



# Central *focus*

summer 2002

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

welcome  
to the new student center

*Also in this issue: Commencement, Hall of Fame Weekend*

## A message from the CCSU Alumni Association President



Brian Mattiello '88, CCSU  
Alumni Association President

When was the last time you were on campus? If it has been a while, you are in for a huge surprise! Undoubtedly you have heard of the campus renaissance, or seen pictures of the construction in this or other university publications. But nothing quite equals a personal visit to see for yourself, reminisce about the campus of old, and envision the new.

From an aesthetic, functional, social or academic point of view, the construction speaks volumes about CCSU's promise and vision. The projects (too numerous to list) represent the forward thinking of the university and its aggressiveness in assuring that CCSU stays competitive in the 21st Century as school of value, a center of academic excellence, and an agent for positive social change.

If for no other reason, please make a point of joining hundreds of fellow alums on homecoming weekend (advertised in this issue) just to see the progress on campus and get a sense of this emerging institution. Your alma mater did a lot for you while you were attending school, and you have done much for the university since graduation. But there is an extraordinary opportunity to renew your pride in the school by seeing what it has become, and what it is striving to be.

Please plan on coming back, and do it now - this fall - before the dust of change settles for a few years and you truly miss the progress in motion.

Brian Mattiello '88

## *Congratulations, Graduates!*



Michael S. Knapp '75 was the keynote speaker at the undergraduate commencement ceremony.



Fran Mainella MS '75 was the keynote speaker at the graduate commencement ceremony.

photos by: Bob Wessman

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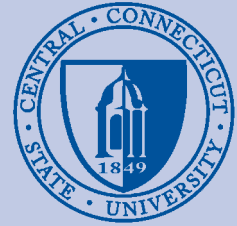
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## From us to you

It's summer, and you might think things slow down around campus, but quite the opposite has been true of Central. The campus has been buzzing with summer session students and construction as the student center nears completion. And soon, students and alumni will return to campus, for the Fall semester and for Homecoming. This year's Homecoming promises to be more exciting than ever, with the new student center open for tours and the campus looking quite a bit different! As always, we welcome your comments, input, and suggestions, and we hope that you're having a great summer! Our email address is [alumnidept@ccsu.edu](mailto:alumnidept@ccsu.edu), so don't forget to write!

- The Central Focus Editorial Staff



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Hall of Fame Banquet



◀ In far left photo, in near photo: Evald K. Johnson, Jr. '56, Mike Sherman '78, President Judd '59, Larry McHugh and C.J. Jones '69, MS '71.

In middle photo: Dick Wiszniak '73 gets an autograph.

In near photo: Scott Gray, WTIC AM Morning Sports Anchor, emceed the Hall of Fame banquet.

Over 200 alumni and fans attended the Hall of Fame Banquet at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington, where Mike Sherman, '78, head coach, general manager and vice president of the Green Bay Packers was inducted into the Hall of Fame. Sherman signed autographs and took pictures with fans and friends for over an hour after dinner ended. A highlight of the evening was a film that included congratulatory remarks and clips from NFL players and coaching colleagues, including CCSU's own and Hall of Fame member, Dave Campo '73, head coach of the Dallas Cowboys.

Some great moments came when CCSU baseball coach Charlie Hickey, got to meet CCSU Hall of Famer and former major league catcher Al "Skip" Jutze '67 for the first time. Jutze, who lives in Colorado hasn't been to Connecticut for more than 20 years. He also caught up with some old friends, including Hall of Famer Gene Reilly '67, his former Blue Devil battery mate.

▶ In near photo: the Class of 1947 celebrated the 55th anniversary of their graduation from TCC.  
  
In far photo: members of the Class of 1957 met to begin planning their 45th reunion.



Upcoming Alumni Events

**Saturday, September 21, 2002**  
Class of 1957 45th Reunion Luncheon  
Noon, student center

**Sunday, September 22, 2002**  
The AP Open Alpha Phi Omega Golf Tournament  
For more information, contact Fred Agee at (860) 223-5642 or Tom Piazza at (860) 747-3991

**Thursday, September 26, 2002**  
Hartford Area Alumni Networking Social  
4:30 PM - 7:00 PM , Arch Street Tavern  
85 Arch Street, Hartford, CT (860) 246-7610

**Saturday, October 5, 2002**  
Class of 1952 50th Reunion, student center

**Check out the CCSU web site at [www.ccsu.edu/alumni](http://www.ccsu.edu/alumni) or call the Alumni Office at (860) 832-1740 for the most up-to-date event information.**

**Saturday, October 12, 2002**  
**Homecoming and Family Day - A time for tradition**  
**10:00 AM** - CCSU Alumni Association Special Meeting - Voting on proposed changes to Bylaws at the Student Center. Information available in Alumni Office and on web site.  
**11:00 AM - 1:00 PM** - Brunch (Second Floor Memorial Hall) \$7.50 per person  
**Noon** - The traditional Homecoming Parade is back! "Golf Carts On Parade"  
**1:00 PM** - Football Game CCSU vs St. Francis of Pennsylvania  
**4:00 PM** - Grand Reopening Party  
**6:30 PM** - Student Center Alumni Dinner  
**8:00 PM** - James Mapes, Hypnotist  
Welte Auditorium Tickets will be sold through the Alumni Office.

**January 2003** - Florida Alumni and Snowbirds Reunion  
Date and location TBA. For more info, call (860) 832-1740 or email us at [alumnidept@ccsu.edu](mailto:alumnidept@ccsu.edu). Please contact us so we make sure to include you!

## Alumni Awards, Alumni Day and Alumni Reunions

On Alumni day, alumni gathered to celebrate and plan reunions and to congratulate this year's Alumni Award winners. Featured at the luncheon was Donna Fiedorowicz '80, Director of the Senior PGA Tour Business Affairs. Donna volunteers her time to help coordinate the Annual Brenda Reilly Golf Tournament to benefit women's athletics at CCSU. She is also the first female recipient of the Harrison J. Kaiser Award, an award that recognizes excellence in one's profession.

Also featured was Forrest Wilson '93, recipient of the Young Alumni Award. He is vice president and account executive at Fidelity Investments. A former CCSU golfer, Forrest was a 2001 World Finalist in the Re/Max World Long Drive Championship. He is an instrument-rated pilot who volunteers with AirLifeLine to fly and coordinate flights that provide aid to families in need.

The Distinguished Alumni Service Award was presented to Justus "JB" Beach '43 for his outstanding contributions to the University Community and the Alumni Association. JB describes Teacher College of Connecticut as his "launching pad" for a successful career as a scholar, teacher and community volunteer. He taught at CCSU for 29 years and was class advisor to the class of 1967. JB is also involved with the New Britain Symphony Board of Directors, The New Britain Salvation Army Advisory Board, and the Arch Street Area Neighborhood Revitalization Zone.

A teacher since 1973, Suzanne Vaillancourt MA '81 received the Alumni Association & School of Education and Professional Studies Outstanding Teacher Award. Daily personnel assessment is part of Suzanne's mantra as she works to educate and inspire young minds. Suzanne teaches first grade at Northeast Elementary School in Vernon. She is very active at the school, participating in SOAR and Kids under Construction. She has been a BEST Selection Committee member and is a mentor and cooperating teacher. Suzanne has received The Connecticut Association of Schools Exemplary Programs in Connecticut's Elementary Schools for Collaborative Planning - Grade I.



◀ In far left photo, Dean of Education/Professional Studies, Dr. Ellen Whitford presents the Outstanding Teacher Award to Suzanne Vaillancourt MS '81.

In near photo, award recipients, from left to right are: Forrest Wilson '93, Donna Fiedorowicz '80 and Justus Beach '43.

## Blue Devil Golf Tournament

The sell-out crowd had a terrific time at the Blue Devil Golf Tournament at Lyman Orchards in Middlefield. Alumni and friends from all over the country headed to Connecticut for this day filled with golf, alumni memories and fun! Tournament organizer, Steve Villanti MS '87 was pleased with the results of the tournament. Proceeds from the tournament benefit CCSU Athletics.

▶ Enjoying the golf tournament, in near photo, are: Kathy Pirog '81, Head Athletic Trainer, and Tom McCarthy '90, MS '96 Athletic Trainer.

In far photo: Steve Villanti MS '87, Assistant Athletic Director/Event Coordinator, President Judd '59, Sal Cintonino BS '87, MS '90, Senior Associate Athletic Director, R. Brent Hammond '92, and John C. Hammond '92.





## Criminology and Criminal Justice

Criminal Justice became its own department in the fall of 1997, when the MS in Criminal Justice and the BA in Criminology were established; and 2002 saw the first true graduating class emerge from the department.



What is Criminology, and what makes it different from Sociology? Steve Cox, the chair of the department, explained it well when he said that it can involve almost any field imaginable including biology, psychology, political science, business, accounting, computer science...the list goes on. In the Criminology department, no issue is irrelevant - issues like Enron and big business are fair game.

Cox explained the difference between Criminology and Criminal Justice. Criminology is behavioral - it explores issues like why people commit crimes and how judges make their decisions. Criminal Justice is more theoretical and deals with issues like how laws get made, explores the purpose of prisons and examines the processes of state and federal agencies. Students who get a BA in Criminology could end up in almost any field. They could choose to go into federal, local or state policing. One graduate is currently in the hiring process for the federal marshals. Students also go into court services like probation, parole and case management. Others may choose to work for agencies like DCF or outside of the field altogether. Essentially, the degree gives students a broad understanding of the social sciences. Many of the students in the masters program are already working as police officers or DCF employees who are looking to further their careers. Other students may choose to go straight through from the BA directly into the masters program, creating a stimulating mix of experienced veterans and newcomers.

Some of the adjunct professors in the department are world-renowned experts in the field. For example, Dr. Henry Lee, the famous forensic expert often teaches a class. Every adjunct is an experienced professional in the field, and that makes Central's program stand out. Forty to fifty students a year are also privileged to do their capstone internships at top state agencies including the office of the State's Attorney Bridgeport.

This program provides a unique experience for students in that it gives them a broad educational foundation and great hands-on experience in the field. "You can't just teach it from a book, and you can't just rely on peoples' experiences," Cox explained.

## *working there:* the student center

by: Dave Ross BS '66, MS '71

As a student at Central, I remember returning to the campus for the 1964 fall semester to find the newly opened student center. With its bright cafeteria (yes, full meals were served), its comfortable lounges, meeting rooms, large game room, and huge ballroom, it was light years from our old dingy snack bar in a former World War II barracks building. The real impact of the building was the life it gave to the campus community.

The Director of the student center was an enthusiastic young faculty member who was clearly student-oriented and full of energy. It happened to be Dick Judd, who would rise through the ranks to become President of the institution. I became a graduate assistant (intern) and then returned later as a professional staff member after a stint at the University Center at the University of New Orleans. In the early 70s we experienced a small expansion of the center. Alumni from that era will surely recall the closing of the Devil's Den



Former student center director and Dean of Students Emeritus David Ross '66, MS '71 pictured at the 2001 commencement ceremony.

for renovation, and its temporary replacement, a snack bar set-up in the ballroom aptly named Purgatory. We continued to subdivide or get multiple use out of nearly every room in the building. Do you remember the gates used in the corridors so that more than one function could be held simultaneously?

There were numerous dances, balls and even a nightclub, Lucifer's, held in the Ballroom. This space was even used for roller skating, a beach party complete with a pool and a sand beach, and a couple of student sit-ins. Many alumni will remember The Pub, which was built in the former Bitter Den Coffeehouse. Remember the long admission lines and lavatory passes? The place was later renovated and renamed Semesters, hosting the very popular Groucho's Comedy Club and the weekly open mic student talent night. The Game Room was also a favorite hangout. As time went on, cards, board games, and table tennis were replaced by coin-operated amusement machines.

Students and a tireless and dedicated staff of professional

## Two alumni reminisce about their experiences of the student center

educators have played major roles in the operation of the Center since its first year in 1964. This strong partnership of students and administrators has helped the Student Center to become a leader in the student union field. The significance of student leadership development became so critical to the University that the center's programming area was eventually expanded into a campus-wide Student Activities and Leadership Development Department.

While the "new" student center will bear little resemblance to the original, it will still provide a comfortable and nurturing place for students and once again stimulate the campus with its programs and services. The Ballroom, to be known as Alumni Hall, will once again host all kinds of events. And the main lobby will once again become our town square, our plaza, and our promenade. The copper clad "millennium drum" will represent our commitment to a revitalization for the Student Center and a new age for the University. ■

For me, my first full-time position after the Internship was working at the Rice University Student Center in Houston, TX. My supervisor commented in my first assessment, "...I did not expect him (Paul) to have such a positive impact on our operations so quickly...his past experience at CCSU has given him an excellent background..." I suspect many supervisors had similar sentiments about other CCSU interns. When you complete the Internship program, you graduate with an immeasurable wealth of knowledge and a true readiness to enter the working world.

The opening of the newly renovated student center is a project long overdue. As we constantly look for a way to bring the Central community together, there is no better place to do so than at the hearthstone of the campus: the student center.

When I was asked to share some of my experiences from the student center for this magazine, the one that stood out the



In front of the old telephone booths, from left to right, Paul J. Sutera, Ed Cabellon, Nestor Melendez, Jennifer Silberman, Joanne Granville, and Hannah Daniels.



Members of "the firm" at a recent reunion of the CCSU Student Union Alumni at the 80th Association of College Unions International Conference at the Marriott Marquis Hotel, New York City in March, 2000.

by: Paul J. Sutera '97, MS '99

It's been said that the Central Connecticut State University Graduate Internship is one of the finest professional programs in the country. Individuals looking to enter into the field of Student Union/Student Activities, find that CCSU's Internship provides crucial hands-on experience. I did not fully appreciate the truth in the statement, "one of the finest professional programs in the country;" until I graduated from the program and talked with other colleagues in the field. The Central Internship has been around since 1966 and it's still going strong nearly forty years later! In recent years, we graduate interns have nicknamed ourselves "The Firm." This is because of the sheer number of Central interns who are working in the field. This phenomenon is especially noticeable when we attend conferences, particularly the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) annual conference. We all share a special bond, no matter what year we completed the program.

most is "office space." Interns are traditionally placed in two groups of three — three in Student Center Operations & Event Services (SCOES) and three in Student Activities/Leadership Development (SA/LD). Being grouped also meant sharing an office with three people. When you have to share, you constantly wish for your own office with a door and a window. Now that I have a door - I'm still searching for the window - I crave the camaraderie that went with sharing an office with a group of people. My two years in the internship paired me with great professionals. Working with these talented and special people has made me proud to be associated with the CCSU Graduate Internship.

As I move further away from my graduate experience, I will always remember how the Internship provided me with a solid foundation to succeed in this profession. Many, many thanks and continued success to "The Firm!" Still bleeding CCSU Blue. ■



building  
a l e v o



# lution



by: Leslie Porter

photos by: David Fine

**It's not just another new building on campus.** It's a revolution. The new Student Center will officially be open for business in the fall. Those who knew the old Student Center will find it all but unrecognizable. Large plasma screen TVs will glisten all over the building, a full-service bank will offer students check cashing, and it will be a challenge to find a space where natural light does not penetrate. This is indeed a revolutionary building for Central. Students who arrived on campus after the closing of the building will be delighted to find a place where they can get everything done at once. They'll be able to buy books, eat lunch, take a break, meet with student groups and even pick up their mail.

What was the ballroom will now be a new Alumni Hall. What was Semesters will be increased in size and include multiple stages. New offices will accommodate the Card Office and the CenConn bank. In addition, more meeting rooms have been added, which will eliminate the need to use academic classrooms for meetings. All of the meeting rooms will be equipped with the latest audio visual technology including plasma TV screens, LCD projectors, document readers and all the standard equipment that meetings require, perhaps even something a little extra.

Duane Orloske, the Director of the Student Center used the words "cavernous and closed" to describe the old building and he uses antonyms of those words to describe the new and much improved building. "It has a completely different feel," he remarked, "it's wide open and most of the spaces connect. You can see natural light almost everywhere because of the nine skylights in the middle of the building. It's a fun place." When asked how the new center will affect campus life, Orloske replied that it will bring people together and it will give commuters a place to go, something they sorely needed. "We've been scattered for the last two years," he explained, "the students that were here when the Student Center was open have probably forgotten its benefits and for those who never had a student center, it will be new and exciting."

Many of us who have watched the new Student Center take shape have wondered about the "drum," or the large copper-covered curved shape that makes the building so distinct. Most of that area will be lounge space. "It'll be a great place to hang out and talk," Orloske noted. The Student Center will function mostly as a community center, bringing the different components of the campus together. Student groups, faculty and staff will now have a place for informal interaction, something the campus lacked in the past. The Student Government Association, Program Council, Mosaic, The Women's Center, The Black Student Union and PRIDE will all have permanent offices in the building. Other clubs will rotate in and out of the remaining offices. The second floor will house most of these student offices, including the student newspaper, allowing student groups to mingle and interact as they never have before, something that's sure to create a new kind of synergy on campus.

If you're wondering if the famous blue devil will be back at his post, the answer is yes, he will be back. Also coming back, Breakers will return with eight pool tables, foosball, large card tables and two large 42" plasma TVs that will show sports. The bookstore will also be back in a better form.

The hours of operation will be the same as before, Monday through Friday 7 a.m. -11 p.m. or when the programs end and 9 a.m. - 11 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. So stop in between these hours and pinch yourself - yes, it's really here. Take a minute to admire the flying staircases, the skylights, and the plasma screens. It was definitely worth the wait.

### *Helen Garabedian: A Great Educator*

The Garabedian family has established a scholarship in the name of Helen Garabedian '53, who passed away on June 12, 2001. A resident of New Britain and a teacher in the New Britain School System for 37 years, Garabedian retired in 1992 from the position of district wide reading resource consultant. She graduated from New Britain High School and received a bachelor's degree from Teachers College of Connecticut, now CCSU. She earned a master's degree in education from Columbia University and a second master's degree in reading from the University of Rhode Island. She earned a Ph.D. in reading from the University of Connecticut.

According to family members and those who knew her best, Helen Garabedian loved to teach reading. She loved to read, and she hoped that her students, and anyone she met, would read, too. Her sister Jenny remembered that Helen would say to her students, "Read anything. Read comic books. Just read." She also remembered that Helen always had a book in her hand and that if you talked to her long enough, you would have one, too.

Garabedian had a great appreciation for Central. She was the first member of her family to graduate from college, and she always appreciated that Central gave her that opportunity, her sister Jenny remarked. Garabedian was such a good student at Central that the institution actually returned her tuition to her at the end of the semester. She kept in contact with many of the people she met while studying at Central, and she often went to basketball games with her sister, Roxy.

Garabedian loved to travel and had traveled to Armenia and Turkey before her death. She even taught at an American air base in England for a year. She was very active in the local community, serving on many committees, among them the Scholarship Committee of the Armenian League of New Britain.

The student who receives the Helen Garabedian scholarship will have a lot to live up to. Her sister Jenny Garabedian describes Helen as a person who valued scholarship, had a great deal of integrity, a true leader who gave freely of her knowledge, was humble, and most of all, was an exceptional human being. The scholarship will benefit a deserving Armenian student.



### *Scholarship Named for June Higgins*

A scholarship will be named for June Baker Higgins, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, who retired in June after a 32 year career at CCSU. She joined the Department of Psychology at then Central Connecticut State College in 1970 as an assistant professor. She taught courses in developmental psychology, personality and research methods until 1978, when she was elected chairperson of the Department. In 1983, she was promoted to professor rank.

During the mid 1970s, Dr. Higgins served two years as the President of the CCSU-AAUP chapter. She was elected Faculty Senate President in 1982 and was president when CCSC achieved university status in 1983. In 1985, she served as Acting Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. She joined the Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences as Assistant to the Dean in 1987 and was promoted to Associate Dean in 1990. She briefly served as Associate VP and Dean of Graduate Studies in 1996-97 and then returned to the Dean's Office of Arts and Sciences in July 1997 as Interim Dean and was named Dean in December 1998.

During her career at CCSU, Dr. Higgins worked to develop the admissions policy for the Educational Opportunity Program and helped initiate the Women's Studies program, for which she was the first coordinator from 1989 to 1995. In 1986, she received the Distinguished Service Award. In 1994, the Connecticut State Chapter of the American Association of University Women awarded her an Excellence in Equity Award, and she was a Special Honoree at the 1999 New Britain YWCA's Linda Blogoslawski Mlynarczyk Women in Leadership Program. She has been an officer of the Connecticut Psychological Association and the New England Psychological Association.

Dr. Higgins earned a Ph.D. in Psychology at the University of Rochester in 1967. She is married to Dr. George Higgins, a clinical psychologist, who is a professor of psychology and the former director of the Counseling Center at Trinity College. They have two children and one grand-daughter.



## Central racks up more championships

Chalk up two more high-profile championships for the 2002 Blue Devils. Charlie Hickey's baseball Blue Devils set a new single-season record for wins en route to the Northeast Conference title and a first-ever NCAA Division I tournament appearance. Meanwhile, CCSU's long-ball hitting men's golf team also captured NEC honors and an automatic NCAA tourney berth.

Hickey's club beat Maryland-Baltimore County 11-2 to win their first NEC championship, finishing the regular season with a 34-21 record and a trophy case full of "hardware." Senior Kevin Rival was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player; freshman Phil Rothkugel was chosen as the league's Rookie of the Year. Rival and sophomore Tim D'Aquila also earned first team all-NEC honors, while senior Ned Coffee and sophomore Rob Hosgood were named to the all-conference second team.

Rothkugel, already considered one of the league's top pro prospects, earned the mythical "Triple Crown" among NEC freshmen with a .391 average, eight home runs and 48 RBI. The first baseman tore up NEC pitching to the tune of a .441 average; his 68 hits set a new CCSU single season record. Rothkugel's selection made it back-to-back Rookie of the Year recipients for the Blue Devils. Tim D'Aquila earned the honor in 2001.



The 2002 Men's Golf team. From left to right, back row: Bob Myles, Petr Skopovy, Shaun Rathgaber, Michael Pines, John Chevie. Front row: coach Ed Batagowski '59 Nick Crovetti, Michael Welch, Travis Woods.



The 2002 Men's Baseball team.

Given the toughest possible assignment by the NCAA, CCSU lost its opening round game to host University of Texas and was also defeated by Lamar in the double-elimination tournament. Texas went on to win the national championship. Earlier in the spring, Ed Batagowski's men's golf team fired a two-day total of 623 to edge Monmouth (629) and earn an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament. Mike Welch led the Blue Devils, finishing the two-day tournament, tied for the individual title with Ryan Riley of Sacred Heart and Martin Pettigrew of St. Francis (PA). The three competed in a two-hole sudden-death playoff, with Riley taking home NEC medalist honors and Welch finishing runner-up. Welch was named to the All-Conference team. Bobby Myles and Travis Woods also fared well for CCSU. Myles finished in a nine-player tie for 10th place. Woods ended the tournament in 20th place. Nick Crovetti tied for 21st place, while freshman Petr Skopovy rounded out the Blue Devil scoring, tying for 29th place with a two-day combined score of 163 (78-85). The Blue Devils were sent to Albuquerque, NM for the NCAA regionals against such teams as UCLA, Stamford and Ohio State.

## Corsley Edwards drafted by the Sacramento Kings



Corsley Edwards capped a spectacular collegiate career by leading Central to its second NCAA men's basketball tournament appearance in three years. He lived out the fantasy of every kid who has ever taken a 15-foot jumper or practiced free throws in his backyard when he was chosen by the Sacramento Kings as the 58th and final pick of the 2002 NBA Draft at New York's Madison Square Garden.

Edwards was the 2001-02 Northeast Conference Player of the Year, averaging 15.4 points, 8.7 rebounds and 1.5 blocks per game for the Blue Devils, who finished with a 27-5 record, the best in school history. He is Central's second all-time leading scorer. His 1,731 points are just three short of Damian Johnson's 1,734. "I'm very happy," CCSU coach Howie Dickenman told The New Britain Herald. "He was rewarded for all of the work, dedication, sweat and perspiration. He has matured as a person and player."

Meanwhile, Kings president of basketball operations Geoff Petrie said on draft night, "He's a big body...He's pretty skilled around the basket." And what did the former Blue Devil star himself say to reporters on the night he was selected? "I'm happy for myself and proud for Central." The converse is certainly true as well.





# commencement 2002

When commencement comes around, it's always a great celebration. This year, President Richard L. Judd conferred degrees upon 1,741 worthy candidates for bachelor's degrees at the Hartford Civic Center. Over 10,000 friends and family members cheered the graduates at the ceremony, held on May 25. Michael S. Knapp '75, President and CEO of CitiFinancial, gave the keynote address. Knapp remarked, "When I came to CCSU in 1971, I had a plan. My plan was to attend this university because it offered a strong and practical education, and because I liked its size. I knew that I would have the chance to get involved in many different things - from sports to campus politics. I knew I would have a great learning experience at CCSU. And I was right." He went on to tell graduates to be persistent and follow their dreams. He is a walking success story for CCSU, as President Judd noted, "Mike Knapp is a sterling example of all that a CCSU education makes possible." Knapp joined CitiFinancial in 1999 after nearly 23 years with Citibank. He began his career in New York in retail bank operations and was promoted to vice president in 1981 and to retail bank director for Brooklyn-Staten Island in 1988. His success in that role led to his promotion as head of Citibank's retail banking operations in Japan, where he



President Richard L. Judd '59, left, and members of the Class of 2002 join honorary doctoral recipients Michael S. Knapp '75 and Professor Rainer Dieterich, far right.

photos by: Bob Wessman

worked from 1976 to 1999. A New York native, Knapp played varsity football for all of his four years at what was then Central Connecticut State College. He graduated in 1975 with a degree in economics. He also holds an MBA from Cornell University in Marketing and Finance.

President Richard L. Judd conferred degrees at the graduate school commencement ceremony at Welte Auditorium on May 23. Distinguished alumna Fran Mainella, appointed by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the Senate as Director of the National Park Service, was the keynote speaker. Mainella holds a master's degree in secondary guidance from Central, and is a class of 1975 graduate. Dr. Judd commented on her success, "It's always a source of pride when one of our graduates goes on to an illustrious career, and Fran Mainella, as a decision maker at the national level, serves as an inspiration to our graduating class." Mainella is concerned with strengthening programs for preserving natural and cultural resources in the parks and reducing a massive maintenance backlog that affects all of the properties of the National Park System. She is especially focused on the opportunities available through strengthened volunteerism, partnership and outreach programs. Before being appointed to her current position, Mainella served 12 years as director of Florida's Division of Recreation and Parks. She has also served terms as president of both the National Recreation and Park Association and the National Association of State Park Directors.

Bruno Marziano, President of the Province of Siracusa, Sicily, was presented with a CCSU President's Medal, an award for his leadership and service to the University, to international endeavors and to the province of Siracusa.

30s

**Helena H. (Jenks) Rafferty '39, MA '70** taught grade school in Meriden and Rocky Hill for 20 years in each city and is now retired. She has four children, three girls and a boy, who are all grown.

40s

**Reverend E. Howard Anderson '49** runs an evangelistic ministry each winter in Arizona, New Mexico and California with Native Americans. He spends his summers in Scandinavia, including Iceland.

After receiving his MA at NYU, he taught in the Stamford Public Schools and was a principal in South Bend, IN.

50s

**Russ Tupper '52 and Jean Tupper, MA '86** are pleased to announce that Jean has had several poems published in national magazines and academic publications. They are delighted to be grandparents of a second grandchild, Sarah Putnam Ling, born on May 10, 2002.

**Ralph A. Forgone '53** is secretary and treasurer for the F&F Concrete Corporation. He's preparing for the company's fiftieth anniversary.

**Anita (Sarin) Goldberg '56** retired from the Los Angeles School District. She resides in Northridge, CA with her husband, Meyer.

60s

**Gennaro (Gerry) A. Devito '62** retired from City College of San Francisco on May 24, 2002, after 19 years of teaching computer and business studies. Retirement will keep Gerry between homes in San Francisco and Palm Springs, CA.

**Michael J. Makarewicz '62** was recently selected for the seventh edition of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*.

**Joan S. (Sabia) Kinnie '63** retired in June, 2002 from teaching in Naugatuck, CT after 38 years of service.

**Murray W. Helfand '64** retired after 30 years as an industrial electrician. He now performs magic shows with his wife of 37 years, Jan.

**Thomas Martin, Jr. '65** retired in July after serving the Windsor school system for 26 years, including 20 as vice principal at the high school.

**Fran D'Angelo '66** retired in June, 2002. She was an assistant principal at Southington High School in Southington, CT.

**Susan L. (Bass) Fine '67** is a facilitator/supervisor for seven schools for the Hartford Board of Education pre-K and K. She is also an adjunct teacher at Mitchell College in Early Childhood and owns and runs a fund raising business.

**Wesley T. Carter '68 and Barbara (Slater) Carter '69, MS '76** have retired from the hospitality business, having sold their oceanfront motel in Old Orchard Beach, Maine. The Carters taught in the New Britain school system before retiring from teaching in 1985. They reside in Old Orchard Beach, ME.

**Tom Rodden '68, MS '75** retired from his job as assistant director of career services and co-op at CCSU after years 20 of service.

**Dr. Kenneth R. Roy '68,** K-12 director of science/safety for Glastonbury, CT Public Schools, has been named the Science Supervisor of the Year 2002 by the Connecticut Science Supervisors Association.

**Frank J. Green '69** retired from teaching in the Washingtonville, NY School District after 32 years. He was varsity head football coach, head girls' basketball coach and varsity golf coach.

**Robert D. Sala '69** retired in June, 2001 from the Stratford, CT public school system, where he worked as a high school biology teacher for 32 years.

70s

**Nancy (Busk) Carlson '70** received the Dupuis-Pellerin Award for faculty excellence at the Annual Faculty Retreat at the New England College of Optometry on March 15, 2002. The award recognized outstanding contributions to the advancement of learning and the promotion of excellence in teaching. Dr. Carlson is the course master for the first year course Principles and Practice of Optometry at the New England College of Optometry, where she is a professor. She is also a member of the Pediatrics/Binocular Vision Service at the College.

**James R. Grimord '71, MS '77** was hired as Director of Learning Services at Quinebaug Valley Community College, effective June, 2002.

**Gary J. Blanchette '72** has been reelected as vice-chair of the Ellington Board of Education. He is also the B.O.E. representative on the Permanent Building Committee of Ellington.

**Bernard J. Lindauer '72** received his Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from NOVA University of Florida in July, 2002. Currently, he is the director of the Gengras Center at Saint Joseph College in West Hartford.

**Kathy Raymond '74** established an online printing dealership with Carlson Craft in May. Her poetry was recently published in the May 2002 issue of "Art Times," Mt. Marion, NY.

**Alan H. Bergen '75** celebrated 20 years of service as East Hampton's town manager on May 3, 2002.

**Lori A. (Rustek) Holmes '75** is Vice President of National Sales for SRA/McGraw-Hill in Columbus, Ohio.

**Paul Cavaliere, MS '78,** 6th year '79 was named middle school principal of the year for his work at Sage Park Middle School in Windsor, CT. He will represent the state at two national principal conventions.

80s

**Barbara J. (Sakowski) Felie '82** is a member of the first class of graduates of the Government Finance Officers Association's Certified Public Finance Officer program and was awarded the designation of Certified Public Finance Officer in October, 2001.

Calling all Central Townhouse Dormitory Alumnae!



A reunion of Townhouse Alumnae is being planned for next spring! We need to know who and where you are. If you are an alumnae of the Townhouse, please contact the alumni office at

alumniddept@ccsu.edu or MarilynMessina@cox.net.

Pictured at a recent get together of townhouse alumnae, from left to right: Nancy Judd, Susan Peck Iuliano '71, Marilyn Nigro Messina '71, Gail Schmidt Scagnelli '71 and Robin Ayr DeMartino '71. Susan Peck's husband also graduated from CCSU (Joseph Iuliano) as did Marilyn Nigro Messina's (David Messina). Other original house parents were Carl and Dottie Krein, John and Lorraine Webster and Len and Beth Lavalette.

**Marcia K. Silva '82** earned the designation "Certified Fraud Examiner" (CFE) in April, 2002. The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners awards this designation only to select professionals who meet a stringent set of criteria, including strict character, experience and education requirements. Marcia currently works as a Forensic Fraud Examiner at the Office of the Attorney General in Hartford, CT.

**Eric D. Smith '82** won his fourth Emmy as an ESPN producer, ESPN Classic 2002 Emmy for "Sports Century" (Best Edited Series). He also produced documentaries on Roy Campanella and Stan Musial.

**James Graves MA '84,** a professor of exercise science and associate dean in the School of Education at Syracuse University, has published a chapter entitled "Resistance Training and Long-Term Adherence" in *Resistance Training for Health and Rehabilitation* (Human Kinetics, 2001). He also serves on the Advisory Board for the School of Education at Syracuse.

**Amy E. (Hewitt) Cunningham '85** and her husband Daniel are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Rose Katherine on May 5, 2002.

**Eric L. Levine '85** is a Vice President, Global Security at Prudential Insurance Company of America.

**Elisabeth (Rowe) Rivera '85** was recently promoted to Associate Director - Regional Product Management, at SBC SNET.

**Christine S. Bonansinga-Twombly '87** married William D. Twombly in Danbury, CT on April 13, 2002.

**K. Erik Thoennes '87** recently completed his Ph.D. in Theology and serves on the faculty of Biola University and as a pastor at Grace Church in La Mirada, CA. He is married to **Donna Gates '88,** who recently completed her Ph.D. in Educational Studies. She serves on the faculty of the Torrey Honors Institute at Biola University, La Mirada, CA.

**Danielle (Carignan) Mancini '88** and her husband Nicholas are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Joseph Carignan on January 1, 2002. Joseph joins three year old brother Nicholas.

**Ted J. Brooks '89** recently had two novels published. *Cousins' Rivalry* came out in June, 2001 and *Nothing More Than Just Friends* was released in February, 2002 by iUniverse, Inc.

Baseball alumni golf outing



Former baseball coach Jullian "Jigger" Wojtusik '63 and L. Edward Vescovi '84 present the proceeds from the CCSU Alumni Baseball Golf outing to a representative from the Connecticut

Medical Center. The Baseball Alumni also donated \$2,000 to the CCSU Foundation to benefit the baseball team.



Class of 1951 Reunion



The TCC Class of 1951 celebrated their 51st reunion on Saturday, May 18. The class members met for a luncheon at CCSU that was filled with photos, memories and lots of stories from their days on campus. Class President, Bob Ittner entertained the crowd with his electric keyboard. He provided music and songbooks for a lively class sing along. Pictured are members of the Class of 1951.

90s

**Sandra C. (Marr) Adams '91** and her husband Evan are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Ryan Christopher on July 12, 2001. Sandra is employed by ExxonMobil Corporation as a Procurement

Coordinator.

**Lisa M. (Mattei) Kircaldie '91** and her husband John are delighted to announce the birth of their son, John Dawson, on January 21, 2002. She is celebrating her tenth anniversary at Zurich Scudder Investments in their Institutional Client division.

**Sarah (LaGuardia) Treglia '91** and her husband Frank are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Salvatore Michael on January 29, 2002.

**Dave Clarke '92 and Kelly Clarke, MS '99** are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Aine Bridget on May 6, 2002.

**Kimberly (Holden) LaDuke '92, MS '96** and her husband David are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Brooke Olivia on February 21, 2002. Kimberly is a Business Teacher at Ellington High School in Ellington, CT.

**Carlos Figueroa '93** is the manager of college markets at Aetna, where he is working on building a national program for recruiting a diversity of college students for internships, co-ops and the MBA track at Aetna.

**Lawson T. Sargent '93** and his wife **Darlene Ludeward '93** are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Kayden Elise on March 6, 2002. Lawson is an Application Engineer at Loctite Americas in Rocky Hill, CT.

**David E. Corbitt '94** was elected to the school board for the Metropolitan School District of Pike Township, Indiana, for a four-year term that began in July. He is an attorney at Barnes & Thornburg, where he works in the areas of mergers, acquisitions, corporate finance and securities law.

**James E. Heiko '94** recently became an actuary for the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation in Arlington, VA.

**Diane Ruth Leo, MA '94** married Douglas Rowland Manorca at the Georgetown Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC on April 20, 2002. Diane is the office manager and a legislative assistant to Representative Dan Burton, the Indiana Republican.

**Gloria P. Vitola-Twombly '94** and her husband Robert are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Gabriella Patricia on April 3, 2002. Gloria is currently a Human Resource Consultant for the Cura Group in Fort Lauderdale.

**Robert T. White III '94** was called to active duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in February, 2002. He is an aircraft services craftsman at Westover Air Reserve Base.

**Salvatora A. (Minaudo) Bryk '95** married **Joseph A. Bryk '95** in Stratford, CT on November 17, 2001. Salvatora is a seventh grade language arts teacher in Norwalk, CT.

**Marina (de Carvalho) Hemminger '95** and her husband Brian are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Jenna on April 22, 2002. Marina completed her MBA at Iona college in July, 2001.

**Marc Kenney '96** is Assistant Women's Soccer Coach at Southern Connecticut State University.

**Thomas David Roy '96** was recently named managing owner of the accounting firm, Carney, Roy and Gerrol, PC, located in Rocky Hill, CT. He recently celebrated the birth of his fourth child with wife Dawn in November, 2001.

**Florin Ion Firimita '97** teaches art at the Middlebury Elementary School and at the Region 15 Alternative Education high-school program. He paints, exhibits, lectures and writes art

What's new in your life?

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Initial Maiden Name Married Name

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Class Of \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (required for publication) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a new address? Yes No (circle one)

Wedding Announcement

Married \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Birth (Adoption) Announcement

Birth of a Daughter \_\_\_\_\_ Son \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Named \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Career Notes and Retirement Update/Community Service

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Now you can keep in touch in three easy ways!

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3

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Please share your good news with us! Please only share news about events that have already taken place (within the last year), and not anticipated events. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit all content.

If your address has changed, please let us know!

CENTRAL FOCUS SUMMER 2002



criticism, essays and stories about his experiences. He has recently been published in House Beautiful, the Hartford Courant and the 2002 edition of Encyclopedia Britannica. Last year, he was appointed the art consultant for the International Art Exchange Program between the State of Connecticut and the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. His artwork is now widely collected.

**Kristin J. (Giamese) Guillemette '97** and her husband Bruce are delighted to announce the birth of their twin daughters Hanna and Hope on February 7, 2002.

**Jessica Claire Kulak '97** was married to Evan Christopher Parker at the Wren Chapel on the campus of the College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia on May 5, 2001. Jessica is employed by the Cidera Corporation and enrolled in Georgetown University's graduate program in linguistics. She and her husband, Evan, reside in Savage, Maryland.

**Heather R. (Walas) Lonergan '97** married Jason W. Lonergan of New London, CT on October 15, 2000.

**Michele G. (Roy) Murtari '97** married **Brian S. Murtari '96** on June 16, 2001.

**Janice (Budzinauskas) Strileckis '97** recently married **Tom Strileckis '97**. She is an insurance broker specializing in professional liability at Hilb, Rogal and Hamilton in Hartford. Tom works for Strileckis Landscaping in Waterbury, CT.

**Sarah J. Kaczynski '98** owns her own health food market and café in Marco Island, Florida. She named it after her college nickname, Summer.

**Dawn M. (Bradani) LaPointe '98** and her husband John are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Dylan Tyler, on April 7, 1999. Dawn received her J.D. from Uconn Law in May, 2002.

**Nuno Pires '98** recently graduated from the Combat Engineer Officer Course at Marine Corps Engineer School, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, NC. Upon completion of the course, students are qualified to perform tasks appropriate for a platoon commander.

**Nancy S. Fazzino '99** received a Juris Doctor degree from the Roger Williams University Ralph R. Papitto School of Law in May of this year. She was a member of the Justinian Law Society, the Law Student Division of the American Bar Association, and the Barrister's Ball Committee, in which she received the Committee Member of the Year Award.

**Christine M. Talerico, MS '99** is currently employed as a school counselor at Staples High School in Westport, CT. She resides in Fairfield with her husband Todd Stevens.

**Scott Michael Williams '99** and his wife **Shawntel Marie Sheehan '98** are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Hunter Patrick, on February 15, 2002. Shawntel was promoted to correctional counselor for the Department of Correction in December of 2001 from the position of Correction Officer.

- Virginia H. Tallard '24 4/6/02
- Georgiana (Slattery) Kelly '27 4/21/02
- Alice M. Crowley '29 5/16/02
- Dorothy W. Marsh '29 4/6/02
- Edith Heisler '30 6/3/02
- Gertrude (Bromberg) Katz '30 3/8/02
- Marian (Gaffey) Grace '34 4/14/02
- Bertha L. Hart '37 3/25/02
- Ruth Sarah Tobey '37 4/2/02
- Mafred Allyn '38 9/3/01
- Rosemary (Walsh) Naughton '38 4/29/00
- Carol Eunice (Beebe) Johnson '39 5/31/02
- Elizabeth "Bet" Winship Monson '39 4/30/99
- Marita (Keefe)Wezowicz '40 5/13/02
- Ann Dwyer '41 3/3/01
- Walter J. Suchodolski '41 4/13/02
- Matilda (Hershfeld) Lifshitz '42 6/15/02
- Eva Elia '45 3/25/02
- Paul L. Kriksciun '49 4/19/02
- Helen T. (Pescik) Piela '49 6/9/02
- Michael S. Mobilio, Jr. '51 4/26/02
- Angelina Satta '52 3/16/02
- Richard J. Nave '53 5/18/01
- Harry O. Posten '56 3/23/02
- Cynthia S. (Steele) Webster '58 5/21/02
- Fred H. Kalbach '59 5/5/02
- Eleanor Keune McCorkle '59 5/16/01
- Virginia C. McCauley '61 2/5/02
- David Ross Caldwell '68 6/11/02
- William S. Mackiewicz '69 6/11/02
- Carl P. Palazzotto, Sr. '70 4/15/02
- Rachel (Jones) Kozlak '71 5/18/02
- Joanne (Bartle) Soder '72, MS '79 5/5/02
- Mary T. Hagggett, MS '73 3/23/02
- George F. LeGrant MS '74 4/10/02
- Steven Alan Slopak '76 4/28/02
- Lisa Grevstad Gerchman '77 3/2/02
- Pamela Newton Moffitt '77 6/4/02
- Edward C. Bradway '78 3/6/02
- Pamela H. Bosco, MA '78 3/16/02
- Arthur G. Salisbury '82 3/29/02
- William "Bill" D. Elovecky '98 3/18/02

**Dr. Albert "L.C." Martin**, Associate Professor Emeritus of Art Education, died on May 27, 2002. A native of Columbus, OH, Al was a star track athlete in high school, earning the nickname of "L.C." having once borrowed Jesse Owens's shoes for one of his meets. He received his BA from Ohio State University in Art Education and went on to receive several other degrees from that and other institutions as well as the University of Hartford. He was the first instructor of color on staff at CCSU, where he was an associate professor of Art Education for 23 years. Al served on a number of committees as chair of the Afro-American Studies and Race Relations Committees. He was also the organizer of B.A.S.I.C., Black Administrators Staff and Instructors at Central and its first president. Al also served on Bloomfield's Committee on Aging.

**A. Searle Pinney**, former chairman of the Board of Trustees of CSU died on April 30, 2002. He also served as a member of the CSU System. In appreciation of his service, Pinney Hall, a dormitory on the campus of WCSU, was named in his honor.

**Ray Shinn**, Assistant Professor of English Emeritus, died on May 11, 2002. He received his BA from the University of Michigan in Philosophy in 1947, graduating Phi Beta Kappa. He went on to earn his master's degree two years later from the same institution. He taught at the University of Kansas City and at the Michigan College of Mining and Technology before coming to CCSU. He was one of the founders of Hole in the Wall Theater in New Britain, where he served as a volunteer until 1993.

Scott was hired as a Correction Officer in August of 2001.

**00s Kathleen (Moran) Doskos '01** and her husband Gregory are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Chester Paul, on April 12, 2002. He joins older sister, Amber Elizabeth.

**Damien Drobinski '01** is working as a lab tech at an environmental monitoring lab in Stratford. He is responsible for the analysis of Mercury in soil and water. He also helps run the Wet Chemistry department, where he does various analytical analyses.

**Thomas A. Frawley IV '01** works as an operations assistant for the New York Jets, LLC.

**Clifford Brammer III '02** has been working part-time in Bristol's planning office as well as with the Council of Governments in Waterbury, where he has used his knowledge of planning, zoning and topographical mapping.

**Karen Kulesa '02** was elected to Plymouth's board of Education in November, 2001. She has been substitute teaching in Bristol since January.

Enjoying the Class of 1951 Reunion



At the Class of 1951 reunion, in left photo, Andy Kish '51 and his wife, Theresa; in right photo, John Parker '51 and his wife Lee.



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