

CENTRAL *focus*

Winter 2014

the magazine for alumni & friends of central connecticut state university



Ebenezer Don Carlos Bassett, Class of 1853

- First African American to Attend New Britain Normal School (1852)
- First African American to Graduate (1853)
- First African American US Diplomat (1869)

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



When I addressed the University at the beginning of the fall semester, I spoke about CCSU's "culture of success." Reflecting on the past year's accomplishments and, even further back over the nine years I've served the University, it is clear to me that we succeed—sometimes against significant odds—because that is what we do. We have a culture of success that informs all our endeavors.

Our most important successes of course are our students, and we can see that culture taking shape during the formation of our institution. Ebenezer Don Carlos Bassett, Class of 1853 and one of our earliest graduates, followed success after success as he became an educator in New Haven, an abolitionist and activist in league with Frederick Douglass, and, in 1869, the nation's first African American diplomat.

You will also see in this issue that the culture of success is alive and flourishing here — certainly in the accomplishments of young alumni like Erin Stewart '06 and Eric Blake '02, the path-breaking efforts of William Mann '84, and the enterprising leadership of Richard Phaneuf '92, but also in the educational ferment that led to the development of our STEM-centered School of Engineering, Science & Technology; the launch of our innovative MBA program; and the expansion of global educational opportunities via the opening of the state's only Confucius Institute.

As an institution, we have much to be proud of—and much more to do! What we have achieved has in large part been made possible by the support of our loyal alumni and friends. And I invite you to continue to support us in the glorious work of education.

Jack Miller,
President

in focus

Letters to the Editor

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 Anonymous letters will not be published.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

Write: Central *focus*, Central Connecticut State University, 1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT, 06050.
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Class Notes and Other Alumni Information

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

Our Writers

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

Gilbert L. Gigliotti, PhD, is a CCSU professor of English and DJ; a noted authority on Classical literature and Early American literature; and a Hollywood maven with books on Frank Sinatra and on Ava Gardner.

Tommy Meade '09, MA '12, is the Blue Devils Assistant Communication and Media Services Director.

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

Anthony Roy '06 and MA '14, is an award-winning social studies teacher at the Connecticut River Academy. He is completing his master's in public history at CCSU. He is also on the board of Connecticut Council for the Social Studies.

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Keith Hagarty, Kim Karas, Janice Palmer

Alumni Information Update

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

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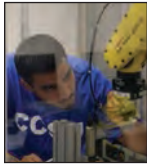
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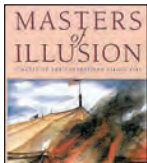
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“Progress and Upward Tendency”

Remembering Ebenezer Don Carlos Bassett, Class of 1853

Anthony Roy '06, MA'14

In 1852, Ebenezer Don Carlos Bassett, the progeny of a politically and socially active Connecticut family and of African slave, mulatto, and Native American heritage, became the first student of color to enroll in Connecticut's State Normal School in New Britain, the foundational institution for Central Connecticut State University. Bassett represented the complex social environment of antebellum Connecticut. Born free on October 16, 1833, Bassett came of age as slavery was gradually dismantled throughout the state until it was finally abolished in 1848. His grandfather and father were both elected “Black Governors” in Derby, in 1815 and 1840, respectively. Despite the social barriers of the time, the Bassett household buzzed with learning and ambition.

Bassett was an exceptional scholar who excelled in mathematics and communicated with clarity and precision. As a young man, he worked for a local doctor, Ambrose Beardsley; made contributions to his local newspaper, *The Derby Journal*; and attended Wilbraham Academy in Massachusetts after completing his initial schooling in Derby.

In New Britain, Bassett detailed his Normal School experiences for *The Derby Journal*. His correspondence provides a rare look into the early days of the School, offering a glimpse at the rigorous training in teaching and in managing a school. The concept of a school for teachers was in its infancy in Connecticut. The state established the school in New Britain after many years of dedicated effort by Henry Barnard, the school's first principal, and with monetary contributions from New Britain's community. This was the beginning of teaching as a profession in this state, which was a part of a larger movement of education throughout the country, especially in the Northeast. The Normal School students practiced teaching under the watchful eyes of the school's faculty and took academic classes designed to increase their content knowledge and classroom competency. The curriculum was advanced

for its time, and Bassett excelled, completing the program in one year.

Perhaps even more remarkable was the absence of discrimination toward the first black student in a school designed to prepare educators who would instruct New Britain's young students.

As a graduation requirement Bassett read his final paper, “The True Teacher.” Although there are no known copies of this paper, it is certain that Bassett's oration exemplified the institution's values; he embodied the State Normal School's teachings. How else could Bassett have met the expectations and graduated so quickly?

Immediately following graduation, Bassett moved to New Haven where he was highly esteemed as the principal of Whiting Street School. Soon thereafter, he met Frederick Douglass, studied at Yale, and married Eliza Park. Active in New Haven as a speaker and civil rights leader, he joined the anti-slavery movement.

In 1855 he relocated to Philadelphia and accepted a teaching position at the Institute for Colored Youth (ICY), a school founded to train young black teachers. It later became Cheyney University. Reflecting on Bassett in 1913, one of his students explained that he was “a man of unusual natural and acquired ability.”

ICY was a beacon for education and activism. During the Civil War, Bassett opened a headquarters to recruit black volunteers at the school. He also recruited Union soldiers with Frederick Douglass throughout Philadelphia. Bassett continued as an educator and activist until 1869 when he was selected by President Ulysses S. Grant to be United States' Minister Resident and Consul General to Haiti, the first African American to attain a diplomatic appointment.

In a letter to Bassett in April 1869, Douglass remarked that Bassett's accomplishments form an “important point in the history of our progress and upward tendency.” Bassett's

career as a diplomat is detailed in Christopher Teal's *Hero of Hispaniola*. Teal describes the complex sociopolitical environment that Bassett navigated as ambassador to Haiti, a country riven by civil war. Bassett was highly commended for his service when he resigned at the conclusion of the Grant administration.

By the late 1870s Bassett was a well-known national figure. In 1883, Bassett was featured with Frederick Douglass and nine other black men on a lithograph entitled, “Distinguished Colored Men” (available in the Library of Congress online catalogue of prints and photographs). Later in his career Bassett acted as Douglass' secretary while his old friend served as US Minister Resident to Haiti, the same position Bassett had held 20 years earlier.

Until his death in 1908, Bassett maintained an active relationship with the Alumni Association. A record of Bassett's correspondence is housed in the University Archives of the Elihu Burritt Library. A scholar, educator, diplomat, and civil rights leader, Bassett was also a dedicated alumnus. He represents the continuity between each graduating class reaching back to the foundation of the institution.

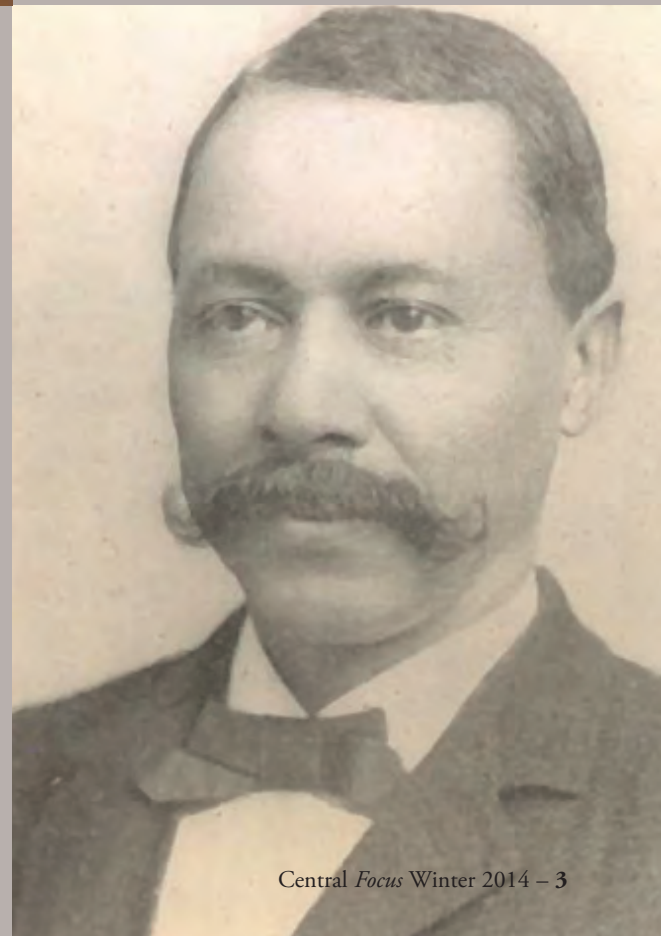
Remembering Bassett as an important member of CCSU's heritage also provides more recent alumni a connection to our history as a student body. He reminds us that we are connected through a common human experience where the pursuit of self-improvement is more than the fulfillment of a prescribed course of study.

Teacher training at the State Normal School prepared Bassett for a lifetime of public service, contributing to regional and global communities, and working for a just and equitable society. Ebenezer Don Carlos Bassett reminds all alumni of our responsibility to employ our genius to give back to society and spread the prestige of Central Connecticut State University.



On October 16, the University commemorated Bassett's inspiring life with the first annual Ebenezer Don Carlos Bassett Memorial Celebration. CCSU student **Jeffrey Barbour** (left) portrayed Bassett in presenting him in his own words. The event featured proclamations from the University, the Consulate General of Haiti, the Consulate of the US, the Connecticut General Assembly, the City of Derby (where Bassett lived), and other notable towns and commissions. Organized by **William Fothergill** (Counselor, Counseling & Family Therapy) and **Janet Woodruff** (Administrative Coordinator, Anthropology) the event was supported by members of the CCSU Art, Anthropology, and History departments, the office of Student Wellness Services, Center for Africana Studies, and Burritt Library. It was sponsored by: Department of History, Department of Anthropology, Man Enough Support Initiative, Center for Africana Studies, Office of Institutional Advancement, CCSU Alumni Association, and CCSU Foundation, Inc.

As Fothergill remarked at the ceremony, "We are commemorating Bassett to remind us that we have a responsibility to advance opportunity for ALL students. Bassett's life teaches us that students are disadvantaged not because of who they are or their race or socioeconomic class, but because they are denied opportunity."



CCSU Alumna Erin Stewart New Britain's Youngest Mayor

Kate Callahan '14



Erin Stewart '09 remembers the night she added herself to New Britain's political equation.

She never wanted to run for mayor. As a child of a politician, she hated politics and the public pressures having a father in office brought on her family. However, on a mild night, nearly two years ago, she walked down to City Hall, expecting to witness a small protest of a bill that would impose fees on landlords.

"I was on the Board of Education then," she says, "and I came to be a fly on the wall; I was curious."

To Stewart's surprise, West Main Street was barricaded and people were pouring into the streets, lining City Hall, which was at capacity.

Stewart remembers encountering a lot of angry people and thinking, "How could the administration make such a poor policy decision that they have upset this many people?"

Compelled by the situation, she slid her way into the packed council chambers. Standing among people with signs like, "Don't Tread on Me," Stewart realized just how vital communication is between a mayor and her constituents.

Amidst the din of chanting protesters, under the giant doorway to City Hall, Stewart thought, "Oh my God, I need to run for Mayor."

Then she thought, "No, no, no, no, no."

Her mother, Patricia, and father, Timothy Stewart, former Mayor of New Britain,

said, "No, no, no. Absolutely do not put yourself through this."

But Stewart had "caught the bug," and felt the city deserved a leader who would listen. She ran as a Republican on a fusion slate, endorsing Democrats, Independents, and unaffiliated parties. Both her campaign and first year in office have attested to her ability to listen — and listen beyond party lines.

In her conference room, the façade of a fireplace protrudes from the wall. It is decorated with plaques, dried flowers, and a lawn sign reading "DEMOCRATS FOR ERIN."

"I got elected to this position because I didn't care about party lines," she says. "Sometimes people look at me like I have six heads, but I'm here to prove, beyond

myself, that my intentions are good.”

Zak Sanders, a spokesman for the Republican Party says, “Erin promised the people of New Britain an open and transparent city government that worked for them – and that’s exactly what she has delivered.”

Stewart maintains openness by listening to those who have gone before her, while infusing her methods and actions with the spirit of her generation.

“A lot of people my age are conservative with money because we don’t have a lot of it to spend; we’re in debt up to our ears with college loans; we’re not lucky enough to have jobs that pay us enough to make ends meet.”

Stewart is a self-proclaimed fiscal conservative and social liberal. She refers to her generation as the “Do You” generation, intimating that young people more readily accept each other for their differences.

Stewart reaches a broader and younger constituency by taking to social media with announcements and news impacting the city. “Local newspapers don’t have the space to publish everything,” she says, “so social media becomes a platform.”

Some have criticized Stewart for being too young and impulsive to lead. “It’s a struggle to be in a highly publicized leadership position when you’re 27 and a young woman,” she says. “I think young professionals all over this nation struggle



Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman and Costco Project Coordinator Joseph Montesano join Mayor Stewart and former Mayor Tim Stewart at groundbreaking for the Costco warehouse center.

with this too. You’ve got to overachieve just to get a level of respect from people who are judging you.”

Commonly, Stewart hears that “the only reason I got elected was because of my father, who they assume is pulling all the strings.” She emphatically states, “No! I have a mind of my own and if I would have listened to my father I never would have run in the first place.”

“I am proud to add 225 jobs to our community and prove that government doesn’t need to be a road-block to economic development.”

Having a mind of her own is important to Stewart, who says Associate Professor of Political Science **Jerold Duquette** helped her develop her beliefs. He urged Stewart to understand other people’s viewpoints—why they feel the way they feel—before feeling strongly about her own opinion. She says, “I take that with me every day. I have to.”

Stewart’s first year in office would have been challenging for even a seasoned

politico. As longtime New Britain observer Don Stacom wrote in the *Courant*: “Stewart has navigated a political maze to resurrect the stalled Costco project, endured a high-profile setback with the defection of the Rock Cats, and scored a public relations coup by her hardball

pressure on the minor league baseball team to pay a \$164,000 tax bill.”

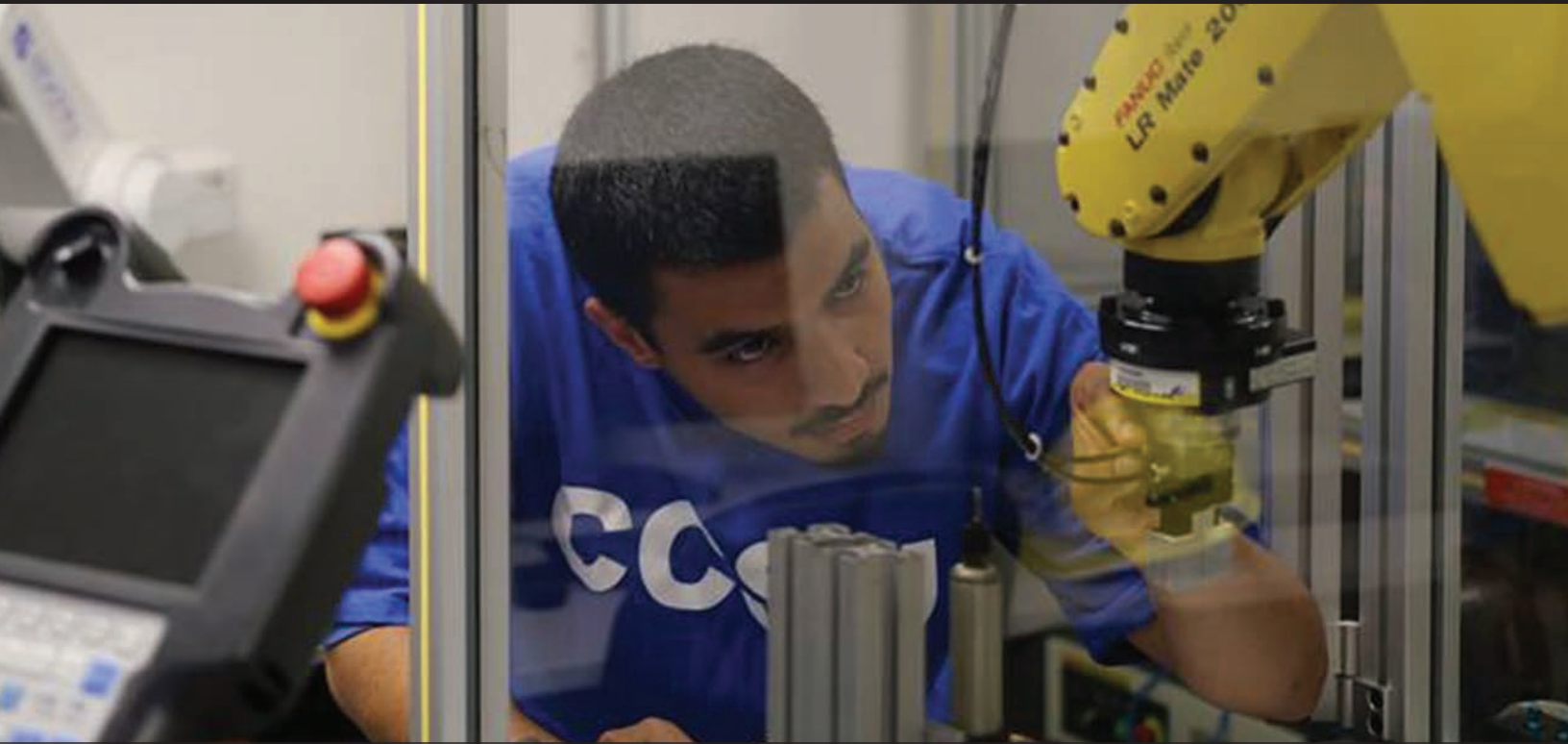
“We were finally able to put a shovel in the ground on the Costco project,” Stewart says of her accomplishments. “I am proud to add 225 jobs to our community and prove that government doesn’t need to be a road-block to economic development.” And, about her handling of the Rock Cats’ departure, she says, “It was the right thing to do...and that means no exceptions.”

The pace in Stewart’s office is constant. She trusts the team surrounding her, including Director of Constituent Services Kimberly Jehning ’10, as they work to assist the people of New Britain with the everyday problems of living in the city. Stewart’s second year in office began in November.



A New Era in CCSU STEM Education

Science Merges With Former School of Engineering and Technology



CCSU's new School of Engineering, Science, and Technology is creating 21st-century learning opportunities.

Say goodbye to the School of Engineering and Technology, and hello to the new School of Engineering, Science, and Technology. The school's reorganization—which brings the departments of biology, chemistry, math, and physics and earth sciences into the School—reflects the emergence of STEM-based curriculum in higher education.

“STEM education grows out of the idea that the boundaries between science, technology, engineering, and math are permeable,” says Dean **Faris A. Malhas**. “By endeavoring to blend those fields in its approach, STEM education seeks to create 21st-century learning opportunities and skill development for a new breed of technical professionals.”

Having all four disciplines under one common administrative structure provides a better, more efficient allocation of resources.

“The new configuration allows resources to be focused on the applied sciences, and thus provides the best opportunities for cross-disciplinary discussions and program integration,” says Malhas, noting how a common organizational structure promotes collaborative research opportunities, a unified student recruitment strategy, and potential partnerships with local business and industry, particularly science and engineering companies.

“The STEM disciplines have a shared understanding of education and research,” Malhas explains. “Having like disciplines — as well as their academic departments — under a single administrative structure will lead to improved teacher training and professional development, outreach activities with K-12 schools in our region, as well as aligning with new and evolving standards, such as the Common Core Standards for mathematics, the Next Generation of Science Standards for the physical sciences, and the standards prescribed by the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association for engineering and technology education.”

A common unified administrative structure offers improved and streamlined curriculum development, course offerings, course scheduling, and new course development.

Since the reorganization in July, the department of physics and earth sciences has become two: geological sciences; and physics and engineering physics.

“That’s the first example where we see a birth of a program blending one of the sciences with engineering,” said Assistant Dean **James Mulrooney**. “If you just look at the engineering field, with all the blending of the sciences, we have the raw material here. The

sky’s the limit with what we could do, with of course the proper support from the state.”

“It’s a very important milestone for the University,” according to President **Jack Miller**. “I think it will enable us to compete for a number of different types of funding and awards.”

Mulrooney believes a streamlined student learning experience will be the ultimate result. “Now you really do have like-minded faculty and like-minded students. As we’re working together, the faculty will find ways for their students to interact where we can help each other with different projects.”

A STEM-educated workforce will be a key driver of the economy over the next century, adds Malhas. An innovative society requires a scientifically literate population and a robust supply of qualified graduates.

“The world is changing rapidly, presenting numerous career opportunities for students with degrees in STEM fields,” he says. “To reduce the gap, and prepare more K-12 and college students — especially minorities and women for STEM careers — CCSU must become a key player in the region by widening the education funnel so more students enter these critical disciplines.”

— *Keith Hagarty*

Taking Care of Business

School of Business Launches New MBA

— Keith Hagarty

MBA at CCSU - Quick Facts:

- Fall 2014 semester launch
- 82 enrolled students
- Specializations: Accounting Track, Business Analytics Track, or The Central Track
- Blended hybrid of campus-based/online learning options



Three letters can often separate a good university from a great one: M B A.

At the beginning of the fall semester, the CCSU School of Business proudly launched the University's new Master of Business Administration program, offering three academic tracks: accounting, business analytics, and the Central Track, an individually tailored approach where students choose from any of the specialization classes in business analytics and accounting to accommodate their own professional and educational needs.

"When you look at other schools of business that have a national reputation, that reputation is built on their MBA program," says **Jason Snyder**, MBA program director and associate dean of the School of Business. "When you think about other major institutions, it's the MBA program that often sets the brand identity for the school — we needed to have that."

Recently earning AACSB International accreditation (Association to Advance Collegiate School of Business), the CCSU School of Business designed the new MBA program to meet the academic needs and scheduling demands of early to mid-career professionals. Pursuing this part-time program, students can earn their degree in just 10 classes through a flexible, cost-effective, blended hybrid format of campus-based and online learning.

"The energy has been unbelievable, and the excitement that it's generated among potential students has really been unexpected," Snyder says of the inaugural 82-student enrollment (far surpassing the initial 50-student goal). "We wanted to capitalize on the AACSB accreditation. What that means for us is that we're one of a very small number of schools of business that can guarantee a certain level of quality."

Snyder and Associate Professor of Management Information Systems **Mark D. Cistulli** conducted exhaustive market research to discover what prospective students are looking for in an MBA program while exploring opportunities for growth.

"There's a lot of competition in the MBA marketplace," says Snyder. "Central is obviously centrally located, with the vast majority of students who are attracted to this school coming from within a 40-mile radius, so we knew there were a number of students in that radius who were interested in an accredited program."

Associate Professor of Marketing **Kuan Pin Chiang's** interactions with MBA students have further reaffirmed his belief in the program's team-based learning emphasis.

"My teaching approach is collaborative learning, which nurtures students' ideas and increases the value and impact of their MBA experiences at CCSU. I want them to feel that we are on a journey to discover, to investigate, and to learn together."

The diversity of experience harnessed in the MBA classroom enriches the educational experience, providing a wealth of opportunity, says Cistulli, who also serves as program advisor.

"When you have someone who's been in the so-called 'real world,' in many instances, they can add more value than any textbook can," he says.

"Bringing all of those perspectives to bear on an issue, idea, or problem generally tends to generate much richer conversations and deeper understanding of the concepts," Snyder adds. "We offer as good a quality of program as anybody. We wouldn't concede that to any other school in the region."

To learn more about the new MBA at CCSU, visit www.ccsu.edu/mba.

Mary-Ann Tirone Smith '65

Prolific Author's Book Optioned For a Film

Author **Mary-Ann Tirone Smith '65** has penned several novels and short stories reprinted worldwide in seven languages, paperback, audio, and eBook editions. Born and raised in Hartford, with a two-year stint volunteering for the Peace Corps in Cameroon, Africa, Tirone Smith was awarded the Diana Bennet Writing Fellowship at the Black Mountain Institute at UNLV, where she completed work on her latest Civil War novel, *The Honoured Guest: Anne Alger Craven, Witness to Sumter, in Her Words* (Mary-Ann Tirone Smith, 2014). Her touching memoir, *Girls of Tender Age* (Simon and Schuster, 2007), is an ongoing favorite of book discussion groups, while her novel, *Masters of Illusion* (Grand Central Publishing, 1994), was recently optioned for a film by Amazon Productions.

KH. What was your reaction when notified of Amazon's interest in optioning your novel, *Masters of Illusion*, for a film?

TS. I thought, Amazon makes movies? Next they'll own hospitals! I heard from my agent, who told me she was contacted by Amazon Productions about *Masters of Illusion*, a story centered on the Great Hartford Circus Fire. The head of production at Amazon told me the circus fire book made a lasting impression on him — "such a rich story."

KH. You wrote *Masters of Illusion* 20 years ago. What do you attribute to its sustained popularity?

TS. This is the 75th anniversary of the Hartford fire, and there has been a renewed interest in circuses lately: a cable show; a sheet of stamps depicting the circus recently released by the US Post Office; the accident during the performance at the Barnum & Bailey in Providence, Rhode Island recently when eight acrobats fell from the top of the tent where they were doing stunts while hanging from their hair.

KH. Will you be involved in the film's script development?

TS. No. I'm not a scriptwriter. Ernest Hemingway once said that when one of his books was optioned for a film, he would drive to the border of California and throw his manuscript out the car window. A book is a book and a script — when it's a good one — simply captures the essence of the plot and the characters. All the details are visual, most shown through action rather than dialogue.

KH. Which actors could you envision playing your characters?

TS. I can only see my characters as I saw them. They still live on in my head; I can't see any actors replacing them. However, I'll take Susan Sarandon and George Clooney as the two protagonists.

Name: Mary Ann Tirone-Smith

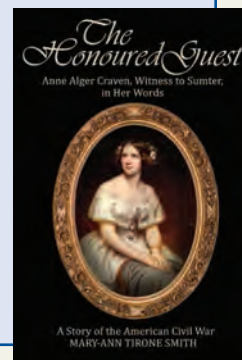
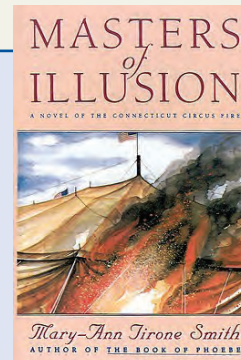
Graduation Year: 1965

Area of Study: English, major;
Psychology, minor

Occupation: Author

Highlights: Completed her 10th novel, the Civil War tale *The Honoured Guest: Anne Alger Craven, Witness to Sumter, in Her Words*; Her 1994 novel *Masters of Illusion* was recently optioned for a film by Amazon Productions.

Quote: "I have taken to heart JFK's maxim: 'A writer must be true to himself and let the chips fall where they may.'"



KH. What led you to a career in writing?

TS. As soon as I read a book, I wanted to write a book. My mother had a shelf of classic children's literature in our living room, and my father made up a bedtime story for me almost every night. Sometimes he'd recite a poem: "My name is Ozymandias, king of kings. Look upon my works ye mighty and despair." — Percy Bysshe Shelley (who I studied in Romantic Literature at Central).

KH. Is there a subject matter you're most drawn to write about?

TS. I just finished a Civil War novel. Many of my novels center on historical events. My three-book mysteries series focused on the human need for justice. My first novel, *The Book of Phoebe*, (iUniverse, 2000) was autobiographical. Many fictional scenes ended up in my memoir, *Girls of Tender Age*, only as actual events and how they affected my life, family, and the little community that was contained in one square mile of a neighborhood in southwest Hartford in the 1950s: small town America in actuality.

KH. Do any subjects give you hesitation?

TS. There is no topic or theme outside my comfort zone. I have taken to heart JFK's maxim: "A writer must be true to himself and let the chips fall where they may." I write what I like to write, and I generally have a vision. The creative process is indescribable.

Mary-Ann Tirone Smith

Continued

KH. Who is your favorite or most influential author?

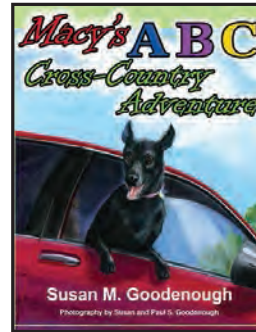
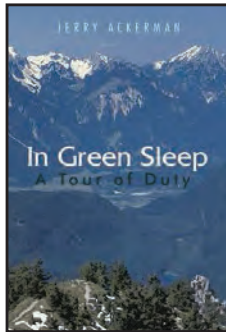
TS. My greatest admiration was, and is, for William Shakespeare, thanks to Professor of English (the late) **Francis Glasheen** at Central. Shakespeare's theme was human motivation, something no writer had written about before. I was pretty much blown away by *King Lear*. I tend to love books that reveal pieces of human nature that I'd never thought about before.

KH. What advice would you give an aspiring author?

TS. Read incessantly. Join the Peace Corps. When you have settled down, find 20 minutes a day to write. Write what you like to write, what gives you pleasure and joy. That would be seven days a week. Punch the clock. It is all about discipline.

— Keith Hagarty

Recent Books & News by CCSU Alumni



Jerry Ackerman '71
In Green Sleep: A Tour of Duty (iUniverse, 2011)
and *The Blue Wake* (iUniverse, 2013)

Susan Goodenough '85; MS '90;
6th-year '07
Macy's ABC Cross-Country Adventure (Dorrance Publishing, 2014)

Peter Kilduff '67
Billy Bishop, Lone Wolf Hunter: The RAF Ace Re-Examined (Grub Street, 2014)
This is Kilduff's 16th published book.

Danielle Schmitt '08
Mistletoe. Illustrator (Starry Night Publishing, 2013)

Eileen Gonzales '12
Jury's Greatest Hits (Smashwords, 2014)

Nancy Manning MS '92
Undertow of Silence (TAG Publishing LLC, 2013)

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

Central's "Living Room" Turns the Big

5-0

The year was 1964.

The Beatles brought the British invasion to the Ed Sullivan Show. Nelson Mandela was sentenced to life imprisonment in South Africa. The Warren Commission issued their report determining that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy — and a quaint, little structure opened its doors on the north side of campus: the student center.

What began five decades ago as a mere 41,000 square foot replacement for old East Hall, now stands as the three-floor, 84,000 square foot "living room" of the campus.

The center provides a range of services for students including lounge and study areas, entertainment, Breakers Game Room, CENtix Box Office, tech services and host venue for the departments of the Student Center & Student Activities/Leadership Development, student clubs and organizations, LGBT Center, Women's Center, Devil's Den, campus bookstore, mail services, and more.

"We are a place to learn about being a good citizen in this community," said Student Center Director **Otis Mamed** during September's 50th anniversary ribbon-cutting celebration. "The Center is a place to meet the diversity of the world, to learn to work together, to resolve differences, and make changes."

"It's just been a great marriage of working together over the past 50 years," **Scott Hazan**, director of Student Activities and Leadership Development. "The common thread is that we've always been here as a great program to support the students in what they do."

The student center is the lifeblood of the campus, says CCSU President Emeritus **Richard Judd**, who served as the center's inaugural director (1964-70).

"There are three things which drive my mind about the University: one is the heart, one is the body, and one is the soul," says Judd.

"The faculty is the heart of the school. CCSU President Dr. **Jack Miller** and his administrative team are the body, the structure that makes this place work."

Saving the best for last, Judd offers the final element: the soul.

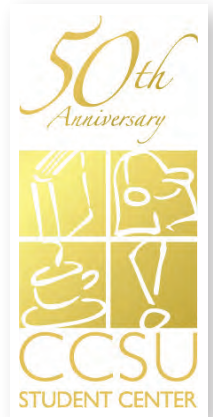
"That's all of our students," he says, challenging each individual to add their own unique "flavor" to the CCSU experience.

"You are the ones who really put life and spirit into the University," he says. "It happens with places like the student center, the residence halls, food services, and all of the activities that drive the life of the University."

Calling the student center the symbolic heart of CCSU's teaching learning community, Mamed explains what makes the facility so unique.

"Sixty percent of college learning takes place outside the classroom, and much of that opportunity is provided right here. We want you to discover more clearly who you are. We want you to experience this in an environment that is fun. We want to be the center of your community."

— Keith Hagarty



Central Connecticut State University Student Center 1964



Central Connecticut State University Student Center 2014

DONOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE: DR. HUANG CHANG-JEN CCSU RECEIVES RECORD-SETTING \$6.5 MILLION GIFT

Dedicating his life to promoting education, the late Dr. Huang Chang-Jen bequeathed \$6.5 million to Central Connecticut State University — the largest bequest in the history of the institution.

“We are deeply appreciative of Dr. Huang’s support of CCSU,” President **Jack Miller** says of the industrialist, humanitarian, and calligrapher who passed away in 2012.

“He was a remarkable man, and we are grateful he chose CCSU as a place to continue his legacy,” says Miller.

Born and raised in Hunan, China, Huang’s relationship with CCSU began nearly 25 years ago when he endowed a scholarship supporting the exchange of students from Ouyang Yu Experimental Middle School in China to CCSU, and in turn, the exchange of CCSU graduate students to Ouyang Yu to teach English. He funded the construction of the school through his charity, the Ouyang Yu Foundation (named in honor of his first wife). In 1990, CCSU awarded Huang the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

“He was a dedicated philanthropist — driven to invest his wealth in ways that would make life better for people through education, science, and medicine,” his widow, Ha Lin Yip Huang, said during a recent campus visit. “He especially appreciated helping young people make their way in life, and his gift to Central Connecticut State University will continue to make that happen.”

Huang’s generous gift benefits his existing scholarship fund and establishes a new fund supporting scholarships to students in the



CCSU Schools of Business, Education and Professional Studies, and Graduate Studies. The gift also provides supplemental support for a proposed new student recreation facility, which, pending approval by the Board of Regents, will be named in his honor.

“Along with the existing Carol Ammon Scholarship Fund and the Anthony and Helen Bichum Scholarship Fund, all five of our schools will have access to a major source of funds to support students,” says Miller. “That’s critically important as students constantly deal with the issue of being able to afford their education.”

Huang’s philanthropic legacy also includes the founding of the CJ Huang Foundation, supporting Asian American community-

based organizations, establishing the Asian Liver Research Center at Stanford University, and helping to build the Shanghai Children’s Hospital and the Wuhan University School of Nursing. Connecticut Board of Regents President Gregory Gray calls Huang’s legacy “truly inspirational.”

“Dr. Huang is a wonderful example of those for whom giving is a thoughtful and sustained activity,” says Gray.

After earning his bachelor’s degree from Wuhan University in China and his master’s degree in civil engineering from the University of Michigan, Huang moved to Thailand in 1955 and established the US Summit Corporation’s Bangkok Branch, rebuilding the Bangchak Oil Refinery into one of the largest conglomerates in Southeast Asia. He later served as chairman of H&W Enterprises, H&W Enterprises Bay Village, and H&W Development, LLC. He was also an associate at the Stanford Research Institute and served as an advisor to United States Congress.

“My father believed that through the scholarships and endowments he established, he was helping to open doors to the world for young people — giving them the opportunity to explore and learn about themselves,” his son, Paul Huang recalls.

“His gift to CCSU carries on his belief — our family tradition — that helping others is the basis for our own happiness.”

— *Janice Palmer*

Artist’s rendering of the proposed “Huang Center” Student Recreation Facility



William J. Mann '84 History, Hollywood, & Heaven

— Gilbert G. Gigliotti, PhD



“It felt like Christmas morning,” CCSU’s own Hollywood historian William J. Mann confessed, as he described his feelings upon first seeing the uncatalogued letters of Alice Palache in the Harvard University Library. The correspondence by Katherine Hepburn’s college roommate and life-long friend was still tied up in ribbons from 80 years before and in the decades-old boxes from Palache’s attic – with the mouse droppings to prove it. As a biographer, Mann ’84 (BA, History) knew, “I was in heaven.”

He’d feel similarly as he would pore over the unpublished diary of Ernest Lehman, screenwriter of Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton’s *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf* at the UCLA archive, and the four boxes of papers at the New York Public Library that Jerome Robbins compiled as show-doctor of Barbra Streisand’s breakthrough Broadway smash *Funny Girl*. This type of archival research, Mann recognized, is what would separate his books from the show-biz books that simply rehash studio press releases and

other well-worn myths. His research skills would allow him to “get behind the images and the public personas and deconstruct them.”

He also appreciated that, with such access to private papers and personal recollections, his duty as a biographer and historian must always be to the truth, but the truth told with “respect and context.” Without those two guiding forces, admits Mann, the biographer is no different from the burglar who violates another’s personal space for nothing more than his own gain.

This ethical approach has served Mann well, having led to a series of very well-received, and bestselling, books. His recently published *Tinseltown: Murder, Morphine, and Madness at the Dawn of Hollywood*, in which Mann solves the open Hollywood murder case of silent film director William Desmond Taylor, is proving to be another success.

How did the self-described “working class kid,” who dropped out of Central for a semester because he was “completely unfocused,” end up a sought-after writer busily working on both a screen adaptation of his Hepburn book and a musical of his Taylor bio (not to mention looking for a topic for his next book project)? Well, not surprisingly, and not unlike many college graduates, the road was long and winding (and interesting).

Mann’s journey can be traced at least as far back as his cleaning toilets in a nursing home – the job he took when he dropped out and – surprise! – the very job that made him realize that he needed to go back to Central and finish his degree. He quickly switched from graphic design to history and seemed to find himself. Mann’s newfound commitment to his education allowed CCSU to “awaken a love for history.” He learned through research assignments that “everything that we’re going through today has been gone through before many, many times. The same love affairs, the same jealousies, the same rivalries, hopes, dreams, and triumphs. Indeed, the more you know about the past the more you’ll understand what’s going on today.” And the student, who in high school just read the *Cliffs Notes*, now began to devour not only the required books but unassigned works, as well. He singles out Professor of English (now emeritus) Barry Leeds’ American literature class as one that particularly sparked his love of reading. Mann’s final years at Central were also full of political activism, a *Helix* publication or two, and lots of movies (a love he had long shared with his father, watching late-night movies).

Upon graduation Mann secured a political job in Connecticut Congressman Sam Gejdenson’s Washington, DC, office, which quickly turned into a job with the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Consumer Protection, and Finance. Working



daily in the basement of a federal government building, however, made Mann realize that, “This was *not* how I wanted to change the world!” So he returned to Connecticut, earned an MA in Liberal Studies from Wesleyan, and landed a writing position with the brand new *Hartford Monthly Magazine*, where he rose from staff writer to assistant editor. Later he became a free-lance writer for *The Hartford Courant*, *The Hartford Advocate*, *Men’s Fitness*, *Architectural Digest*, and other publications.

The *Architectural Digest* assignment led Mann to his first full-length nonfiction book, 1998’s *Wisecracker: The Life and Times of William Haines, Hollywood’s First Openly Gay Star*, in which he details how the silent film star was forced, by his studio, to choose between his career and his lover. Haines chose his lover. As Mann’s book makes clear, the debates in which the burgeoning Hollywood community of the 1920s engaged with American society at large would sound terribly familiar today.

In 1992, along with his friend Sarina Kahn, he became co-publisher of Hartford’s *Metroline*, a tiny publication aimed at gay readers. By 1995, when the two sold the magazine, it had a full-time staff of seven writers, a large stable of free-lancers, and, due to a broadened appeal, a circulation of 20,000. The magazine helped focus and further Mann’s political activism, which had already led, in 1988, to his co-founding Alternatives, an organization that began what became the Hartford Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. Losing many friends and colleagues to AIDS, Mann also was working closely during this time with his mentor, Victor D’Lugin, a professor at the University of Hartford and prominent AIDS activist, and the source of CCSU’s Victor D’Lugin Collection in Elihu Burritt Library.

After *Metroline*, Mann turned to fiction, with a successful series of gay-themed novels, including *The Men from the Boys* (1998), *Where the Boys Are* (2004), *All American Boy* (2005), and *Object of Desire* (2009). He also would write another well-received film biography, *Edge of Midnight: The Life of John Schlesinger* (2006), about the director of *Midnight Cowboy* and *Marathon Man*, who also happened to be gay. Widespread acclaim for Mann’s work would truly come, however, with *Kate: The Woman Who Was Hepburn* (2006); *How to be a Movie Star: Elizabeth Taylor in Hollywood* (2009); and *Hello Gorgeous: Becoming Barbra Streisand* (2012).

In those bios, Mann struggled with the accepted wisdom, and false fronts, that each woman had carefully cultivated over the course of her life and career. Whether he is discussing Kate’s monkey, Liz’s tracheotomy, or Barbra’s missing “a,” his aim is always to get his readers as close to the real woman, and her time, as possible. As he describes Streisand’s drive:

Barbra wanted to make it big so she could demonstrate she had talent and appeal to a father who had never known her, a mother who hadn’t seemed to care, and a world who had thought she was too different to succeed. No surprise, then, that being acknowledged would never be enough; Barbra had to be great. And, as for paying her dues, she showed little patience: “It was right to the top,” she declared early on, “or nowhere at all.” (3)

How Bill Mann will move forward is uncertain. But whatever the subject, we can be sure he will look for the ribbons and the mouse droppings. And, when he finds them, he’ll be in heaven again.



FALL SPORTS WRAP UP

Tom Pincince, MS '14



Elizabeth Eberhardt



Rob Hollomon



A pair of championships highlighted the Central Connecticut fall athletics season, including a record-breaking sixth straight Northeast Conference men's cross-country title from head coach **Eric Blake**'s team. The women's soccer team added the second championship of the fall, its eighth title and first since 2009, and helped propel the Blue Devils into first place in the NEC's Women's Commissioner's Cup Standings. The Commissioner's Cup is awarded annually to the top athletics program in the NEC, based on points awarded for regular season and conference tournament finishes. As a whole the Blue Devils sit in third place overall in the Commissioner's Cup standings.

Blake's men's cross country team not only won their sixth straight title, but did so in dominating fashion. The Blue Devils swept the top five spots in the race. For the fifth straight season the Blue Devils also earned individual medalist honors as senior **Patrick Hubbell** crossed the finish line in first place.

On the women's side, senior **Elizabeth Eberhardt** won medalist honors in the NEC Championships and helped pace Central to a fourth place team finish. Eberhardt and Hubbell became the second set of Central teammates to sweep medalist honors.

The **women's soccer team** finished in third place in the regular season but posted two victories in the NEC Tournament to claim the program's eighth overall title and advance to the NCAA Tournament. A 1-0 win over host Fairleigh Dickinson in the title game followed a 2-1 overtime victory over Wagner in the semifinal match. Central also dominated the regular season awards winning the NEC Player of the Year (senior **Tori Souza**), Goalkeeper of the Year (sophomore **Niki Turley**), Defensive Player of the Year (**Jennifer Cafferky**), and Rookie of the Year (**Cafferky**).

On the men's side, three Blue Devils were named All-Conference and freshman **Filosmar Cordeiro** was named the league's Rookie of the Year, giving the men's and women's team a sweep of the award.

The **volleyball team** advanced to its 12th straight NEC Tournament — its 15th in 17 years — before falling to eventual tournament champion LIU Brooklyn. Central was the fourth seed in the tournament after posting a conference record of 7-7 on the season. A pair of Blue Devils were named to the All-Conference First Team. Senior **Rachel Dunlap** and junior **Makenna Lommori** were both honored. It marked the third straight season that Lommori was named to the first team for her performance. Dunlap was a second team selection a year ago.

Senior running back **Rob Hollomon** highlighted the football season by becoming the school's all-time leading rusher. He finished his career with the Blue Devils with 3,672 yards. As a senior he became the first player in school history to rush for 1,000 yards in three separate seasons. He was a First Team All-Conference selection as well as a First Team All-New England pick in his final season.

The fall golf season was highlighted by a New England Individual Championship from sophomore **Matt Hills**. He was the second straight Blue Devil to win the title, joining teammate **Monte Mullen** who won in 2013.

• AROUND CAMPUS •

Celebrating four decades of cultural pride and advancement, the Republic of Poland awarded the **Polish Studies Program at CCSU** with the Amicus Poloniae Award, presented annually to citizens or organizations of the United States for their contribution towards the development of Polish-American relations and promotion of their homeland in America. Poland Ambassador to the US Ryszard Schnepf presented the award at Central's Polish Studies 40th Anniversary Gala held October 19 at Alumni Hall in the Student Center. Recognizing several individuals for their ongoing contributions, the ambassador conferred the Bene Merito Award to Michael A. Peszke and Alex and Regina Rudewicz, longtime supporters and generous contributors to the program; as well as CCSU Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement **Nicholas Pettinico, Jr.**, at right being congratulated by Ambassador Schnepf (far right).



This summer we opened the state's first **Confucius Institute**. It brings together CCSU and the Shandong Normal University to create mutual educational and cultural opportunities: study abroad, student scholarships, academic exchanges, teacher training, summer language camps in China, after-school and summer programs for at-risk youth in New Britain, and business and community outreach programs.

Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy, who attended the opening, said "CCSU will help us prepare a workforce better equipped to compete in the world market. It will serve as a platform so that all sectors, including business and education, may seek to cultivate meaningful relationships — creating a great bridge from one nation to another."

Correction: In a head-to-head competition with a team from UConn last year, a team of CCSU students won first place in the Hartford Technical Case Competition. CCSU's winning team members were (l-r)—computer science majors **Aaron Zamojski** and **Melissa Mulcahy**, accounting major/MIS minor **Andrew Rose**, and management information systems (MIS) major **Paul Pioselli**.





Eric Blake '02, Mt. Washington

ERIC BLAKE '02 A RACE TO THE TOP

TOMMY MEADE '09, MA '12



Men's X-C team, 2014



Ronea Saunders, track & field

Eric Blake has reached the peak of success in his field on several occasions. In Blake's case, success has often involved reaching actual mountain peaks.

A 2002 graduate of CCSU, Blake is a six-time member of the elite US Mountain Running Team. Blake earned his third victory in the prestigious Mount Washington Road Race on June 15, 2013, and finished second in 2014. As a member of the national team in 2014, Blake traveled to Austria and won the World Masters Championship, a race for competitors ages 35 and over, and a week later helped the US to a fourth place finish at the World Mountain Running Championships in Italy, while finishing 25th individually.

Mountain running is a hobby for Blake, who makes his living as the head coach of CCSU's men's and women's cross-country and track and field teams. Both are linked by his passion for running.

"I definitely consider myself a coach first and a runner second," Blake says. "Both are after family."

Blake assumed leadership of the men's program in August of 2009 after serving as an assistant coach with the Blue Devils for four years. A year later he became head coach of the women's program as well.

Success as a coach came quickly with a Northeast Conference men's cross country title in the fall of 2009. Blake also delivered the school's first NEC indoor track and

field title in 2011 and the first outdoor championship in the spring of 2014. CCSU also captured a New England Cross Country Championship in 2013, defeating highly regarded programs such as Northeastern, Dartmouth, Boston University, and UConn.

On November 1, 2014, Blake led the men's team to an NEC record sixth consecutive championship with Blue Devil runners claiming first through fifth places to post a team score of 15 points, the best possible total.

A Lebanon, Connecticut native, Blake played soccer until he joined the cross country and track teams at Lyman Memorial High School, but he already knew he enjoyed running.

With the 1996 Connecticut State Cross Country Championship under his belt, Blake enrolled at CCSU looking to improve his running career, while pursuing a degree in secondary education with a concentration in mathematics.

"Overall, I'd say I didn't live up to my own expectations during my college career," Blake says. "I set the bar probably too high, and I was kind of frustrated by what I felt was underperforming."

"I learned a lot from the struggles of not racing up to how I felt I should be racing," he adds. "I realized that I still loved the sport."

With a fifth year of eligibility remaining, Blake moved on to Adams State College and competed as a graduate student, discovering that he "wanted to keep racing after college, to make it part of my life."

Blake had set his sights on becoming a coach while an undergrad at CCSU. He got his first shot at collegiate coaching at Plattsburgh State University following his completion of graduate school. When an opportunity to return to CCSU presented itself, he knew what to do.

"I believed that Central could be very strong in cross country and track," he said. "I believed there was an opportunity for the program to be successful."

As a CCSU assistant coach, Blake led the program's recruiting efforts for four years. This helped set the stage for his success when he took over the program.

"It is very tough to turn a program around in one year," Blake says. "It may have looked like I did that, but in reality it was the four years of recruiting leading up to that and us improving over time."

The success of Blake's teams has earned him a reputation as one of the top coaches in the NEC, and on six occasions — including this November — his peers have voted him NEC Coach of the Year.

Passionate Blue Devil



Less than an hour drive from Wilmington and the North Carolina coast, on the outskirts of the small town of Wallace, is a sprawling community that features world-class golf, shopping, dining and living.

The community is River Landing.

This 1,700 acre, residential, gated community along the banks of the Northeast Cape Fear River offers over 1,000 property owners “the lifestyle that you deserve.” At the center of it all is CCSU alum and former Blue Devil student-athlete Richard Phaneuf '92.

Phaneuf is the General Manager of The River Landing Companies and Senior Vice President of Murphy Family Ventures, a wide-ranging role that gives him oversight of every enterprise at River Landing. Managing a 1,700 homesite residential community, two “top 50” golf courses, a 60,000 square foot clubhouse, a 17,000 square foot fitness center complex, 10 acres of working vineyards, shops, restaurants, a hotel, a land development operation, and a real estate office and its 230-plus employees can be daunting, but it’s a task that Phaneuf relishes.

“The alarm clock doesn’t wake me up in the morning, I love this work,” Phaneuf says. “My job is predominantly centered on two important tasks. First, providing the support needed and removing all obstacles to ensure all of our employees are well positioned for success both professionally and personally. Second is learning to anticipate the needs of our customers and provide proactive solutions. Exceeding the expectations of every member and every

customer in every situation is the goal we all strive for at River Landing.”

The second member of his family to attend college and the first to graduate, he highly respects the well-balanced education that he received at CCSU. A 1992 grad, with a major in psychology and a minor in sociology, the East Haddam, Connecticut native transitioned into the business world after college, but carried many of the principles that he learned in the classroom into his new career. Applying those concepts to the areas of leadership and team building has helped him in his current role with River Landing. Already a community resident and member of River Landing, Phaneuf was initially brought on as a consultant and was later offered the opportunity to lead the restructured company.

“I have a passion for trying to figure out what motivates people and how to help everyone succeed to the best of their abilities,” he says.

Phaneuf is also active in his community. He is a member of Wallace Rotary Club, the Duplin County Economic Development Commission, Duplin County Community Foundation, Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, Wallace Chamber of Commerce, Meeting Professionals International, and Association Executives of North Carolina.

A loyal CCSU alum, he also gives back to his alma mater, including welcoming the Blue Devil men’s and women’s golf teams to River Landing for early spring practice time.

“I’m not sure there is anyone that embodies the Blue Devil Family spirit more than Rich Phaneuf,” says head women’s golf coach, **Carly Ludwig**. “He has been amazing to work with and has graciously helped both our men’s and women’s programs. He’s charismatic, polished, kind, generous, and most importantly a proud alum!”

A sentiment echoed by head men’s golf coach, **Kevin Giancola**, “River Landing is one of the finest golf resorts I have ever visited in my 27 years as a golf professional. Rich and his entire staff are gracious, professional, and attentive. River Landing has proved an invaluable facility for the CCSU men’s golf team in preparation for the championship season. We are indebted to River Landing and very thankful for their generosity and support.”

Director of Athletics **Paul Schlickmann** adds, “It has been a great pleasure getting to know Rich. He is a first class gentleman, a passionate Blue Devil alumnus, and an astute businessman. We are extremely grateful to Rich for providing the student-athletes of our men’s and women’s golf programs with unforgettable learning experiences at River Landing. We are blessed with an extensive, intensely loyal, and powerful alumni network here at CCSU. Rich is an excellent example of those in that network who combine a devotion to their institution with a desire to impact the development of young men and women. He has accomplished both objectives with his exceptional generosity toward Blue Devil Athletics and by serving as a role model for our student-athletes.”

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Alumni in the News



Susan Walkama



Ryan Kristafer



Kathleen Sorbo Furie

Wheeler Clinic's first woman president and CEO **Susan Walkama** '81 was presented with the 2014 Primary Care Leadership Award by the Connecticut Center for Primary Care during the group's annual summit held in November. Walkama was feted for her "demonstrated exceptional leadership in primary care."

Walkama majored in sociology and minored in social work at CCSU and later earned her LCSW from UConn. Through her decades-long service in health care, Walkama has been dedicated to integrating primary and behavioral health care with the ultimate goal of "building health equity through a systemic approach to whole-person health."

Most recently under Walkama's leadership, Wheeler became the only non-hospital partner in ACCESS CT, providing psychiatry consulting services to pediatric and family physician primary care practices in one-third of the state.

Beginning in January, **Ryan Kristafer** '12 will cohost a new weekday program for WTNH TV called "Connecticut Style." The marketing major turned media personality has signed a two-year contract to cohost a new 9 a.m. show which is an expansion of the program now airing at 12:30 on WTNH.

Kristafer is a popular name in Connecticut, thanks to his father, longtime radio personality Jerry Kristafer. Ryan, like his dad, started as a DJ and went on to become a resident DJ at the Mohegan Sun Casino. He is also a game show producer and event emcee and hosts an NBC Sports Radio segment called "Man In The Stands."

First-grade teacher at Oliver Ellsworth School **Kathleen Sorbo Furie** '83, honored as Windsor, CT's Teacher of the Year, was featured in the *Hartford Courant* story in November. "I pride myself on making them the best person they can be," said Furie. "We have respect and responsibility and live by the golden rule."



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— Alayna James '14, Political Science

To make a secure online gift, go to www.ccsu.edu/giving
Or call 860-832-1740.

Alayna James recently graduated Magna Cum Laude. In addition to excelling in her courses, she also interned with the New Britain Public Defender’s office and with Senator Richard Blumenthal. Her advisor, Excellence in Teaching Award winner and Associate Professor of Political Science Robbin Smith, says, “Alayna is a superb student who reached beyond the classroom to understand the interaction of law, society, and politics.” Alayna credits Smith’s role in her success: “Many of the professors here, like Professor Smith, made a huge difference in my life—encouraging me to excel and to get involved.”

Your gift makes such successful student-faculty combinations possible, whether it supports scholarships like those that enabled Alayna’s education, or the academic programs that innovative faculty like Smith use to inspire students to greatness.

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1976, 2001

Dr. Ray McCarthy is the Doctor of Education in Higher Education Leadership Graduate Program Director and Associate Professor at Regis College in Weston, MA. The doctoral program was recently accepted in the Carnegie Project on the EdD (CPED).



1986

Donald M. Casey, Jr. The Bridgeport Bluefish Baseball Team selected Donald M. Casey Jr., as a recipient of the Union Savings Bank Hometown Hero Award. The Hometown Hero Award is presented to everyday people from the community who help make the world a better place. Casey presently teaches at Stepney Elementary School in Monroe.

Robert Morgan was inducted into the Plainville Sports Hall of Fame's 2014 Class. Receiving a BS in Biology and a MS in Biology, Morgan was profiled in *The Plainville Citizen* and *The Record-Journal* for his accomplishments in high school football and track and field.

1971

Jerome J. Ackerman has published two novels, *In Green Sleep: A Tour of Duty* (2011) and *The Blue Wake* (2013). Both are available via amazon.com

1972

Bernard J. Lindauer completed first year of a two-year appointment as Interim Chair, Department of Special Education, University of St. Joseph in West Hartford. He previously served as the Director of the Gengras Center at USJ for 13 years.

1977

Emalou Massa is living in Indiana, enjoying retirement as a private music teacher.

1983

Kathleen Sorbo Furie is the recipient of the 2014 Teacher of the Year award in Windsor. Honored for dedication and commitment to her students, Sorbo Furie spent the past 18 years teaching first- and second-grade students.

1992

Nancy Manning (MS) had her young adult novel *Undertow of Silence* published. She is currently an English teacher at Woodland Regional High School in Beacon Falls, CT.

1999

Christopher O. Gallagher is working at Walt Disney Animation Studios. He has worked on the following movies, *Big Hero 6*, *Frozen* (Oscar, best animated feature), *Wreck-it-Ralph*, *Paper Man* (Oscar, best animated short), *Tangled*. Past companies: Sony Pictures Imageworks — *G-Force*, *Speed Racer*, *I Am Legend*, *Spider-Man 3*, *Surf's Up*; Weta Digital — *King Kong*, Electronic Arts (video game), *Golden Eye*; Digital Domain—*Stealth*, *Peter Pan*, *The Day After Tomorrow*.

1954

Nellie Shepard established a science scholarship for high school seniors. A teacher of chemistry and physics for over 30 years, her Nellie F. Shepard Scholarship makes its debut award in 2015.

1967

Tracy C. Dorman received the 2014 Distinguished Achievement in Dance award given by the Connecticut Dance Alliance for her work as Founder and Executive Director of Ballet Theatre Company in West Hartford, CT. The awards ceremony on November 2, 2014 will include one of her choreographic works performed by the Company dancers.



1993

In October, **Gregg Angelillo** joined Neuberger Berman's Advisor Solutions Group as a Senior Vice President and Senior Regional Director covering NJ. Gregg brings over 15 years of knowledge and experience, most recently at Delaware Investments where he served as a Regional Director.



1994

Ben East was shortlisted among 10 finalists for the Dundee International Book Prize for his manuscript *Sea Never Dry*.

2001

Kris Pryce received the 2014 Teacher of the Year Award for Suffield. Profiled in the *Journal Inquirer*, Pryce utilizes her MS in Reading and Language Arts to further strengthen her students' reading skills through technology and engaging curriculum.

Please send notices to ClassNotes@ccsu.edu

2003

Rev. Daniel Warriner reports that his son was born in 2010. Rev. Warriner received a Master of Divinity from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in 2011, and in February 2014, he became an Ordained Minister with the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference (CCCC).

2006

Michael Knight Zayas is one of the key members in developing New Britain High School Health Academy. Featured in The New Britain Herald, Zayas looks to eventually bring this program to New Britain's middle school systems as well.

2007

Michael J. Bertolini is taking the fantasy audiobook world by storm. His novel *The Cold Tower* can be purchased on several popular sites including amazon.com, audible.com, and iTunes. He is currently writing his second series of books.

Rob Ruffolo was named as one of *Hartford Business Journal's* "40 under 40 2014" recognizing Hartford area men and women making great strides in their career at an early age.

2008

Erin M. Concepcion was named as one of *Hartford Business Journal's* "40 under 40 2014" recognizing Hartford area men and women making great strides in their career at an early age.

2011

Daniel Martinez transformed his BA in Communication into his dream job at ESPN.

Featured in CtLatino.com, Martinez is an associate producer for the 10-year old Spanish language sports network.

2012

Andrew Ragali is one of the leading news reporters at *The Record-Journal*, covering the Wallingford beat.

2014

McKinley Albert was named as one of *Hartford Business Journal's* "40 under 40 2014" recognizing Hartford area men and women making great strides in their career at an early age.

Marriages

Sue Ann (Aitken) Beckman '77 and **Ed Sinnamon** '76 were married on October 5, 2013, in Richmond, Vermont.

Ronald H. Dirienzo '13 and Lisa Ann Ladany were married on May 24, 2014, in Waterbury, Connecticut.

Rebekah M. Miller '09 and Matt Anderson were married on May 29, 2011, on Peak's Island, Maine.

James A. Morgan '05 and Colleen Quinn were married on September 6, 2014, in Oakdale, Connecticut.

Erin M. Raymond '08 and Julio Concepcion were married on May 25, 2013, in Hartford, Connecticut.

Anna M. Zastempowska '05 and James Macchio were married on April 26, 2013, in Turks and Caicos.

In Memoriam

1953

Catherine Chessa O'Brien 2/4/2014. Cathy taught at Central (1955-57) as a lab teacher at the Stanley School. She was a great mother of 5 sons, an outstanding educator, a loving wife, and a great supporter of the CCSU Foundation.

1975

Letitia Perry 07/13

John Taube 3/07/14

2010

Arthur Whiley Smith 5/21/14

FACULTY & ADMINISTRATORS

Robert Lloyd Burns, Professor of Biological Sciences. 3/2/14

Vivian A. Cross, Assistant Professor, Special Education. 5/3/14

Elene S. Demos, Professor of Reading & Language Arts; Senior Vice President; Associate Dean, School of Education & Professional Studies. 9/26/14

William H. Detrick, Coach, Professor of Physical Education, Emeritus. 9/19/14

Edward Force, Associate Professor of Modern Languages. 12/6/13

Sarah Sanderson King, Professor of Communication, Emeritus. 8/17/13

Theodore I. Lenn, Professor of Sociology, Emeritus. 8/28/14

Joseph G. McKeon, Professor of Philosophy, Emeritus. 12/7/13

Stephen O. Mitchell, VP Finance & Administration, Emeritus. 12/25/13

William Moore, Coach and Director of Athletics, Emeritus. 12/29/13

Joseph F. "Joe" Pikiell, Vice President, Business Administration, Emeritus. 8/8/14



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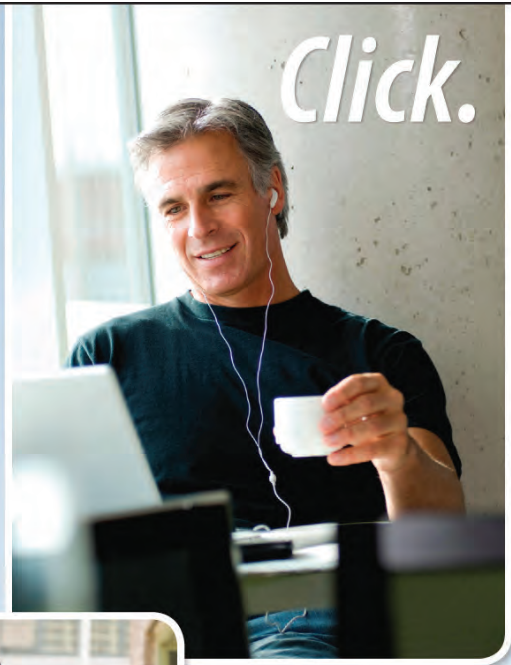


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