weekly Mathematics Colloquium.

The Foundation also supports a wealth of faculty/student collaborative research projects. Professor of English Aimee Pozorski, a University expert in Contemporary American Literature and Trans-Atlantic Modernism, has worked with several students on research projects, including senior English major Michael Lacy. Lacy's research on "Love and Trauma in the Wake of War: An Archival Approach to Understanding Hemingway," has increased his understanding of more than just one of America's great writers.

A research grant allowed Lacy to spend a significant amount of time among Ernest Hemingway's archived papers and letters at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston. There, through his own initiative, he learned not only about Hemingway, but also about the value of thorough, meticulous research.

Pozorski says, "When I first met Michael as a student, I knew he was ideal for this work: He is patient, he is curious, he is methodical, and, above all, he is a keen and astute

reader. I think I was as excited as he was to learn about what he might find."

Of his experience, Lacy says, "With this grant, I have seen a transformation in the way learning is attained. Sifting through original correspondence between Hemingway and loved ones bolstered my research immensely. Books for supplementary research, travel expenses, lodging costs, all comprise the difference that propelled me to elaborate on a topic that has been relatively unexplored."

The opportunities provided by the endowment translate into real-world benefits after graduation as well. Alumna Kaylah Smith, who graduated summa cum laude in 2012 with double majors in Spanish and Anthropology, says her many and varied experiences at CCSU prepared her well for post-college life.

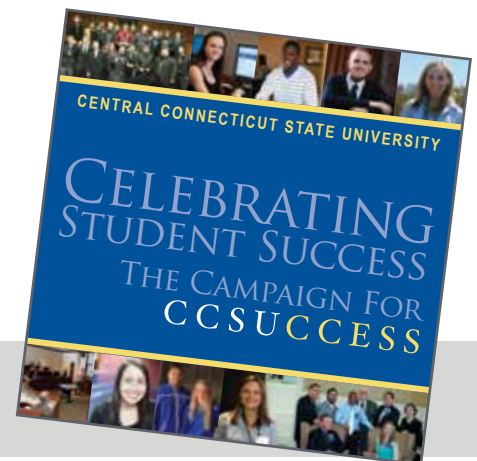
Smith, who was enrolled in the Honors Program, was a member of the University Singers, and spent a semester abroad in Spain, learned to successfully balance academics and activities during her time at Central.

"Growing up in a household with five siblings and a single working mom, I had a tremendous role model for being responsible, working hard, and most importantly, multi-tasking. CCSU and the CCSU Foundation provided me with opportunities to travel, create, achieve, and grow, all while getting a top-notch education, Smith said. "Now I work at the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain where we provide grants, scholarships, and community leadership to local towns. I'm also an active volunteer and board member of the Plainville ARC, and I sing in a professional a cappella group called The Hartford Wailers (pun intended)."

Smith is giving back to the University as well. A founding member of the Young Alumni Council, Smith helped organize an extremely successful school supplies drive to benefit a local elementary school at the Blue Devils' home opener this fall. "I am so grateful for all my experiences at CCSU," said Smith. "I will always have a strong connection to the University and I look forward to sharing my experiences with others, and giving back to CCSU."

*- Patrice Dumond*

Read more about our students' successes at [www.ccsu.edu/uploaded/departments/AdministrativeDepartments/AlumniDevelopment/ccsusuccess/CCSUCCESScampaign.pdf](http://www.ccsu.edu/uploaded/departments/AdministrativeDepartments/AlumniDevelopment/ccsusuccess/CCSUCCESScampaign.pdf)





## Peter Sposito Appointed American Savings Foundation Endowed Chair in Banking and Finance

Peter J. Sposito, a distinguished leader in the banking and finance industry, has been named the American Savings Foundation Endowed Chair in Banking and Finance at CCSU's School of Business. Sposito will be the second person to hold the appointment, created in 2003 with a \$1M grant from the American Savings Foundation.

Retired president and CEO of Bankers' Bank Northeast in Glastonbury, Sposito is well-known for his efforts to help community banks compete with big institutions. In his new position at Central, Sposito will lead the expansion of the Banking and Finance Program and is already teaching an upper-level course in banking and finance. He will provide academic and outreach activities to enrich the education and preparation of Central's business students. He will also work to foster relationships between the School and outside institutions and develop informative lectures and events at the University. Sposito earned his Bachelor's degree in Finance from Manhattan College and an MBA in Marketing from UConn.



*The American Savings Foundation is a permanent charitable endowment that also awards grants to area nonprofits. Since its inception in 1995, the Foundation has awarded almost \$578,000 in scholarships to 175 CCSU students. The group has contributed over \$38 million in total grants and scholarships in central Connecticut, with a total of \$8 million in scholarships awarded to 1,749 students over the program's 18 years history. Scholarships are awarded to students from the 64 Connecticut towns served by the foundation.*

## Polish Movie Nights at Central This Fall

The S.A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies, in cooperation with Semper Polonia Foundation and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland are sponsoring Polish Movie Nights this fall. All movies will be screened on the CCSU campus. Movies are in Polish with English subtitles, and all screenings are free and open to the public. Three movies, 1939 *Tajemnica Westerplatte* (1939 *Battle of Westerplatte*), *Układ Zamknięty* (The *Closed Circuit*) and *Mój Rower* (My *Father's Bike*) were screened in September and October. Details for remaining movies, which will be screened in Vance Academic Center in Room 105 at 7:00 p.m., are listed below.

*Dziewczyna z Szafy* (The *Girl From the Wardrobe*)  
November 14

*Listy do M* (Letters to Santa)  
December 5

## CCSU Celebrates Farm-To-Chef Week

CCSU and Sodexo Dining Services participated in Connecticut's third annual Farm-To-Chef Week in September, serving dishes made with organic and locally-grown ingredients. The menu included an heirloom tomato salad with fresh mozzarella cheese from Calabro Cheese of East Haven, a roast barramundi with russet potatoes from Szawslowski Farms of Hatfield, MA, citrus-roasted poblano peppers from Urban Oaks Organic Farm of New Britain, and a sliced duck breast featuring arugula and roasted beets from Urban Oaks, which is located less than a mile from campus.



## STUDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Linnai-Anne Camacho

#### Appreciating Life's Experiences, Big and Small



Linnai-Anne Camacho has traveled an interesting road on her way to college, and has experienced more than the average person might in a lifetime. Born and raised on the island of St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, Camacho traveled to Puerto Rico immediately after high school graduation and enlisted in the US Army. Though she was offered full scholarships to several colleges, she saw the military as the path to maturity and independence for her and her infant daughter.

Camacho was drawn to computers at a young age and entered the Army as a Human Resources Specialist with additional Information Technology (IT) duties. Her initial assignment was with the 122nd Signal Battalion, stationed in South Korea. There, she served from 2001 to 2003 as both the Information Management Officer and the Promotions and Awards Specialist at the Battalion Personnel Office.

Camacho then served with the 555th Engineer Brigade in Fort Lewis, Washington. She spent the remainder of her military career with

the 864th Engineer Battalion, where she carried out operations with computer hardware and software—like ghosting, remote services, and networking—that solidified her passion for the field.

After a tour of duty with the 864th in Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan, Camacho left the military in 2006 as a Sergeant (E-5), with more than 10 prestigious awards to her name.

*"I've experienced things that an average person wouldn't experience, but they've helped me become who I am."*

Reflecting on the impact that her years of service have had on her life, Camacho said that they have made her more appreciative of the "little things." "I'm more grateful for simple things like a bathroom, a shower, the bonds that I make with others, and true friends. Just being able to wake up every day and look at my kids; I love it." Camacho is now the mother of a 14-year-old girl, an eight-year-old boy, and a two-year-old girl.

After completing her military service, Camacho attended Tunxis Community College, where she earned an associate's degree in Computer Information Systems and graduated with a 3.9 GPA. While at Tunxis, she took many IT classes with adjunct professors, from whom she learned a great deal, thanks to their "real-life perspectives on what IT is, not just theories."

Outside of the classroom she volunteers her time consulting with small companies and providing IT advice, and uses her remote access

*continued on page 10*

*At the CCSU Veterans Day Ceremony in November 2012 (at right), Camacho was presented with the Student-Veteran Public Service Award and Student-Veteran Excellence Scholarship from President Jack Miller.*





## STUDENT-ATHLETE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## Krisztina Dearborn

### On Track for Success

**M**ost people wouldn't be able to keep up with Krisztina Dearborn's busy schedule of honors classes, track and cross-country training and meets, and extra-curricular activities. Of those who could, few would be able to do it while retaining their sanity and maintaining a 3.88 GPA. But Dearborn takes it all in stride.

Born in Hungary, Dearborn moved to New Hampshire, where she was raised, when she was six. After looking at a variety of colleges and universities, she set her search criteria: among other things, she wanted to go to a public university and she wanted to be between four and ten hours away from home. When athletic recruiters from CCSU contacted her, she realized that the University met all of her standards. Once here, she quickly fell in love with her teammates, classmates, and courses.

In addition to being an accomplished athlete and an honors student, Dearborn has found the time to double major in physics and mathematics, to take an average of 18 credits per semester, to work, to volunteer, to lead a club, and to represent other student athletes on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

As co-president of the physics club, Dearborn volunteers as a tutor in the physics department, working mostly with science and engineering majors who are having difficulty with their general education requirements in physics. And in her free time, she works as an SAT prep tutor in local high schools.

Her tutoring positions led her to realize her passion for teaching: "Tutoring is really the only thing that I can do for four consecutive hours and not be cranky. It's really rewarding to work with other students. I want to eventually teach in a high school because I feel like I can make the most difference there."

Dearborn is currently applying to CCSU's 13-month Master of Arts in Teaching program. After she completes her master's, she would be happy to teach either physics or math, but says, "Right now, I tutor more math, but physics gets me; it makes me so excited."

Dearborn, a participant in the Honors Program, spent her junior year writing an undergraduate thesis about a fifty-year-long feud



between two physicists, Kristian Birkeland and Sydney Chapman, and how conflicts can hinder progress in research. Even though she finalized her paper in May, Dearborn's face still lights up when she talks about it; it's evident that she is as passionate about her studies as ever.

*Whether she is making instant ice cream with liquid nitrogen or conducting a complex experiment with lasers and optics, Krisztina shares the fun of physics with those around her.*

Professor of Physics/Earth Science Nimmi Sharma speaks highly of Dearborn's intellectual ability. "Krisztina is a very talented young woman, with a keen mind for physics and an innate curiosity about the world around her. She relentlessly seeks to understand why things

*continued on page 10*



*Senior double major Krisztina Dearborn has broken multiple indoor and outdoor CCSU track records.*

## STUDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Omar Morgan Breaking Stereotypes in Civil Engineering



At the beginning of the 2013–14 academic year, Central Connecticut State University President Jack Miller announced that 25 percent of the university's student population is now African American, an achievement many years in the making. However, as with most universities, minority enrollment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs at CCSU is disproportionately low. Omar Morgan, senior at the University, is an exception to the rule, and proud of it. In May, Morgan will be the first African American student to graduate from the Civil Engineering program.

Over the past six years, he's noticed that he is the only African American student in his civil engineering classes. "It is a double edged sword," Morgan says. "On one hand it makes me feel prestigious, but it also puts a lot of pressure on me. Whenever I am doing my work, the pressure to do well is always in the back of my mind. It is always there. It is kind of a suffering pressure."

*"We witnessed a remarkable transformation in Omar, from a quiet, reserved freshman into a mature, confident young man who now serves as a role model for younger students."*

Morgan also says he's never experienced any sort of discrimination at CCSU. "I'm happy no one points it out, my professors and fellow students just see me as another student," Morgan

says. "The professors are just tough on everybody, but the department is very fair."

Throughout his coursework, Morgan has noticed that there are two types of students in the civil engineering program. He says, "There are students to whom the work comes easy, and students who need to work harder to keep up with their brighter classmates." Morgan classifies himself in the latter category.

The workload as a civil engineering major is overwhelming at times, according to Morgan. He says his big advantage is his interpersonal skills, which help him interact with other students in his program, forming study groups to make the workload easier.

"That has been my saving grace as a student," Morgan says. "Engineering is much easier when you have people you can work with. By yourself, the daily workload can take up to six hours, but with a group of students, we can get it done in two to three hours."

Morgan sees the study group as another way to prepare for his future career. "Civil engineers deal directly with civilians," says Morgan. "And engineers need to work in teams to ensure they are providing the highest form of public safety."

When Morgan graduates, after passing the Fundamentals of Engineering exam, he will start as an engineer in training. He will then start a four-year apprenticeship before taking the Professional Engineering exam to get his license. Once he receives his license, Morgan would like to work as a project manager or regional manager.

As part of his degree program, Morgan was an intern with the CT Department of Transportation in the summer of 2010. There he helped organize archives and databases and kept track of bridge conditions in Connecticut. This semester he has an internship at Collins Engineers in Rocky Hill where he works with a computerized drafting program, drawing bridges.

Morgan also worked for four years at the Center for Advising and Career Exploration (CACE) and says that was his favorite experience at the University.

"The level of professionalism, customer service, and employee treatment is phenomenal," Morgan says. "I could not have asked for a better working situation on campus."

*continued on page 9*





*Dean of the School of Business Siamack Shojai (front left) with Boot Camp students and presenters.*

## Insurance, Banking and Financial Services Boot Camp Shares Valuable Industry Data

The second annual Insurance, Banking, and Financial Services Initiative Boot Camp was held on campus in August. The five-day seminar was offered at no cost to students who wished to increase their knowledge of these industries. The camp was sponsored by Naugatuck Savings Bank, whose president and CEO Charles Boulier III joined eight other distinguished finance professionals, including Kevin Cocchiola '02, Susan Winkler '84, and Rich Collins '80, who spoke to students and provided tips on becoming successful in their desired fields.

### Omar Morgan

*continued from page 8*

Director of CACE Ken Poppe says that during Morgan's time working in the office, he saw a tremendous transformation of a young college student into an adult.

"We witnessed a remarkable transformation in Omar, from a quiet, reserved freshman into a mature, confident young man who now serves as a role model for younger students," says Poppe. "He always had an outstanding positive attitude while working at the front desk. His was the first friendly face to greet incoming students and he took the time to carefully direct each student according to their individual needs. Omar is proof that you can have it all, as he skillfully juggles his studies, his resident assistant (RA) duties, and an internship position."

Morgan has been an RA for six semesters, one semester in Carroll Hall and in James Hall for the past five semesters. He now has sole responsibility for one floor, taking on a new challenge in his last year.

"Omar is a great addition to our residence life staff," says Director of Residence Life Jean Alicandro. "He is a very strong person with a lot of integrity and he is seen by his peers as a role model. People really admire him."

Morgan says there are many advantages of being an RA: one is that you know everyone. While walking

on campus, he spends most of his time greeting other students, faculty, and administrative personnel.

Morgan has been involved in many on-campus activities. He was the Treasurer of the Black Student Union, senator of the Student Government Association, chair of the Conference Committee, and Vice President of Sam May Hall Council throughout his time at CCSU.

Morgan acknowledges that it's hard to imagine one student taking on all of these different responsibilities, but he says he loves the challenge.

"My dad always says, 'Son, if it was easy, everyone would be doing it.' and I say, 'You're right,'" said Morgan. "I like the struggle because struggling builds character. It's not always good to be comfortable. It has given me good life skills to be able to appreciate the value of hard work. I am glad that things have worked out this way."

Poppe says, "When Omar completes his degree and walks across the XL Center stage in May, it will be a bittersweet event for everyone who knows him. We will experience the loss of an exceptional student leader, but we will take great pride in the fact that we had the opportunity to contribute to the growth and development of this fine young man."

— Kassondra Granata

## Scholarship Established in Honor of Retired Dean of Graduate Studies

In honor of the retirement of Dean of Graduate Studies, Emeritus Paulette Lemma, a new scholarship has been established in her name. Once endowed, the Paulette Lemma Scholarship will be awarded to a well-deserving and high achieving graduate student at CCSU who has demonstrated excellence in his or her field.

Lemma began her career at CCSU in 1988 as an Assistant Professor in Teacher Education. From 1994 until 1998, she served as chair of the Department of Teacher Education. In 1997 she became a full professor, and in 2001, she was appointed Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies.

### Linnai-Anne Camacho

skills to help her family with computer problems. Not that she needs any more content for a resume; Camacho humorously remarked that hers is already too long at three full pages. In the future, she plans to put all of her skills to work by opening her own IT firm.

Camacho is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Technology with a concentration in Networking Technology, and a minor in Spanish at CCSU, where she is a chapter officer of the Golden Key International Honor Society. She chose her minor to get re-acquainted with her Puerto Rican heritage and to help teach her eldest daughter the formalities

*continued from page 6*

of the Spanish language, since she lived in the English-speaking Virgin Islands while Camacho was deployed.

Camacho plans to graduate in 2016. She is still recovering from a brain injury she sustained in Iraq that sometimes affects her cognitive processes. Though the injury forced her to ease slowly into her classes at Central, in retrospect, she would not change her decision to join the Army. "I've experienced things that an average person wouldn't experience, but they've helped me become who I am. It's part of my life, and one day it will be part of my legacy."

*– Adam Saucier*

### Krisztina Dearborn

work the way they do and to uncover the underlying mechanisms behind physical phenomena. Her enthusiasm for science and her attention to the subtle details of logic are great strengths for a career in physics. Krisztina also possesses excellent organizational and team building skills which benefit her classmates and the members of the Physics Club where she takes a leadership role. Whether she is making instant ice cream with liquid nitrogen or conducting a complex experiment with lasers and optics, Krisztina shares the fun of physics with those around her. In juggling her many commitments, athletic as well as academic, Krisztina always manages to give her best to each endeavor."

While Dearborn's academic achievements are impressive, her successes as a Blue Devil on the cross country and track teams are equally outstanding. The fact that she runs between 85 and 95 miles per week is a feat in itself. During her sophomore year, Dearborn broke the University's 10K outdoor record at Bucknell Invitational. She has since re-broken the 10K outdoor record,

*continued from page 7*

and has also broken the 5K outdoor record and the 3K and 5K indoor records.

Head Cross Country and Track Coach Eric Blake is very optimistic about Dearborn's future: "Krisztina has been fully invested in the program since the day she arrived as a freshmen. She has made tremendous strides as a distance runner – a direct result of her competitiveness and work ethic. She has a very bright future."

Because Dearborn is paying for school on her own, her academic and athletic success has been vital to her college career. She considered withdrawing from the University during her freshman year, but knew that she couldn't – completing college in four consecutive years was always part of her life plan. Today, as the recipient of numerous scholarships, including an athletics scholarship, the Honors Program scholarship, and the Computers, Math, and Physics Honors Scholarship, she no longer faces the stress of being unable to pay her tuition.

Dearborn will graduate this spring with a BS in physics and a BA in mathematics.

*– Alayna James*

Geography Professor **Richard Benfield's** recently published book, *Garden Tourism*, examines the role that garden tourism plays in the United States. Benfield has collected and analyzed data on the subject since 1997, after learning that each year, an estimated 78 million people visit public gardens, more than the number of people who visit Disneyland and Disneyworld combined.

Benfield teaches courses in political geography, human geography, and tourism marketing, among others.

Assistant Professor of Mathematical Sciences **Shelly Jones** co-authored a chapter in the book, *The Brilliance of Black Children in Mathematics: Beyond the Numbers and Towards New Disclosure*. The book is a compilation of leading research investigating the mathematics experiences of black children and challenges for success in a variety of school levels and contexts.

In "Advancing a Framework for Culturally Relevant Cognitively Demanding Mathematics Tasks," Jones examines how teachers can be empowered to create mathematics tasks which challenge students to think more deeply about themselves, their community, and the world around them.

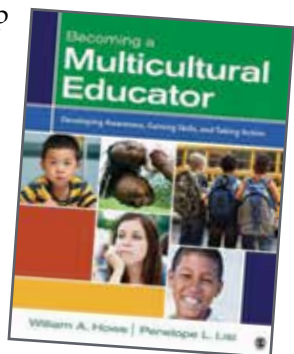
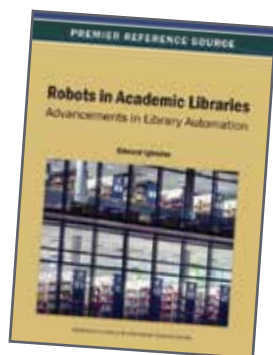
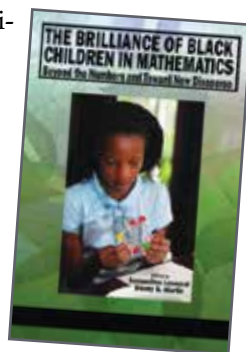
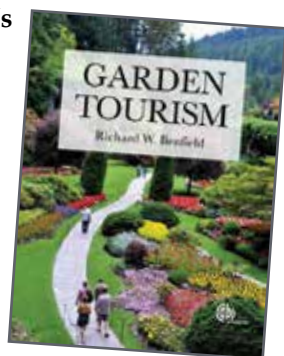
Jones teaches courses in elementary math methods, probability and geometry, and number systems.

Assistant Librarian **Edward Iglesias** authored the book *Robotics in Academic Libraries: Advancements in Library Automation*. The book provides an overview on the current state of library automation, addresses the need for changing personnel to accommodate these changes, and assesses the future for academic libraries.

Iglesias is currently researching the role of maker spaces in libraries as a way for libraries to continue to be relevant and provide communities of creation for their users.

Professor of Educational Leadership **Penelope Lisi** has co-written the book, *Becoming a Multicultural Educator: Developing Awareness, Gaining Skills, and Taking Action*. The book serves as the core text for pre-service and in-service PK-12 educators in courses on multicultural education and diversity.

Lisi teaches courses at the masters, sixth year certification, and doctoral levels in educational leadership.



Professor of Communication **Karen Ritzenhoff** served as co-editor for *Border Visions: Identity and Diaspora in Film*, which focuses on how cinema portrays borderlands and how perceptions have changed over time.

The book's essays analyze international films and documentaries that focus on the lives, cultures, and politics of borderlands. The volume pays special attention to contemporary Europe, where shifting border identities is one of the main driving forces of European unification.

Ritzenhoff teaches courses in film history, women and gender studies, documentary and video production, and visual communication. She was a finalist for the 2012 Excellence in Teaching Award.

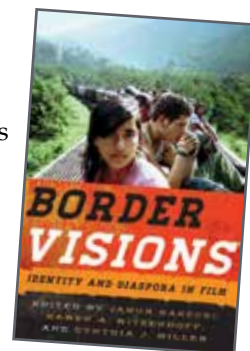
Professor of Teacher Education, Emeritus **Carole Shmurak** recently won an honorable mention for her mystery novel *Most Likely to Murder* at the New England Book Festival.

The book is the latest in the "Susan Lombardi Mysteries" series, which also includes the books *Deadmistress*, *Death by Committee*, and *Death at Hilliard High*. Shmurak was inspired to begin writing books after doing research in Connecticut middle schools, where she noticed that very few novels had main characters who were female.

Shmurak taught full-time at CCSU from 1989 until 2001 and then held a part-time position until 2009. She served as chair of the Department of Teacher Education, and co-taught courses as an Honors Program faculty member.

Professor of Reading and Language Arts, Emeritus **Kenneth Weiss** served as co-editor of *Ethical Issues in Literacy Research*. The book focuses on identifying and addressing multifaceted, multi-dimensional ethical issues related to conducting studies in school, home, community, and virtual settings. Literacy researchers, who contributed to the book, share actions taken when faced with ethical dilemmas in their own investigations. Weiss also wrote or co-wrote two of the book's chapters.

Weiss, who began his career at CCSU in 2005 and retired this spring, taught reading and literacy courses in both the graduate and undergraduate teaching programs.





## Summer Programs on Campus Serve Area Students of All Ages

**W**hen spring semester winds down in May, most college students leave campus, looking forward to their summer break from academic activity. But as evidenced by the programs described here, the CCSU campus doesn't take a break. In addition to multiple sessions of college courses, the University plays host to a variety of academic programs for students of all ages all summer long.

### Educational Opportunity Program

The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) is a five week summer program designed for students who have the potential and desire to do college-level work, but do not meet the University's admissions standards. This year, 44 EOP students enrolled in English, Mathematics, and Reading courses, as well as a fitness and wellness class, and earned 11 credits before the start of their freshman year. Participants lived in residence halls, ate in the campus dining hall, and became familiar with the University's computer labs and library during the program.

Graduates of the summer program were then admitted as full-time matriculated students for the fall semester. Currently in its 44th year, EOP provides academic preparation, individual attention, and academic support at no cost to the participants.

### University Success Program

Sixty incoming freshmen took part in the University Success Program (USP) this summer. USP is a state-funded program designed to improve the retention and graduation rates of underrepresented students.

Three cohorts of students moved into residence halls five weeks before the fall semester began and got a jump start on taking college courses and adjusting to college life. Participants earned up to four academic credits during the program in courses that were designed for them, allowing them to start their college careers with above average GPAs. Students who successfully completed the summer program continue to meet with student and faculty mentors throughout their freshman year.



### TRiO Educational Talent Search College Exploration Program

Twenty-four New Britain High School students spent two weeks on campus this summer as part of the TRiO Educational Talent Search (ETS) College Exploration Program

(CEP). The program was offered at no cost to students already enrolled in the TRiO program. Each day, students took classes taught by CCSU faculty in the morning, attended college preparation seminars in the afternoon, and had the opportunity to spend one overnight in a residence hall. Students who successfully completed the program earned one-half of a NBHS graduation credit.

### Dream Big

Several dozen New Britain High School students had the opportunity to learn career skills through Community Central's Dream Big summer program. Students in the six week program developed skills in art, media literacy, improvisation, team-building, and physical activity. The group also traveled to Manhattan to visit the InterActiveCorp building.

Dream Big featured several speakers who spoke to students about their roads to professional success, and how the skills learned during the program will help students in their careers. The program was held at Community Central, which seeks to foster a relationship between CCSU and the New Britain community.



### Junior Academy

As part of the Junior Academy this summer, 30 local high school seniors attended classes on campus to prepare for upcoming SATs and the college application process. Students also learned about many facets of college life, including college conduct, academic performance, and classroom behavior, as well as student activities and clubs, learning resources, and residential life options. Successful participants received waivers for the SAT fee and for up to four college application fees. The program, offered at no cost to participants, was sponsored by CCSU's Office of Recruitment and Admissions, TRiO ETS, Hartford Public Schools, Hartford's Career Beginnings, and the Hartford Boys and Girls Club.



### ParaDYM

This summer the Paraprofessionals in Digital Youth Media (ParaDYM) program taught New Britain middle and high school students 21st century skills using media literacy, production, and gamification as the building blocks for exploring traditional academic, social, and life skills. The program provided module-based media literacy to foster media as a tool for self-expression, vocational training, and career exploration.



### Robotics & ROV Program

Young scientists from grade 6 to high school seniors attended the Summer Robotics and Remotely Operated Vehicle Program offered by the Department of Technology and Engineering Education in collaboration with the Office of Continuing Education. The middle school program was held July 29 through August 2, and the high school program ran the following week.

Students in both classes built fully-functioning remotely-operated underwater robots from kits. The students gained skills in planning, building, and troubleshooting, as well as finding solutions to design challenges and experimenting with switches, gears, and motors.

### The Immersion Nautilus Live Program

TRiO Educational Talent Search (ETS) and the Boys and Girls Club of New Britain collaborated to sponsor The Immersion Nautilus Live Program in August. For two weeks, twenty middle school-aged ETS students participated in hands-on activities that taught them about ocean exploration. These activities covered concepts involving remotely operated vehicles, ocean life, buoyancy, density, marine archaeology, and ancient shipwrecks. The sessions also involved connecting with the Nautilus Live website, [nautiluslive.org](http://nautiluslive.org), to learn about the Nautilus' most recent expedition in the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. The program was offered at no cost to the participants, and served to expose the students to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics careers and to inspire them to pursue related courses in high school and college.



### CAMPY

In May, 200 middle school students participated in the 2013 CAMPY-on-Campus Conference. CCSU has hosted the Connecticut Association of Mathematically Precocious Youth (CAMPY) conference each May since 2006. Enrollment has increased each year and this year, ten Connecticut towns were represented at the day-long conference. Students attended workshops including Testing Student Created Car Stunts using Calculator Based Rangers (CBRs); Learning How to Use Math to Become a Magician; and Having Fun and Getting Smarter by Connecting Math and Music.

Associate Professor of Mathematics Shelly Jones who directs the CAMPY program, which is staffed by CCSU students, feels positive about its impact. "Central students participate and experience community engagement with middle school students and teachers from a variety of Connecticut towns and cities. CCSU is recognized by these towns and school districts as giving back to the community, because the fee is nominal and students have a full day of activity. This year, we asked participants to reflect on their aspirations for college and we included an item on our evaluation about college. Hopefully, this will get students thinking about attending college."

— Alayna James, Nicholas Irving



## Community Central's Hands Up Program Works to End Homelessness in New Britain

In August, Community Central hosted a bar-becue to introduce six homeless New Britain residents to mentors and social service providers, part of the organization's new Hands Up program. The program, which strives to help area residents overcome homelessness, offers individual and group meetings for its participants to help them connect with their mentors and appropriate social service agencies.

Some of the mentors know first-hand what the homeless are going through.

"Many of the mentors in the Hands Up program were previously homeless and participated in our past events. They know what we do and we know they're in a good place and ready to be a mentor to someone else," said Assistant

Director of Community Engagement Hannah Hurwitz.

While Community Central has organized events in the past to help New Britain's homeless population, this is the group's first rehabilitation program.

Senior John Carey, an Environmental Geography major, volunteered to be a mentor in the program. "I will be a mentor to one of the people I've worked with for the past couple months, who I've grown close to as a friend," said Carey. "My hope is that this program gives the participants every chance to succeed. We want them to grow into sustainable members of society, and then become sponsors for more people in need."

– Nicholas Irving

## Powerful Beyond Measure: A Visit to CCSU

As we stepped out from the Student Center for our morning university class, I asked the group of high school age young men visiting from the Walter G. Cady School of Middletown, CT, to imagine themselves starting out for their own first class at CCSU, with a book bag on their backs, perhaps a coffee in hand. A few in the front smiled at me, looking inward to their mind's eye at such a possibility.

Following a stimulating criminology class, their tour continued with visits to various campus facilities, an engineering talk with mini-rocket launch demonstration, and lunch with presentations by the Office of Admissions and CCSU student mentors on their EOP (Early Opportunity Program) experiences. At the end of the day, after a game with the men's basketball team, one of the Cady students exclaimed, "You'll be seeing me in a year. I'm attending CCSU!"

Their principal, John Mattera, had these words to share in a note of thanks:

"We had a splendid time and the trip, I dare say, truly may have changed for the better some of our young men's lives. They are still talking about it using such words as aspiring, meaningful, and eye-opening. They now feel that perhaps college is within their reach, and this coming from some who never before would have considered this option...All the way around the day was remarkable. The CCSU staff and mentors were welcoming and knowledgeable. Thank you so much for making this happen."

Having CCSU professors, staff, and student mentors bring this pioneer model of recruitment to fruition through Senate Diversity Outreach Committee work is rewarding. It expands our vision and possibility of who we are as people and professionals. Most importantly, riding the high wave of compassion and energy we created in this small piece of time and place, we have sailed across multiple societal barriers to further open access.

In the Cady students, in their alumni staff, the CCSU mentors, and guest speakers, in my colleagues and in myself, I have seen a greater core and potential for greatness in what we can do every day. Last year's visit was indeed a truly remarkable day, with every hour of organizational effort made to bring the recruitment tour to life, worthwhile. In spring 2014, the Senate Diversity Outreach Committee will offer its fourth annual CCSU campus tour for a new group of prospective students from Cady School, pointing to the ever expansive potential to further institutionalize programs that inspire new beginnings.

– James Joss French

Assistant Professor of Teacher Education

(Co-organizers: Associate Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice Reginald Simmons, Assistant Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice Susan Koski, Major Gifts Associate Laura Marchese, and Academic Coordinator Roberta Koplowitz)

*"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure."*

– Marianne Williamson



## UPass Provides Free Bus Transportation to Major Connecticut Cities for CCSU Students

In partnership with CTTransit, CCSU offered UPass bus passes for the first time this fall. With a UPass and Blue Chip Card, students can ride any CTTransit bus in the metro areas of Bristol, Hartford, Meriden, New Britain, New Haven, Stamford, Wallingford, and Waterbury for free. The program is for matriculated students only, and replaces the CCSU shuttle. The UPass is good for one semester, with new passes available at the beginning of each semester at the Card Office in the Student Center.

Available bus schedules are posted at <http://www.cttransit.com/RoutesSchedules/index.asp>.



Above left, new study area in Seth North, recently converted to an all freshman residence hall; above right, the Social Sciences Hall, officially opened for the fall 2013 semester.

## Students Return to Many Campus Improvements This Semester

Major facilities improvements made to the CCSU campus over the summer were not limited to just the Social Sciences Hall and the Semesters area of the Student Center. Resident students returned to find many of their dormitories vastly improved. Improvements and renovations included:

- Seth North**
  - Converted to a freshman residence hall with first-year focused programs and activities
  - New study area installed
- Vance**
  - Third and fourth floors renovated with fresh paint and new flooring, lighting, closets, and furniture
  - Basement renovated with new kitchenette, guest bathroom, and remodeled laundry room
- Barrows**
  - Basement renovated with new flooring, lighting, furniture, kitchenette, and remodeled laundry room
  - Bathrooms throughout the building remodeled and modernized

Additionally, Beecher Hall was outfitted with central air conditioning and new water hydration systems were installed in many of the residence halls. The lobbies of Gallaudet, Seth North, and Sheridan halls, and the basement and lobby of Carroll Hall all received new furniture. Many of the residence halls received new flat screen televisions and new doors with card locking systems.

## "Fill the Trunk!" Donated School Supplies Benefit New Britain Students

The Young Alumni Council, Student Government Association, Inter Residence Council, Community Central, and the Department of Athletics sponsored a **"Fill the Trunk!" event** during the Blue Devils home season opener in September. Game attendees were asked to donate enough school supplies to fill the trunk of a car in Kaiser Lot before the game. Hundreds of dollars worth of school supplies were collected, which were then donated to benefit students at Smalley Academy in New Britain.

## Alumnus Exhibits Paintings on Campus

The Art Gallery at Maloney Hall hosted the exhibit "Victor Leger: Northeast Landscapes" in September and October. Connecticut resident and CCSU grad Leger MSEd '02, devotes much of his time to plein-air oil painting, preferring the rural vistas of northwestern Connecticut. He studied at the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford and the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, before earning his BFA at the San Francisco Art Institute.

*At right, Leger's "Morning Snow Light."*



*Above left, Assistant Professor of Art Jerry Butler and graduate assistant Katarina Szekelyova-McKinney in front of the beginnings of a campus mosaic. Center, marketing student Ahmaad Wilson helps Butler with grouting. Right, a finished portion of the mosaic.*

## Mosaic Takes Shape Outside Maloney Hall

Assistant Professor of Art Jerry Butler is spearheading the effort to create a major art installation outside Maloney Hall, with hopes of involving more than just art students. "Ultimately, I'd like this project to involve all of the CCSU community—not just art students," said Butler. "Artists so far have included children as young as 9 years old and students majoring in business, psychology, and math. Students have been involved from the start, including my Design 1 students last spring, in the developmental stages—some of their designs have been incorporated into the mosaic. I think when it's finished, the mosaic will be an iconic piece for the campus, adding to the cultural landscape."

Though planning began months earlier, the actual mosaic was started in May, and Butler estimates that it should be completed in about a year.

## Chinese Cultural Events, Exhibit at the Elihu Burritt Library in September

In September, The Confucius Institute, the US-China Center, and the Elihu Burritt Library sponsored the art exhibit, "Confucius—A life journey in pictures." The exhibit featured reproductions of silk paintings from the Ming and Qing dynasties, depicting the life and travels of the Chinese philosopher.

Several events were held in conjunction with the exhibit. On September 20, participants from the Modern Languages Department, the Chinese American Students Association, and Northwestern Regional School District No. 7 gathered at the library for the Moon Festival, a mid-autumn celebration that is one of the four most important Chinese festivals. The event was marked with a lecture and music, and a tea ceremony, complete with traditional moon cakes.

On September 25, Assistant Professor of Art History at Yale University Youn-Mi Kim presented the lecture "Portrayals of Confucius in Chinese painting and the art of Qiu Shizhou." And finally, on September 30, the library welcomed music virtuosos and co-founders of the Ba Ban Chinese Music Society of New York Miao Yimin and Zhou Yi, for an afternoon of music played on traditional Chinese instruments, including the guqin, a seven-stringed zither with a history of over 3,000 years, and the xiao, a bamboo flute that is held and played vertically.



# Grad Student Charlotte Etier Interns in DC, Attends Signing of the Student Loan Compromise Bill



CCSU grad student Charlotte Etier (left) looks on as President Obama signs legislation to reduce student loan interest rates. Also pictured (left to right) are Sen. Brian Schatz, D-HI; Sen. Angus King, I-ME; Sen. Richard Durbin, D-IL; Rep. Joe Courtney, D-CT; and Rep. John Kline, R-MN.

Very few college students get to meet the President of the United States. Even fewer get to work on a bill that is signed into law. Even fewer still are present in the Oval Office when the bill they helped write is being signed. On August 9, Charlotte Etier got to be one of those very few students—when President Barack Obama signed the bill that restores lower interest rates for student loans, an effort to combat rising student debt.

Etier's road to the Oval Office began at CCSU, where she is a graduate student in the Counselor Education program with a specialization in Student Development in Higher Education. The program prepares graduate students for a variety of careers in higher education. Within the program, Etier chose to focus on financial aid. "It was such a big part of my undergraduate experience, my life between undergraduate and graduate school, and my life today," said Etier. "I want to help students understand the cost of college and what student loan debt will mean to them."

As a graduate assistant in the Office of Financial Aid, Etier attended conferences and workshops on financial aid, student loans, and more. While attending one conference, Etier was introduced to members of the National Association for Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA). When she learned that they offered a policy internship during the summer, she decided to apply.

Etier was hired over hundreds of other applicants. She spent 11 weeks in Washington, DC working on student aid policy-related issues, including the student loan interest rate compromise, which was on the verge of being signed into law by President Obama. After the bill was

passed, NASFAA's president contacted the White House to see if Etier could attend the signing.

It was not until the day of the signing that Etier received confirmation that she could attend. "We got the confirmation, and I needed to be there in two hours; I would be one of only 15 attendees, and we would all be in the Oval Office with President Obama."

*"I want to help students understand the cost of college and what student loan debt will mean to them."*

After the signing, Etier "received calls and texts from friends who saw me on their evening news with the President, all across the country." Etier adds, "It was crazy! I didn't realize while it was happening that I was so close to the President until I saw the initial story and pictures."

About her choice to pursue a graduate degree in higher education, Etier said, "I had no idea I would become so passionate about higher education policy. It has been through my studies, my graduate assistantship, my professional development opportunities, and my internship this summer that I found myself where I am today—standing beside the President of the United States of America while he signs a piece of legislation into law that I helped pass." Etier also was invited to speak on National Public Radio to discuss student loan debt and the rising cost of college.

"Being present for this bill signing meant that I was part of the history of it all," said Etier, "I can say I worked on something and saw the results—which is truly an incredible feeling. It was something I'm sure I will be telling my children about for many years to come."

— Nicholas Irving



# CCSU ARTS CALENDAR

## MUSIC

Friday, October 25  
**Chorale & University Singers**  
South Church, 90 Main Street,  
New Britain  
7:30 p.m.

Monday, October 28  
**Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band**  
Welte Auditorium  
7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 30  
**Jazz Band and Marching Band**  
Welte Auditorium  
7:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 31  
**High School Orchestra Day**  
J.Ribchinsky and D. D'Addio

Tuesday, November 5  
**Brian Kershner Faculty Recital**  
Founders Hall, Davidson Hall  
3:05 p.m.

Thursday, November 7  
**Auditions**  
Sprague/Carlton Rooms,  
Student Center  
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 7  
**Forum: Bach Project I; Solo Suites and Their Influences**  
Marcus White Living Room  
3:05 p.m.

Tuesday, November 12  
**Jazz Guitar Ensemble Concert**  
Founders Hall, Davidson Hall  
3:05 p.m.

Thursday, November 14  
**Student Recital 1**  
Founders Hall, Davidson Hall  
3:05 p.m.

Saturday, November 16  
**Chamber Choir Festival**  
Founders Hall, Davidson Hall  
7:30 p.m.

Monday, November 18  
**Sinfonietta**  
Founders Hall, Davidson Hall  
7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 19  
**Student Recital 2**  
Founders Hall, Davidson Hall  
3:05 p.m.

Wednesday, November 20  
**Choral Invitational**  
Founders Hall, Davidson Hall  
7:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 21  
**Trumpet Recital with Dr. Dan D'Addio**  
Welte Auditorium  
3:05 p.m.

Monday, November 25  
**Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band**  
Welte Auditorium  
7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 26  
**Student Recital 3**  
Founders Hall, Davidson Hall  
3:05 p.m.

Tuesday, December 3  
**Holiday Concert**  
Founders Hall, Davidson Hall  
3:05 p.m.

Tuesday, December 3  
**Jazz Combo Concert**  
Torp Theatre, Davidson Hall  
7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 4  
**Student Chamber Ensemble,**  
Founders Hall, Davidson Hall  
7:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 5  
**Student Recital 4**  
Founders Hall, Davidson Hall  
3:05 p.m.

Thursday, December 5  
**Big Band/Jazz Ensemble**  
Torp Theatre, Davidson Hall  
7:30 p.m.

Friday, December 6  
**Percussion Concert**  
Room 019, Herbert D. Welte Hall  
3:30 p.m.

Friday, December 6  
**Chorale & University Singers**  
TBA  
7:30 p.m.

Monday, December 9  
**Guest Artist: HICO Musical Performance**  
Founders Hall, Davidson Hall  
7:00 p.m.

## ART

All Shows are held at the CCSU University Galleries, Maloney Hall, Second Floor,  
Samuel S.T. Chen Fine Arts Center  
Regular Exhibition Hours: Monday – Friday, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

October 17 – November 18  
**Exposición Rossana Zaera**  
Opening Reception:  
Thursday, October 17,  
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

January 23 – February 16, 2014  
**Redux Trois: University Alumni featuring Valerie Garlick, Matthew Robinson, Marela Zacarias**  
Opening Reception:  
Thursday, January 23,  
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

March 6 – April 6, 2014  
**Brooklyn Salon: Mike Ballou, James Esber, Tony Fitzpatrick, Jim Torok**  
Work selected from recent exhibitions in Brooklyn, NY  
Opening Reception:  
Thursday, March 6,  
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

November 15

**CCSU's Dancentral Showcase  
Featuring Selected Student  
Choreography**

Welte Hall

7:00 p.m.

Open to the Public,

Free of Charge

March 1, 2014

**2nd Biennial CCSU  
High School Dance Festival**

An all day of master classes with world reknowned teachers and choreographers, ending with an adjudicated concert open to the public. All CT public and private high schools are invited to participate along with special guests.

Welte Hall

Concert Free of Charge

April 25 and 26, 2014

**CCSU Spring Dance Concert  
With Faculty and Guest  
Choreographers**Performing New Works and *An American in Paris* by

Joseph Albano

Welte Hall

7:00 p.m.

Free for Seniors and Students

**For additional information on all dance events, please call 860-832-2167  
or go to [www.ccsu.edu/dance](http://www.ccsu.edu/dance)**

October 22 – 26

**Hedda Gabler**

Black Box Theatre, Maloney Hall

7:30 p.m.

November 23

Early Stages Production

**The Prince and The Pauper**

Torp Theatre, Davidson Hall

1:00 p.m.

February 25 – March 1 and

March 6 – 8, 2014

**The Illusion**

Black Box Theatre, Maloney Hall

7:30 p.m.

November 21, 5:00 p.m. and

November 22, 7:30 p.m.

Second Stage Productions

**Pvt. Wars and Women and  
Wallace**

Room 123, Davidson Hall

January 21 – 25, 2014

**The Trial**

Black Box Theatre, Maloney Hall

7:30 p.m.

April 22 – 27, 2014

**Rent**

Black Box Theatre, Maloney Hall

7:30 p.m.

DANCE  
THEATRE

*Park(ing) Day participants included: standing, left to right, Professor of Art Rachel Siporin, university assistant Tim Jacob '13, Gerry Amodio from the Downtown District, Assistant Professor of Design Eleanor Thornton; in front, information design graduate students Diana Ramos and Stephanie Nobert.*



## Collaborative Effort Brings Park(ing) Day to New Britain

The City of New Britain joined more than 162 cities in 35 countries on six continents in celebrating Park(ing) Day on September 20. CCSU's Department of Design, Community Central, and the New Britain Museum of American Art all took part in converting parking spaces on West Main Street into mini creative spaces for the day. The one-day, annual event began in San Francisco in 2005 with just one parking space.

## CENTRAL AUTHORS



The CCSU Bookstore, the offices of the Provost and Institutional Advancement, and the Media Center present *Central Authors*, CCSU's cable television show featuring members of the Central family (faculty, staff, and alumni) talking about their books and airing on some 20 cable outlets throughout Connecticut. Check your local listings! All tapings are at 12:15 p.m. in the CCSU Bookstore.

*UContent: The Information Professional's Guide to User-Generated Content*  
**Nicholas Tomaiuolo** (Burritt Library)  
Wednesday, November 6

*The Practice of Professional Consulting*  
**Edward Verlander** (Alumnus)  
Wednesday, November 13

Watch *Central Authors* daily on CCSU TV, channel 23, at 8:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 7:30 p.m., or online at [www.ccsu.edu/centralauthors/programming](http://www.ccsu.edu/centralauthors/programming).

## NOTABLE PROGRAMS

The CCSU **Delta Eta chapter of Delta Mu Delta Business Honor Society** was awarded **Star Chapter status** for its growth in membership recently. The award recognizes chapters that exceed expectations in competition for Delta Mu Delta scholarships, or implement a chapter-driven campus and community service project, or experience significant growth in membership.

Iowa State Senator **Rob Hogg** spoke about his new book *America's Climate Century* at CCSU at the start of the fall semester. Hogg is currently touring New England encouraging Americans to take action against climate change. The

event was sponsored by the Global Environmental Sustainability Action Coalition and the Geography Department.

CCSU's Theatre Department presented "**My Name is Rachel Corrie**" in September. The one-woman play, which featured senior acting major **Ashley Malloy**, is based on a compilation of journal and email entries of student activist Rachel Corrie, who was killed in the Middle East by an Israeli bulldozer. After the final performance, Rachel Corrie's parents and members of the Freedom Theatre spoke with the audience.

## IN THE NEWS

Associate Professor of Political Science **Jerold Duquette** was quoted in a *Hartford Courant* article about the 2014 midterm elections. Duquette was consulted about Republican challengers in blue states like Connecticut.

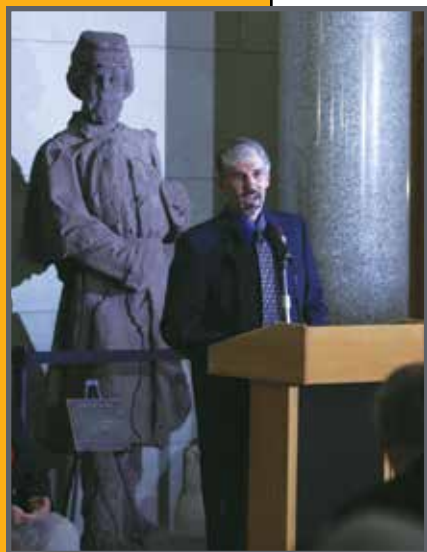
In August, Professor of History **Katherine Hermes** was consulted for an article in the *Connecticut Law Tribune* about the American Museum of Tort Law, which is expected to open in Winsted in 2015.

Professor of History **Heather Munro Prescott** was featured in a *CBS Con-*

*necticut* article about society's discomfort in talking about female biology. Munro Prescott specializes in both public health and women's history.

In August, Associate Professor of Reading and Language Arts **Jesse Turner** was interviewed in the *American Federation of Teachers News* (AFT) article about the March on Washington in 1963. Turner, who was one of the youngest participants in the march, told AFT that 50 years later, the nation still needs to find ways to provide equal education for everyone.

This summer, graduate student **Anthony Roy** and Professor of History **Matt Warshauer** were quoted in a *Hartford Courant* article about the restoration of a 147-year-old brownstone statue of a Civil War soldier. The monument, known as the "Forlorn Solider," was installed at the state Capitol following extensive restoration work. At left, Warshauer speaks at the dedication in September.





Senior Associate Athletics Director **Mike Ansarra** was recognized at the 100 Men of Color Gala in September at the Connecticut Science Center. The award honors men of color who have achieved distinction in their profession or industry, and have made a difference in their community.

In September, Professor of History and Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies **Mieczyslaw Biskupski** was invited to speak at the University of Warsaw at a program honoring three preeminent Polish and Polish American scholars on the occasion of their 90th birthdays.

Senior **Kate Callahan** was received the award for Best Singer/Songwriter at the 2013 Connecticut Music Awards in September. Callahan will graduate in May with a degree in Creative Non-fiction, a major that she designed and received approval for last year.

Chemistry major **Kiyoshi Chandler** won one of only three research fellowships this past summer from the Connecticut Valley section of the American Chemical Society. The section encompasses all of Connecticut (except Yale) and Western Massachusetts. Kiyoshi is an Iraq War veteran and single father.

Associate Professor of English **Mary Collins** has immersed herself in a number of projects recently. Collins was one of just 12 senior writing fellows in nonfiction chosen to attend the Yale Writer's Conference this summer. The conference included workshops, master classes, and the opportunity to meet with agents, publishers, and editors. Collins has also been working to highlight Connecticut's role in the American Revolution. As co-founder of the Connecticut American Revolution Project, she has helped create an online guide that details nine road trips featuring 162 historic sites that focus on Connecticut's Revolutionary heroes. And, while on sabbatical this fall, Collins is the artist-in-residence at the National Park Service Petrified Forest in Arizona, teaming with former *National Geographic* photo editor and *Newsweek* photographer Susan McElhinney on a series of photo/prose portraits of people who visit and work in the park.

Blue Devils Head Soccer Coach **Shaun Green** celebrated his 250th win on September 28 against Monmouth. Green has been head coach with the Blue Devils for 29 seasons.

Assistant Professor of Engineering **Khaled Hammad** presented his paper, sponsored by a 2012-13 CSU-AAUP research grant, titled

"Flow Patterns of an Annular Viscoplastic Jet," and chaired six technical sessions at the 2013 American Society of Mechanical Engineers Fluids Engineering Summer Meeting. Hammad has also joined the newly established Fluids Engineering Division Graduate Student Steering Committee.

Professor of Physics and Earth Sciences

**Kristen Larsen '84** was awarded the Walter Scott Houston Award by the North East Region of the Astronomical League during the Stellafane Convention in Springfield, VT in August. Larsen was selected for her "distinguished legacy of creative work in astronomy education." Larsen was also interviewed this summer about her award and other astronomical topics on the Ray Dunaway Show on *WTIC 1080 AM*.

Assistant Professor of Linguistics and TESOL **Seunghun Lee** recently returned from a year at the General Linguistics Institute in Berlin, Germany. During his stay, which was funded by the Andrew Mellon Foundation and the Volkswagen Foundation, he presented his work at several universities in Europe. Over the summer, Lee also conducted fieldwork at University of Venda in South Africa, a project that was funded by the National Science Foundation.

Central Connecticut State University Adjunct Lecturer of Teacher Education **Ruth Vasquez-Centeno** recently wrote the play, "A Day in the Life of New Berry Middle School," which was performed by local middle school students at Copernicus Hall this summer. The students were members of ConnCAP—the Connecticut Collegiate Awareness and Preparation Program. The play taught students positive conflict resolution as part of a peer mentoring course to help stop bullying.

Graduate student **Kaitlyn Wall** was awarded the 2013-14 Graduate Student Scholarship from the Connecticut School Counselor Association in September. Wall is a member of the Central Counseling Society and was recently inducted into the Chi Alpha Mu Honor Society, where she serves as secretary on the chapter's board.

Assistant Professor of Graphic/Information Design **Kinga Wlodarska's** photography was the subject of a solo show at the Sloper Wooley House in New Britain, a space run by the Polish Society of Artists, under the patronage of the Polish American Foundation of CT. The September exhibit, called Spectral Play, included an opening reception, where Wlodarska spoke with attendees about her artistic vision and processes.

**Nine senior nursing students** volunteered at the 21st annual Stand Down Friday in September at the Veterans Home in Rocky Hill. The students assisted with medical screenings at the event, which offers services to veterans for free, including vision and hearing tests, legal advice, and help filling out paperwork to apply for disability benefits.

## Jamaican Educators Learn About Unique Opportunity for Their Students



Professor of Oceanography and director of the Institute for Archaeological Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island Robert Ballard (left), famous for his 1985 discovery of the RMS Titanic, spoke to Jamaican master's degree candidates taking courses at Central over the summer. The candidates, all teachers in Jamaica, are from Sam Sharpe Teachers' College, a CCSU sister school located in Montego Bay.

Ballard, who has succeeded in finding numerous significant shipwrecks, presented an educational opportunity for Jamaican students to visit the Nautilus Exploration vessel when it is anchored off the coast of Jamaica in 2014.

The vessel is part of the Nautilus Exploration Program's Educators at Sea, which gives students hands-on experience in ocean exploration, research, and communications.

### The CCSU Alumni Association presents CLASSIC FRIDAYS AT CCSU

Torp Theatre, Davidson Hall, CCSU, 2:00 p.m.

## James Mason, *ex libris*



November 15  
*Julius Caesar* (1953)  
with **Stephen Cohen**  
(English)



November 22  
*Lolita* (1962)  
with **Stuart Barnett**  
(English)

A pre-screening reception starts at 1:30 p.m. on each Friday.

## ALUMNI NEWS

Two alumni were recently featured in the *Hartford Business Journal's* 2013 "Forty Under 40" article.

**Raymond Coccozza** '98 is the president of Conveyco Technologies, a systems integrating company in the material handling industry. Coccozza received his BS in Computer Science from CCSU.

**Nathan Quesnel** '13, superintendent for East Hartford Public Schools, received his Certificate in Superintendency and Educational System Administration from CCSU, and has served as a teacher and administrator in the East Hartford Public School system since 2002.

**Michael Doran** '01 recently performed with the 3Penny Chorus and Orchestra, a volunteer

chorus and orchestra group based in Connecticut, on the hit television show *America's Got Talent*. The group advanced through several rounds of the talent competition at Radio City Music Hall in New York City. While attending CCSU, Doran received a degree in Music History and performed with the University Singers.

**Marie Kulesza** '82 was one of three recipients of the 2013 Connecticut Society of CPA Educator of Excellence Awards. Kulesza was recognized for excellence in the accounting community as well as in the classroom. She is a professor of accounting at the University of Saint Joseph.

## Bianca Shinn '03

### UN Counselor, Inspiring Graduate Encourages New Undergrads

Many people use their upbringing as motivation to become successful adults. Some do so to make their loved ones proud, while others do so to forge their own path in life. Childhood experiences can also lead a person to choose a career path where they can give back to those who helped them succeed.

This is certainly the case for Bianca Shinn '03, a graduate of CCSU's Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). The daughter of Haitian immigrants, Shinn was exposed at a young age to human rights causes, as her parents actively worked for immigration rights in areas such as New York City and Miami, cities with large immigrant populations. Seeing her parents strive to help others would help shape the person she has become.

These early experiences led Shinn to her interest in pursuing a degree in Political Science at CCSU. However, getting into college was problematic, as her academic work in high school did not meet the University's admissions requirements.

Thankfully for Shinn, she interviewed for and was accepted to attend the EOP. The 5-week summer program is designed for students who have the potential and desire to do college-level work, but do not meet CCSU's regular admissions standards. Graduates of the summer program are then admitted to CCSU as full-time matriculated students for the fall semester.

During the summer program, students take courses in English, reading, mathematics, and fitness and wellness. EOP provides academic preparation to do college-level work, and includes seminars on personal and professional growth, while offering individual attention and academic support. According to Shinn, the experience provided a "stepping stone that added to my self-esteem when it came to writing, and I was able to build lasting relationships with my peers and professors in the program."

At Central, Shinn immersed herself in her studies, and in the overall college experience. She was a member of the Black Student Union, the Caribbean Club, and served as a Student Senator. Shinn participated in CCSU's first study abroad trip to Cuba in 2000, as well as trips to Chile and Mexico. Shinn's time at Central was enriching, both culturally and personally. "I had great experiences at Central; many were outside of my comfort zone, but those years allowed me to blossom."

After graduating from CCSU in 2003, Shinn continued her education, earning graduate certificates in



*Bianca Shinn's advice to freshmen at CCSU: "Be creative, action-oriented, resourceful, ask for help, and take healthy risks to blossom into leaders in your chosen fields."*

Legal Assisting and Adult Forensic Mental Health, and master's degrees in Urban Studies, Health Education, and Public Health. Shinn currently serves as Counselor for the Permanent Mission of Haiti to the United Nations (UN), where she serves as a committee member for social, humanitarian, and cultural affairs.

Shinn's role at the UN allows her to give back to her parents' homeland in a meaningful way. "I can go back to my roots and help others," says Shinn, "especially those from underprivileged backgrounds."

Shinn's educational experience at CCSU regularly helps her in her job to this day. Specifically, she cites a course taken with Associate Professor of Political Science Paul Petterson, "Political Leadership in the European Union." Shinn says, "Dr. Petterson's strong influence still serves me in my job at the UN dealing with EU delegation."

This past summer, Shinn returned to Central to speak to EOP students, sharing her story and offering advice. Shinn speaks fondly about meeting students with whom she shares the EOP experience: "It was very inspiring to motivate them as individuals." She advised the students to "be creative, action-oriented, resourceful, to ask for help, and to take healthy risks to blossom into leaders in their chosen fields."

Shinn sums up her experiences with CCSU and the EOP: "EOP is a part of me. It's part of my history. I graduated high school with a below-average GPA, but CCSU and EOP took a risk by giving me a chance. Programs like EOP allow people of lower income an opportunity to succeed. EOP took me to my first Broadway play, and I go every year to this day."

— Nicholas Irving





CCSU Courier  
Office of Marketing & Communications  
Central Connecticut State University  
1615 Stanley Street, P.O. Box 4010  
New Britain, CT 06050-4010

*Return Service Requested*

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

The CCSU Courier presents a variety of news stories of interest to faculty, staff, and friends of the University, leaders of Connecticut higher education, state school districts, and the University's other diverse constituencies.

Central Connecticut State University is an AA/EQ institution and a university in the ConnSCU System.

Address inquiries or changes of address to:  
CCSU Courier, Marketing & Communications  
104 Maria Sanford Hall, CCSU,  
1615 Stanley Street  
New Britain, CT 06050-4010  
Phone: 860-832-1790 • Fax: 860-832-1796  
Email: [patricedumond@ccsu.edu](mailto:patricedumond@ccsu.edu)

Coordinator/Designer: Patrice Dumond  
Features Editor: Geri Radacsi  
Contributors: Janice Palmer Hall,  
and CCSU students Kassondra Granata,  
Nicholas Irving, Alayna James, and  
Adam Saucier  
Photographs: Michael J. Fiedler, Mark Gaier



*Above, students gather for the dedication of the University's Sandy Hook Memorial Garden, as Sandy Hook native and memorial organizer Autumn Ingram prepares to cut the ribbon.*

## Sandy Hook Memorial Garden Dedication

On September 17, faculty, administrators, students, and local media gathered for the dedication of the University's Sandy Hook Memorial Garden.

Autumn Ingram, a CCSU student and Sandy Hook native, spearheaded the project to create a space on campus to commemorate the tragic events that took place in her hometown last year.

This summer, Ingram and fellow students worked tirelessly to complete the garden, complete with benches, a Japanese maple, and a memorial plaque.

Vice President of Student Affairs Laura Tordenti, who spoke at the dedication, called to mind the University's ties to Sandy Hook.

Of Sandy Hook Elementary School Principal Dawn Hochsprung, who was a 1993 graduate of CCSU, Tordenti said, "As educa-

tors we want to recognize her bravery and heroism — and that of all the teachers and staff at the school." A moment of silence was observed for those affected by the tragedy, especially Marriage and Family Therapy Professor Nelba Marquez-Greene, whose six-year-old daughter Ana was one of the victims.

Tordenti also recognized student David Rohner, who raised \$15,000 for Newtown first responders by selling a pin he designed, and The Social Work Club, who created memorial wristbands and ribbons to benefit CCSU's Sandy Hook Memorial Scholarship.

The scholarship's first recipient, freshman Jordan Gray, attended the dedication and said, "It made me proud to be from Newtown. The fact that this garden is dedicated to my town is very touching to me."

— Kassondra Granata



As part of the campus' sustainability effort, the *Courier* is printed on FSC®-certified paper. The Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC) is an international, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world's forests.