

Central *focus*

Summer 2008

the magazine for alumni & friends of central connecticut state university

STEMming the Tide

School of Engineering and Technology
Grows to Meet Connecticut's Demand



Homecoming Weekend October 17-19

Letter from the President of Central Connecticut State University



John W. Miller

We have recently concluded our May commencement ceremonies and, in addition to being a wonderful day for our graduating students and their families, it was a moving reminder of exactly why we are here: to help our students achieve their dreams. On that day, some 1,800 undergraduate and graduate students began the next stage of their lives in which they will become thoughtful, responsible, and successful citizens contributing to the health of our state's economy, culture, and civic life.

The stories of several of our graduates tell what makes CCSU so special. The twin brothers, Jahmar and Kahmar Morgan, for example, excelled in their classes and graduated with honors in finance, no doubt trading on skills they honed in an events management company they founded and operated during their years here. They leave us to join United Technologies Financial Leadership Program. Yolanda Ayala earned a certificate in teacher education while working full time and maintaining the outstanding grade point average that enabled her to graduate magna cum laude. Elizabeth Torres left the mean streets of Hartford via our Educational Opportunity Program and excelled both in and out of the classroom at CCSU. She now begins her work of helping others to dream big and to achieve their goals. David Magnan, described as one of the very best student researchers Central has ever seen, will soon pursue his dream in a Ph.D. training program in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Baylor College of Medicine. And finally, Edmund Grandahl received his Master of Arts in public history at the age of 88 and undeterred by a previous stroke and blindness. These stories of tenacity, the passion to learn, and the desire to make a difference inspire us all to work harder and continually enhance the quality of the educational experience we offer.

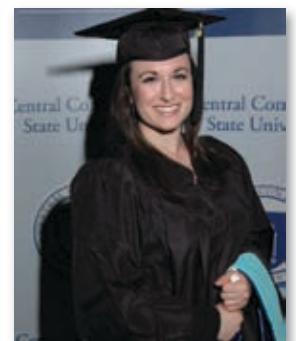
You will see in this issue of *Central focus* the story of a man who is very similar to these students: tenacious, passionate about learning, and strongly moved to make a difference. The man is Anthony Bichum, whose extraordinary generosity will make it possible for more students to pursue their dreams at CCSU, to study and excel, and then go on to make their difference too.

Dr. Jack Miller

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive.

President

Commencement 2008

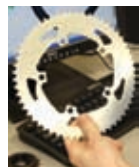


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Summer 2008 • Volume 5 Issue 1



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FROM US TO YOU Addressing Connecticut’s growing workforce need for talented graduates in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) disciplines, CCSU’s School of Engineering and Technology, which is profiled in this issue of *Central focus*, boasts an enviable track record of success.

Meet two outstanding alumni of the School. Paula Chapla ’78 was one of only a handful of female technology students in the 1970s. She has enjoyed a remarkable career at Sikorsky Aircraft in Stratford. And Walter Lehner ’81, MS ’84, vice president of Gar-San Corporation, studied “construction management” at CCSU before most construction companies even recognized the need for such expertise.

Also, in this issue, meet Anthony Bichum, a true “self-made man” whose generous gift to the University has made possible the endowed Anthony and Helen G. Bichum Scholarship Fund, which will benefit students in the School of Engineering and Technology. Be sure to read about how the Blue Devils men’s soccer team won the Northeast Conference title. And learn how two Central alumni helped former NASCAR driver Geoff Bodine give the U. S. Olympic Bobsled team “an edge.”

It’s all in this issue of *Central focus*.

Enjoy!

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Central focus is published by Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT 06050 for alumni and friends.

Central Connecticut State University is an AA/EO institution and a campus of the Connecticut State University System.

STEMming the Tide

School of Engineering and Technology

Grows to Answer Connecticut's Call

The clarion call has sounded, and CCSU's School of Engineering and Technology is answering – swiftly, creatively and emphatically.

For more than a decade, the stark statistics regarding Connecticut's changing economy and future workforce needs – and the challenges our state and its public universities face in meeting those needs – have become more widely known. Connecticut long ago began its makeover to a knowledge-based economy, one in which the knowledge possessed by workers (rather than a labor-oriented skill set) was the primary commodity desired by employers.

A 2003 report on the status of Connecticut's technology workforce development, prepared by the Governor's Office for Workforce Competitiveness, predicts the supply of graduates in technology-based fields through 2010 will fall far short of demand. While opportunity in the STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering and math) is blossoming, Connecticut's population is declining and, nationwide, enrollment in these disciplines is falling.

Supply and Demand

Dr. Zdzislaw B. Kremens, dean of the School of Engineering and Technology, says there is a direct correlation

between the SE&T's rapid evolution and the University's mission to help meet Connecticut's workforce demands.

"For the next 20 years, it is projected there will be a significant gap between the number of STEM graduates and the number of job openings in Connecticut," says Dr. Kremens. "As Connecticut's economy continues to evolve into a knowledge economy, the demand for highly trained professionals in these areas will only increase."

So how has CCSU succeeded in expanding SE&T enrollment even as students nationwide continue to shun those fields? The SE&T, says Kremens, has strategically added programs and course offerings and aggressively reached out to community colleges, high school and even middle school students, teachers and counselors statewide and regionally, impressing upon them the opportunity a STEM career offers and the accessibility on which CCSU has long prided itself.

Change as a Constant

Like the very fields and disciplines in which it specializes, the SE&T is constantly evolving. "That's one of the things I love about teaching technology – it is constantly changing," says Dr. Karen Coale Tracey, chair of the Computer Electronics and Graphics Technology Department. "This is not a stagnant learning environment. As technology changes, we have to change in response, and our students must learn to adapt."

The School has changed dramatically. In mid-2007 it was formally renamed the School of Engineering and Technology, reflecting its broader offering of programs to meet 21st-century demands.

The School began offering undergraduate and graduate degrees in biomolecular sciences in 2005. A new degree program in computer engineering technology has also been added. Last year, the Technology Education Department added engineering to the fold. The program is now formally known as Technology and Engineering Education (K-12). And the development of a mechanical engineering degree program in 2006 added a new dimension to five graduate and undergraduate programs already offered in engineering technology, which is a distinct course of study from engineering.



School of Engineering and Technology students traveled to Reno, Nevada with their creation "Smooth Passin Dude" to compete against 24 other universities at the American Society of Manufacturing Engineers' annual Human Powered Vehicle Challenge.

Historically Speaking

The late British author, inventor and futurist Arthur C. Clarke once proffered, "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic." This most certainly is the case at Copernicus Hall, home to CCSU's rapidly expanding School of Engineering and Technology (SE&T).

The evolution of the SE&T is nothing short of magical. Though it remains the smallest of CCSU's five schools, it is growing the fastest. And while much is new, few realize that the School's roots date back to the 1880s, when Charles A. Kunou introduced a "manual training" curriculum for elementary education majors at the then-New Britain Normal School.

In the 1930s, CCSU's precursor, the Teacher's College of Connecticut, became the first institution of higher education in the state to offer teaching degrees in industrial arts. In fact, it remains the only state college or university to do so, though the term "industrial arts" has gone the way of the IBM Selectric®. In the mid-1970s, the School of Technology was formed as the University expanded its curriculum beyond that which can only be applied in the classroom.

"The evolution of the industrial technology program was natural. What happened was that even though our students were

graduating as teachers, they had such good technical training that they were being hired by private companies," says Dr. James A. DeLaura '67, MS '70, chair of the Department of Technology and Engineering Education and a faculty member since 1976.

Today's School of Engineering and Technology offers a diverse range of educational opportunities designed to provide students with a world-class education and real-world experience. New and evolving degree programs, state-of-the-art equipment, top-notch faculty and facilities, vigorous recruiting efforts and dynamic alliances with private industry ensure that CCSU is strategically positioned to meet Connecticut's considerable high-tech workforce needs today and into the future.



All told, the School's five departments offer more than 20 undergraduate and graduate degrees, certificates, and specializations.

The addition of the mechanical engineering program, with specializations in aerospace and manufacturing, was

(l-r) Dr. Al Gates and Dr. Peter Baumann work with students Andy Hamilton and Luke Ionno on an aerospace design.



in response to a study performed by the School that suggested such a program was both feasible and necessary in order to meet Connecticut's increasing workforce demands.

"So far, enrollment has far exceeded our forecasts," says Dr. Alfred Gates, associate professor of mechanical engineering and the chair of the Engineering Department. "In our second year, we already have 80 students and plenty more who want to get in.

In biomolecular sciences, enrollment has jumped to more than 140 from an original 40 undergraduates in 2005. "Our department was created specifically to meet the demand for training in molecular biology, biochemistry and modern biological research," says Dr. Thomas King, department chair.

Dr. Tracey says the expansion in her department, too, reflects Connecticut's workforce reality. "The computer

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Like the School Itself SE&T Alumni are Pioneers

Paula Chapla '78, who was one of just a handful of female students in the technology education program during the 1970s, is approaching 30 years of service with Sikorsky Aircraft in Stratford, one of the world's leading designers and manufacturers of military and commercial helicopters. In her earliest post-CCSU days she worked 90 hours a week teaching wood shop in Shelton during the day while also earning an hourly wage operating machines on Sikorsky's second shift. From those humble beginnings she moved on to numerous positions of increasing responsibility within the company. Today, as manager of major components for the company's Black Hawk helicopter series, Chapla oversees production of specialized medical evacuation cabins.



But Chapla didn't come to CCSU to study technology. She enrolled as a political science major. "I got involved helping the School of Technology move into its new space at Copernicus at the time," she recalls. "That's when I met all the industrial arts teachers. That changed my life. Talking with them about electrical systems, cars, refrigerators – these were tangible things. It clicked for me."

In her very limited "spare" time, Chapla is pursuing a master's degree from Central. "In today's world, especially with technology, it's adapt or die," she says. "CCSU is adapting, and there is a world of opportunity out there for engineering and technology students today."

Walter Lehner '81, MS '84, knows all about adapting. Currently a vice president with Gar-San Corporation of Watertown, one of Connecticut's leading construction management and general contracting firms,



Lehner pursued an education in "construction management" at CCSU at a time when a degree in the field was foreign even to construction companies. That has all changed today, with Connecticut companies snapping up construction management graduates more quickly than Central can produce them.

"Nobody knew back then what a degree in construction management was," says Lehner, who today is also an adjunct faculty member within the Department of Manufacturing and Construction Management. "If a construction company hired you back then, you were probably a civil engineering graduate from UConn or maybe had an architectural degree. When I was pursuing my master's degree, there were no other students besides myself. I was doing independent study at seminars with individual professors."

"But today, construction management is a behemoth. Everyone is hiring construction management graduates," Lehner continued. "I feel fortunate to be a part of the growth at Central. Here at Gar-San, I've probably hired eight or nine Central graduates already. We have the Central flag flying in our office."

"I see the program continuing to grow," Lehner adds. "I see nothing stopping it and I see it getting more academically challenging and selective as more and more students become aware of the program and the wonderful opportunity these careers offer."

On the Cover: In the cell culture laboratory of Central's Biomolecular Sciences (BMS) Department are, left to right, Daniel Mori '07, Thomas Pagliaruli '05, Sheila Chery '07, Jeffrey Damiano '04, Jason Bannock '05, Francisco Ramirez, David Magnan and Shannon Soucy, a select team of BMS majors who received a CCSU/CBIA grant to perform independent research. *Photo by Dr. Mike Davis.*

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engineering technology degree addresses a highly needed area, combining the high level of math and science in engineering technology with the computer science technical component,” she says. “We are constantly working to determine what skill sets are in demand in the workplace, and tailoring our programs to meet that demand.”

As for the technology and engineering education (K-12) degree program, it was, of course, the bedrock upon which (as technology education) the SE&T was originally formed more than 30 years ago. CCSU, in fact, has been producing educators – for more than 100 years – who these days are teaching far more than what some may recall as “industrial arts,” and it remains the only institution of higher education in Connecticut that prepares K-12 teachers to instruct in technology and engineering subjects.

“I’m excited and quite optimistic about all the things that are happening at the School,” says Dr. James A. DeLaura ’67, MS ’70, chair of the Technology and Engineering Education Department. “We’re putting out about 20 [education] graduates a year right now, and most of them have jobs before they graduate. Our graduates are highly sought after and our programs are very well thought of throughout the country.”

Gregory Kane ’76, a state consultant for technology education and engineering to the State of Connecticut Department of Higher Education, praises the new K-12 program: “CCSU is one of the absolute leaders among institutions with technology education teacher preparation programs in the U.S.”

Dr. Jacob Kovel, chair of the Manufacturing and Construction Management Department, says that his construction management graduates are in high demand as well, with CCSU alumni populating the employment rosters of construction companies such as O&G Industries, Manafort Brothers, Gilbane, and many more.

“Our [construction management] program is the only fully accredited undergraduate program at a public university in New England, and the largest program student-wise of any New England program, public or private,” says Dr. Kovel. Although CCSU’s program

graduated 30 students last year, Kovel estimates there are approximately 90 new job openings in construction management every year in Connecticut.

Challenges Ahead

While CCSU’s SE&T has elevated its game, it is universally understood that no single institution can meet the enormous workforce needs of Connecticut’s future economy. That said, CCSU’s SE&T expects to do much more to grow the numbers of talented graduates prepared to step into the technology and engineering workplace.

Dean Kremens notes that most SE&T students are from Connecticut, and nearly 90 percent stay in Connecticut to work after graduation. This is more than double the regional college and university graduate retention rate.



Faculty members Adj. Prof. Donald V. Schaefer ’72 (far left), Dr. James A. DeLaura ’67, MS ’70 (fourth from left), and Connecticut Department of Education Consultant for Technology Education, Engineering and Agricultural Sciences Gregory C. Kane ’76 (far right), and a group of SE&T students surround astronaut Barbara R. Morgan, the first educator mission specialist in NASA’s Educator Astronaut Program, at the International Technology Education Association Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.

In addition, Kremens sees great opportunity in the prospect of attracting the kind of student to the School’s programs who, in the past, might not have even considered a career in technology or engineering, or might have believed such an education was beyond his or her reach.

“Some 10 percent of high achievers don’t attend any college at all. There is a lot of talent in this group,” says Kremens. “As an accessible and affordable state university, we can attract diverse, underrepresented students. Our focus on individual attention, our non-intimidating environment, and our various high-quality educational options make our school unique and attractive.”

One initiative that Kremens hopes will play a major role is the “Go Aerospace!” recruitment project for the mechanical engineering program’s aerospace specialization. The initiative, still in its formative stages and subject to available

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Engineering a Future for Others

Veteran stock market investors remember their first loss. For Tony Bichum, that's going back a long way—more than 70 years—to about 1936.

"I got started in the market when I was 18," recalls Tony. "My first loss was Bristol Brass. It was selling at \$8 a share and, at the time, that was cheap."

Fortunately for Tony, and for CCSU, he didn't let the loss get to him. Armed with just an elementary school education and an innate sense for investing, Tony has made a lot of money in stocks over the course of his life. But with no immediate family members to survive him, he has decided to use his resources to support scholarships in the CCSU School of Engineering and Technology. His gift, made up of a combination of cash and estate funds, is expected to be the largest gift ever to CCSU by an individual donor.

"This is a history-making gift that will benefit CCSU students for many years," said CCSU President Jack Miller in announcing the donation. "We are touched by Mr. Bichum's generosity and awed by the legacy it creates."

Dr. Zdzislaw Kremens, dean of the School of Engineering and Technology added, "The Anthony and Helen G. Bichum Scholarship Fund will enable many qualified students to pursue their dreams of a college education and go on to rewarding careers. We deeply appreciate this very generous gift."

The eldest of six children born to Russian immigrants, Tony Bichum grew up in a modest New Britain neighborhood where he still lives today. He was raised in a down-to-earth manner consistent with the values and lifestyle of his parents, who worked in the mills.

Tony dropped out of school after seventh grade and took on a series of odd jobs. He worked the tobacco fields, and he swept and paved roads for the City of New Britain. At age 13, he became a shoeshine boy at Putnam and Company, a local brokerage firm, where he developed a keen interest in the stock market.

"I learned the stock market on my knees shining shoes at Putnam's," says Tony. "I watched those boys putting up

those tags—it was all manual back then—and it fascinated me. The first time I had a buck, I started investing. I've lost money; I've made money. But I'm happy."

At age 16, Tony left home and joined the Civilian Conservation Corps, a relief program created by President Franklin Roosevelt for unemployed young men. When he returned to New Britain, he attended trade school and became a tool and die maker. He was hired by Skinner Chuck Company in 1939 and stayed with the company for 25 years. He joined the army during World War II and was sent to Holland and then Germany, where, 18 months

into his tour of duty, he sustained a serious chest injury and was given an early discharge.

Tony and his wife, Helen, the daughter of a Pennsylvania coal miner, were married in 1950. She worked in the office of Stanley Works and they enjoyed married life until her death in 1984.

According to Paul Gianaris '70, whose father and uncle were good friends with Tony, Helen is partially responsible for the couple's financial success.

"Mrs. Bichum managed the household well. That's how they accumulated their wealth. They

didn't have to dip into their investments to cover household expenses. They kept compounding and reinvesting the dividends."

Despite his financial success, Tony regrets not having gone to college. "I'm a firm believer in education," he says, "because I never had it. I came from a family that promoted education, but I left school early and went to work. I wish now I had gone to college, because if you have an education and you know where you want to go, nothing can stop you."

Tony decided to donate the money to Central, in part, on the advice of Paul and another good friend, Diane Abraham, who works in the CCSU Office of Graduate Admissions.

Paul explains, "He was going to have his bank manage a trust for scholarships and we said to him, 'If you're going to give it for scholarships, why not give it directly to the school?'"



Dr. Zdzislaw Kremens, dean of the school of Engineering and Technology, shares a moment with Tony Bichum at a reception in Bichum's honor at CCSU.

Diane lives on the second floor of Tony's house and has helped care for him and other members of his family over the years. "He's a good guy. I've known him for some 37 years," she says. "I was 20 when I moved there with my mom. We used to have dinner together. If I had a problem, I'd discuss it with him. He's helped me quite a bit. Now that Helen and my mom are gone, Tony and I take care of each other."

Tony has used some of his savings to travel extensively, both with his wife and since her passing. He has been to Russia four times, and has traveled throughout Europe, the United States, and Canada. These days he stays busy in spite of—or perhaps because of—his age. He works out three mornings a week in the fitness center at the Hospital for Special Care. He attends church every Sunday. And most mornings you can find him at the McDonald's on West Main Street, enjoying a cup of coffee with friends.

"Tony is one of those people who says what's on his mind," says Paul. "Sometimes you can have disagreements with him over small things, but if you look beyond that you find that he's softer than he comes across. I nicknamed him 'Happiness' because when he comes in for coffee every morning, he greets an old friend by picking up his hat, kissing him on the head, and putting the hat back on. He looks forward to that.

"Tony has a lot of wonderful qualities," Paul adds. "He is kind. Loyal. Honest. He has a sense of humor. And he believes in education." All qualities that money can't buy. ☞

– Martha Perry

Bichum Scholarship Fund To Benefit Talented Students

The Anthony and Helen G. Bichum Scholarship Fund will provide scholarships for full-time undergraduate and graduate students in the CCSU School of Engineering and Technology. Using interest from the principal endowment, the University expects to award at least five scholarships this fall, and that number could grow significantly over time. While the formal scholarship criteria are still being finalized, school officials hope to attract applicants from underprivileged and underrepresented groups.

"We want to reach out to groups that historically have not pursued careers in engineering, including women and minorities," says Dean Kremens.

Mr. Bichum was honored at a special luncheon on campus on March 13. In addition, the Manufacturing Laboratory in the CCSU School of Engineering and Technology has been dedicated to the Bichums to commemorate their generosity.



Dr. Nidal Al-Masoud (left) works with a student in the Fluids Lab.

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funding, is designed to recruit high school students into the engineering field.

The initiative's selection process would target high-achieving high school juniors, with a focus on women and minorities. Selected students would work on specially designed engineering projects with CCSU faculty and students on campus; visit major aviation companies in Connecticut; attend a summer institute with on-campus accommodations; and culminate their experiences with a trip to NASA in Texas to learn about the advanced engineering challenges facing the aerospace industry.

A Responsibility to Meet

CCSU's rise in SE&T enrollment, in the face of a converse national trend, indicates it is already having success attracting new, perhaps heretofore untapped, groups of students. But with this success comes responsibility.

"Having admitted new students, we face two responsibilities," says Dean Kremens. "We need to retain them in our school, and we need to make them as successful as possible through timely graduation. In this way, we will not only help many individuals make their dreams come true, but we will significantly contribute to the state's economic prosperity." ☞

– Dennis Buden



● **Class of 1957 at 50th reunion.**



● **Scott Pioli '88**, right, vice president of player personnel for the New England Patriots, chats with students following his presentation of "Building a Championship Tradition" on the CCSU campus.



● (l-r): Senator Donald DeFronzo, Senator Dan Dibicella, State Representative Joseph C. Serra and Connecticut State University Trustee **Richard Balducci '65** presented a check for \$10,000 from the Connecticut General Assembly's Italian-American Legislative Caucus Educational Fund to the CCSU Foundation, Inc. in support of study abroad opportunities for CCSU students.

● **Carol A. Ammon '73**, chair of the Christiana Care Health System, and founder and former CEO of Endo Pharmaceuticals, is shown here with former teacher and mentor Dr. Timothy Shine after a lecture for students and faculty on the CCSU campus.



● **Richard D'Aquila '77**, executive vice president and COO at Yale-New Haven Hospital, presented "Health Care's Perfect Storm and the Career Opportunities it Will Create" at a recent forum on campus.



● (l-r): **Amy Clarke 6th Yr '04**, principal of Spencer School in Middletown; Dr. Karen Beyard, Professor of Educational Leadership and Director of the Ed.D. program; and **Mary Beth Iacobelli 6th Yr '01** and current doctoral student in Cohort 2007, principal of Vance School in New Britain, at a recent networking reception.



● (l-r): 2007 grads and theater majors **Mary Jo Calvo**, **Kimberly Wheeler**, and **Jaime Morano** at a reception following a CCSU student-faculty performance of *The Tempest*.



● **Pamela Lizotte-Valentin '03** and Daniel Ruiz at a reception following a CCSU student-faculty performance of *The Tempest*.



● **Jerry Pagano '64** and Kathy Fagan at a reception following a CCSU student-faculty performance of *The Tempest*.

CCSU Alumni Association Awards

Seven alumni and one coach were honored by the CCSU Alumni Association in recent ceremonies at the Farmington Club in Farmington.

Distinguished Alumni Honored

The 2008 Distinguished Alumni Service Award recipient, **Atty. Frederick W. Odell '66**, is an expert on roses, golf, hockey, and constitutional law. He has distinguished himself through his work with and for innumerable local, state and regional civic and community agencies, and his committed and forceful advocacy for causes that include the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and Special Olympics.

Fred is a past president of the CCSU Alumni Association. Whether serving as a member of the Wethersfield Park and Recreation Commission or the New Britain Charter Revision Commission, or working as a special public defender in Connecticut's Superior Court system, he has always put service to Central high on his list of priorities.

Christian G. Gutierrez '96, MS '03, recipient of the 2008 Young Alumni Service Award, recently returned to CCSU and his position as assistant director of recruitment and admission, after serving with the U.S. armed forces active reserve in Iraq, where he was deployed as an intelligence officer. While recruiting, interviewing and advising incoming freshman are Chris's primary functions he has mentored hundreds of students as advisor to many student clubs. He has also served as a director of the CCSU Alumni Association.

Dr. Gale G. "Gigi" Brown, Jr. '74 transferred to CCSU to play competitive volleyball under Dr. Brenda Reilly, a decision that led ultimately to her being honored as the 2008 Kaiser Alumni Service Award recipient. The Connecticut Volleyball Hall of Fame recognized her contributions to the sport in 2002, and in 2006 she was inducted into Central's Alumni Association Athletic Hall of Fame. After graduating from CCSU, Gigi earned a medical degree and, subsequently, completed residencies in internal medicine and physical medicine and rehabilitation. Gigi's tireless support benefits numerous athletic and social causes, including the CCSU Brenda A. Reilly Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Women's Sports Foundation, the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, and Share Our Strength.

Five Inducted into the CCSU Alumni Association Athletic Hall of Fame

Stan House '99 was the leading running back of his era at CCSU. He set records for most rushing attempts, most yards gained in a single season and career, and most yardage and touchdowns in a single game. He was an exceptional student as well, and has continued his success in business as the president of a successful sports card and memorabilia company.


An outstanding pitcher and football quarterback, **John Iovino '76** has held the record for lowest earned run average in CCSU history for 35 years. A Gladstone Award winner, John was Central's top scholar-athlete during his senior season, and successfully pursued a dual career as educator and coach, twice being named Connecticut High School Coach of the Year.



(l-r): Fred Odell '66, Stan House '99, John Iovino '76, Damian Johnson '98, Gigi Brown '74, Tula Kofitsas '94, Eric Stone, Chris Gutierrez '96, MS '03, Sarah (Stone) Seifer.

Damian Johnson '98 has held the record – 1,734 – for most points scored in men's basketball since 1993, averaging 16.5 points per game over the course of his remarkable career. Also outstanding academically, Damian earned the Gladstone Award as a senior and went on to a successful career in technology. He was named a CCSU School of Technology Outstanding Alumnus in 2006.

Tula Kofitsas '94 was the Most Valuable Player in the Liberty Tournament in her first season of CCSU women's basketball. A Gail Rutz Award recipient, signifying both her academic and athletic prowess, she tallied 1,258 points during her remarkable collegiate career and later played professionally in Greece and the United States. Kofitsas is the president of Tails of Rye Canine Physical Rehab in Rye, NH.

Vic Stone, honored posthumously, was one of Central's most successful coaches. He established CCSU's women's tennis program at an elite level, winning at least one league championship in every conference played, while continuing to play and win himself, both nationally and internationally. He took over the men's team and turned them into consistent winners as well. 

– Bart Fisher

CCSU Friends Aim for Olympic Gold

It started as a negative. Famed former NASCAR driver Geoff Bodine watched the U.S. Olympic Bobsled Team do so badly at the 1994 winter games in Lillehammer, Norway, the former Daytona 500 winner simply couldn't fathom how it could happen. He reasoned the American team had the coaching and the athletes to contend for a medal. Something else must be lacking. That something, he reasoned correctly, was competitive equipment.

He told the disappointed USA bobsledders he was going to build them a cutting edge sled that would all but ensure better results. There was, however, a slight problem. Bodine was one of the world's best drivers, but he knew virtually nothing about bobsleds. That's where a couple of CCSU alumni, Phil Kurze '72 and John Morgan '72, came in.

Bodine partnered with Chassis Dynamics and Whelen Engineering, where Kurze is vice president of the Motor Sports division. Kurze knew his old friend and former Lambda Phi Alpha fraternity brother Morgan came from a long line of bobsled racers, connected the dots and the rest is history. The two men hadn't seen each other "in 30 years or pretty close to it," says Kurze. But Morgan, who lives in



Phil Kurze '72, left, and John Morgan '72.

Lake Placid, N.Y. and has a TV production company specializing in bobsled coverage, was keen to get on board. It didn't hurt that they had a mutual friend—named Geoff Bodine.

Now, American bobsleds built in Oxford, Conn. under the watchful eyes of chassis engineer extraordinaire Bob Cuneo and Bo-Dyn Bobsled Project President Phil Kurze are among the best on the planet, piling up medals galore in world class competition.

Says Kurze, "There's no salary that could equal the satisfaction I get out of this. These kids (the members of the U.S. Bobsled Team) are so dedicated, it provides a tremendous amount of pride to be able to help them."

He's pointing to the 2010 games in Vancouver, British Columbia. "Everything we've done," he says, "is aimed at building the best bobsled in the world for our guys. It's really exciting."

How "Sweet" it was for Men's Soccer



Rarely will you hear a coach, especially one as competitive and demanding as CCSU's Shaun Green (far left in photo), say his team "achieved all the goals we set out to accomplish at the beginning of the season." But those were the exact words the veteran coach used when Central's men's soccer team won the Northeast Conference championship, made a run in the NCAA tournament and gained a national ranking. "I truly believe our players earned this final recognition," he added.

The Blue Devils finished 25th in the National Soccer Coaches Association of America/adidas rankings and 30th in the College Soccer News national poll. CCSU finished ahead of such traditional national powers as Duke, Harvard, Virginia and DePaul after an improbable late season surge made Green's squad the first CCSU team in any sport to make the "Sweet 16" of an NCAA Division I tournament.

With just a 2-8-2 record after their first dozen games of the season, the Blue Devils played "near perfect" soccer the rest of the way. All-North Atlantic Region stars Yan Klukowski and David Tyrie led CCSU to a nine-game unbeaten streak which included the Northeast Conference title and a pair of 3-2 post-season triumphs over heavily favored Harvard and Tulsa, before losing to UMass in the national quarter-finals.

You can't blame Green, who survived a near-fatal heart attack two years ago, for being one of the happiest coaches in the country.

Ruthe Wright Boyea, assistant professor of education, emerita, passed away December 7, 2007 at the age of 89. A veteran of World War II, Ruthe served as a second lieutenant and welfare and training officer in the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service). She began her career at CCSU as an assistant professor of English and, in 1977, became the administrator of the woman's center, which was renamed the Ruthe Boyea Women's Center upon her retirement from the University in 1989.

Dr. William F. Donovan Jr., professor of history and social sciences, emeritus, died January 10, 2008 at the age of 79. Bill joined the faculty of Central Connecticut State University in 1955 as a professor of history and social sciences, and was a supervisor of secondary education social science majors at his retirement in 1992. Following his retirement he continued to serve the University as a visiting professor at Eastern Mediterranean University in northern Cyprus.

Dr. Hakim A. Salah-Din, associate vice president and chief, planning and institutional effectiveness, emeritus, died April 14, 2008. Hired by CCSU in 1990, Dr. Salah-Din had taught at both university and public school levels. Prior to that he was in law enforcement and he served in the U. S. Army and Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. He retired from CCSU in 2007.

Josephine B. Wicas, assistant professor of education, emerita, died September 3, 2007. Mrs. Wicas' professional career ranged from operating room nurse and Navy nurse (during WWII) to supervisor of health in the elementary schools of Winthrop, MA and first and second grade teacher in the Glastonbury schools. For more than 20 years she was professor of elementary education at Central Connecticut State University, where she served as role model and mentor to hundreds of future school teachers until her retirement in 1986.

Memorial gifts may be made to the
CCSU Foundation, P.O. Box 612, New Britain, CT 06050

PLEASE COMMENT! CCSU Reaccreditation Process

Central Connecticut State University will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit, October 19-22, 2008, by a team representing the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education is one of eight accrediting commissions in the United States that provide institutional accreditation on a regional basis. Accreditation is voluntary and applies to the institution as a whole. The Commission, which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, accredits approximately 200 institutions in the six-state New England region.

Central Connecticut State University has been accredited by the Commission since 1947 and was last reviewed in 1998. Its accreditation by the New England Association encompasses the entire institution.

For the past year and a half, Central Connecticut State University has been engaged in a process of self-study, addressing the Commission's Standards for Accreditation. An evaluation team will visit the institution to gather evidence that the self-study is thorough and accurate. The team will recommend to the Commission a continuing status for the institution; following a review process, the Commission itself will take the final action.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the institution to:

Public Comment on Central Connecticut State University
Commission of Institutions of Higher Education
New England Association of Schools and Colleges
209 Burlington Road
Bedford, MA 01730-1433
E-mail: cihe@neasc.org

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution. Comments will not be treated as confidential.

Written, signed comments must be received by October 22, 2008. The Commission cannot guarantee that comments received after that date will be considered. Comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person providing the comments.

The Commission cannot settle disputes between individuals and institutions, whether those involve faculty, students, administrators, or members of other groups. Individuals considering submitting complaints against an affiliated institution should request the separate Policy and Procedures for the Consideration of Complaints Made against Affiliated Institutions from the Commission Office.

42 **Walter F. Dudding** and **Pauline (Anderson) Dudding**, who married on Thanksgiving Day in 1942, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on November 26, 2007. Their four children hosted a party in their honor at the New Jersey home of their daughter, **Joan (Dudding) Brown '74**. Pauline's former TCC classmate, roommate, and maid of honor, **Priscilla (Tomlinson) Griffiths '42**, attended, as did the couple's children and their spouses, grandchildren and other relatives and friends. Pauline worked as a math teacher at Norwalk High School until their children were born. Walter was a teacher and, later, administrator at Norwalk High School in a career that spanned almost four decades. They currently live in Lakewood, NJ at Harrogate, an independent life care community.

54 **Jean (Smith) Lobaugh** and Melvin Lobaugh celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on November 2, 2007 with a renewal of their vows at a candlelight ceremony. Jean taught school for 35 years in Ellington, New Canaan and York Springs, PA, and, for the last 24 years, in Vernon. She was Vernon's first Teacher of the Year.

56 Dr. **Donald P. LaSalle**, founder of Talcott Mountain Science Center and Academy in Avon, retired as president of the center, but remains president of its board of trustees. In 2005, LaSalle was selected to receive the prestigious Outstanding Professional Award from the University of Connecticut's Neag School of Education Alumni Society for his vision 40 years ago to develop a science center that would focus on students involved as practicing scientists. Dr. **William P. Ward**, retired superintendent of schools for Newington, and **Constance (Pappalardo) Ward**, reside in Fort Lauderdale, FL and spend their summers in Quechee, VT.

63 **Roberta (Jozwinski) Demers** has returned to Orange, after 45 years in Massachusetts but spends winters in Hobe Sound, FL. An active volunteer with the Charles River Watershed and the local General Federation of Women's Clubs, she looks forward to continuing those interests in Florida, while wearing her red hat.

64 **William F. Sutton MS '69** retired after 43 years as an educator, including six years in Connecticut and 37 years in Montgomery County, MD



Dr. **Nancy Busk Carlson '70**, a professor of optometry at New England College of Optometry in Boston, MA, is the first recipient of the Dr. Lester Janoff Award for Writing Excellence in Optometric Education for her article, written with Dr. Elizabeth Hoppe, *Instilling Ethics and Professionalism in Today's Optometry Students*.

where he taught reading and world studies, and served as middle school athletic director. He resides in Gaithersburg, MD.

69 Dr. **Paul E. Bracke** is a licensed clinical psychologist practicing as a psychotherapist and executive coach in Oakland, CA.

70 **Raymond S. Marino**, an art teacher in Middletown Public Schools for 37 years, retired in July 2007 and is a realtor with William Raveis Real Estate Company in Middletown.

71 Atty. **James H. Duzak** announces the publication of his book, *Mid-Life Divorce and the Rebirth of Commitment*. An experienced divorce lawyer, divorce mediator, relationship coach, and one-time owner/operator of a dating service, Jim practiced law for many years in the Boston area, and most recently served as a full-time divorce mediator for the Maricopa Superior Court in Phoenix, AZ. **Peter H. Richards** retired from Nashoba Regional School District in Massachusetts where he had been the director of athletics and dean of students.

72 **Joan L. Mansigian MS '75** is the school psychologist at Natchaug Elementary School in Willimantic. **Daniel F. Meucci** is president and chief executive officer of Meucci & MacGregor Associates, LLC in Newport, RI. **Richard R. Roberts** is a

financial services executive with Metropolitan Life in Johnson City, NY.

73 **Gail (Jones) McClellan**, along with her husband, Bob, owns and operates the Olde Burnside Brewing Company (brewers of "Ten Penny Ale") in East Hartford, and is the founder and coordinator for the Pipes in the Valley Celtic Music Festival held each fall in downtown Hartford. **Barbara (Shaw) McKinney** is an instructional resource teacher at Goodwin Elementary School in East Hartford, and an award-winning author of children's books. Her latest is *Waterwords: Rhymed and Defined*. **Lynn (Tata) Plummer** and her business partner, John Loyer, were honored with the HME Excellence Award for Top Respiratory Provider in the Nation at the 2007 Medtrade Exposition in Orlando, FL. The main office of their company, J & L Medical Services is located in Waterbury. **Lyle R. Ressler** is business manager at Connecticut Children's Place.

74 **Joyce (Bourassa) Frederick MS '84**, first grade teacher at Hatton Elementary School in Southington and an artist, is Southington's 2007-08 Teacher of the Year. **Kathi Liberman** retired from the State of Connecticut Department of Children and Families

Marriages

Anne E. Goeckler '97, MS '04
& Phil Fischer 10/19/07

Lisa N. Frechette '02, MS '05
& Eric Fanelli 7/13/07

Devon M. Stecker
& **Mark J. Ludwig '02** 7/14/07

Jennifer A. Spada
& **Kevin M. Violette '02** 5/18/07

Laura J. Mikulski
& **Steven M. Gaber '04** 5/26/07

Kristin M. Gallant '04
& Jason R. Lehmann 6/17/07

Audra Ozols '05
& Matthew J. Gannon 11/10/07

Erin J. Mierzejewski '06
& **Christopher F. Barbiero '06** 9/29/07

Karie G. Walczewski '06
& **Kevin J. Sowa '06** 7/20/07

Pamela A. Clarke
& **Eric J. Nuzzi '07** 9/1/07

and is currently resident service coordinator for the Wethersfield Housing Authority. She is co-chairperson of the Connecticut Association of Resident Service Coordinators in Housing and chairperson of Wethersfield's senior advisory committee. Hartford State's Attorney **James E. Thomas** retired after nearly 30 years as a prosecutor and 14 as state's attorney in Hartford. **Jorge F. Torres** is a teacher for Bridgeport Public Schools.

75 Isabelle (Barth) Curtiss, specializes in the personal financial planning disciplines of retirement, qualified plans, estate, trusts, and personal income tax planning in Middlebury.

76 John C. Ellsworth MS '80, MS '84, chair of the technology department at Southington High School, founded and is director of the Vintage Radio and Communications Museum of Connecticut, which focuses on interactive exhibits – from early telegraphs to a TV studio where visitors are able to get in front of and behind the camera. The museum recently reopened in new quarters on Pierson Lane in Windsor.

77 Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Jr. MS '86, a veteran educator and former superintendent of Watertown Public Schools, has been appointed superintendent of Southington Public Schools. Dr. **Lori A. Seward** has been promoted to professor of speech and theatre at South Georgia College in Douglas, GA, where she lives with husband, Dr. Michael Fisher. The Berlin Board of Education appointed **Debra (Sheard) Thibault MS '83** as literacy coordinator. Previously, she had a 28-year career as a Spanish teacher at Irving Robbins Middle School in Farmington. She is also an adjunct instructor of graduate courses in developmental reading and adolescent literature at the University of Bridgeport. **Howard W. Wessenberg Jr.** retired from the Connecticut vocational technical system, having taught English, history and related sciences at Wilcox Technical School in Meriden for the last 21 years. He was also a basketball official and worked field control for the Yale University football team. Howard and his wife have relocated to Casco, ME.

78 James M. Masotti is vice president of commercial engines and services for Asia and the Pacific for United Technologies Corporation at Pratt &



Ginette (Gosselin) Ferszt '74, an associate professor and coordinator of the graduate program in psychiatric mental health nursing at the University of Rhode Island, received the 10th annual Russell E. Dixon Volunteer of the Year award from the Rhode Island Department of Corrections at its annual volunteer appreciation and recognition ceremony. She brings her experience as a bereavement therapist to the female prison population on an almost weekly basis, co-facilitating support groups for grieving and, more recently, pregnant women.

Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford.

Diane Overman is an applications programmer for Western Highlands Network in Asheville, NC.

80 Richard A. Collins is a regulatory compliance and product development manager, certified insurance counselor, and charter property and casualty underwriter with Admiral Insurance Company in Stamford. He and **Cheri (Miller) Collins '81**, a teacher at Shelton Intermediate School, and their son live in Newtown. **William J. Tryon** was named manager of investor and public relations for Rogers Corporation in Rogers, CT. He is president and chairman of the board for Fedcon Credit Union. **Edward B. Walsh** is executive director-national of the American Society of Professional Estimators located in Alexandria, VA.

81 Joseph H. Greenier was named director of engineering at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford.

83 Karen (Plover) Brust MSOM '91, finance director and treasurer for the San Diego County Water Authority since 1998, was appointed city manager

of Del Mar, CA. **Ronald V. Divinere** is president and co-owner of KeyTech, an information technology staffing and consulting business in Hartford. **Thomas H. Dougherty** is an attorney practicing in Palm Beach Gardens, FL. **Michael A. McBride** is the curator and site administrator at the Henry Whitfield State Museum in Guilford. He and **Michelle M. McBride BA '01, MA '06**, a prevention associate with the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling, reside in Wallingford with their three children. **Dean C. Pagani** was promoted to senior vice president of public relations and public affairs at the media relations firm of Cashman+Katz in Glastonbury. **Jeffrey P. Steinmiller (MS)** is director of the Overman Student center at Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, KS, where he lives with his wife, Kathleen, and their two sons.

84 Linda (Heyne) Moschitto relocated from Farmington to live at a private airport in Carefree, AZ and is working as a realtor. **Regina M. Walsh (MS)** is group home director for Gilead Community Services, Inc. at Anchorage Lane Therapeutic Group Home in Old Saybrook.

85 Joseph Coco, CPA joined Federman, Lally & Remis LLC in Farmington as a tax manager. Previously he was with Blum Shapiro and, before that, with United Technologies.



Patricia A. Rado '74 was appointed president and chief operating officer of the American Stock Exchange, responsible for managing the operations and growth of Amex's businesses. Rado retired in January 2007 from her job as chief accounting officer at the energy company Public Service Enterprise Group Inc.

Frederick J. Jortner, Sr. is a production scheduler for Arkema, Inc., manufacturer of diversified chemicals, in Kensington.

86 Jason J. Beaudin MS '94, 6th Yr '99, veteran educator and, most recently, assistant principal at Conard High School in West Hartford, is the new principal of Avon High School. He and **Sara Beaudin (MS '99)**, reside in Avon with their three sons. **Kristin (Olson) Blackburn** is cost manager—notebooks for Hewlett Packard in Houston, TX. **Michael R. Blezard, CPA, CVA**, is the partner in charge of business valuation services at Pue, Chick, Leibowitz & Blezard LLC in Vernon. Michael and **Michelle (Miette) Blezard '86** live in South Windsor. **Laura (Van Steenburgh) Marchese** is a major gifts fundraiser for the School of Education and Professional Studies at CCSU. Dr. **Christopher Rickard** is a chiropractic physician at the Advanced Back & Neck Center in Bridgeport. Rickard is also an adjunct professor of adjustive technique at the University of Bridgeport and is pursuing a post-doctoral degree in chiropractic sports medicine. In 2002 Dr. Rickard was honored with the Alumni of the Year Award from Western States Chiropractic College in Portland, OR for his volunteer work at Ground Zero.

87 The Connecticut Science Teachers Association honored **Janice A. Mooney-Frank (MS)** as Science Teacher of the Year. She teaches at Thomas Edison Magnet Middle School in Meriden. **Steven E. Grahn** was promoted to vice president at TD Banknorth Insurance Agency, Inc. and is responsible for claims with the FutureComp Workers Compensation TPA Division based in Springfield, MA, overseeing claims operations throughout all of New England.

88 Joseph C. Balskus was promoted to associate at Tighe & Bond, Inc., a firm specializing in environmental engineering. A registered professional engineer in Connecticut and a nationally certified professional traffic operations engineer, he manages transportation and land development projects for corporate, institutional, government and casino clientele. **Christina M. Divigard** moved from Hartford to

New Arrivals (Births/Adoptions)

Pedro W. Douglas MSOM '95 & Vladimir S. Voroneanu: a son, Bogdan Ami Douglas-Voroneanu
Linda (Garfalo) '92 & Joseph B. Brannan: a daughter, Isabella Nicole
Tammy (Hansen) '94 & **Chad E. Valk '94**: a daughter, Madison Grace
Charise Floyd-Pickering '96 & Carl Pickering: a son, Kyle John
Katherine (Waleski) '91 & William Roland, Jr.: a daughter, Claire Estelle
Erin (Morgan) '98 & **Kevin C. Gerstbrein '98**: a daughter, Emma Noel
Gayle (Knope) '98 & Adam Kuhr: a son, Jack Nathaniel
Emily (Stone) '98 & **Steven J. Westerberg '97**: a son, Paul John
Michelle (Mallett) '01 & **Michael McBride '83**: twins – Colleen Claire and Thomas Jonathan
Jennifer (Rathbun) '02 & **Timothy Guernsey '01**: a son, Avery Robert

London, UK as part of an ING Group transfer and is now responsible for global communications for ING's sponsorship and involvement in Formula 1 racing. **William T. Donahue** was appointed president of Trust Company of Connecticut, a division of NewAlliance Bank. Donahue has been with Trust Company of Connecticut for seven years and previously held positions with the Bank of New York and Connecticut National Bank. **Thomas E. Rubino** is manufacturing coordinator at Covidien, a healthcare devices and supplies company.

89 Kellyann Chester-Ouellette, private woodwind instructor and owner and founder of the Flute Institute and Other Woodwinds, now has studios in East Hartford and Agawam, MA, in addition to the first studio, which opened in Vernon 10 years ago. **Theresa Drouin** is an associate accounts examiner for the State of Connecticut Department of Education in Hartford. **Thomas C. Hutton** is general manager, responsible for strategic and tactical leadership in the development, validation, assembly and test of commercial and military aircraft engines at Pratt and Whitney Engine Center in East Hartford. **Charlene D. Keeler MS '04** is group home manager and chief therapist for Gilead Community Services, Inc. at Anchorage Lane Therapeutic Group Home in Old Saybrook. **Patricia A. Stamidis MS '96**

is a Connecticut state school principal with the Department of Corrections Unified School District #1.

90 John Bairos is manager for government and community relations at Comcast. **Karen (Moore) Kenney** is a vocational rehabilitation assistant for Met Life Disability.

91 Glenn D. Piasecki MS '97 began a new position as import/export compliance specialist at Goodrich Engine Control Systems in West Hartford. **David A. Plant** is associate creative director at TracyLocke in Wilton. "When not teaching eight-year-old girls the intricacies of the off-sides rule of soccer or collecting vinyl records from the 60s, 70s and 80s, I work on Pepsi Brand, Pepsi Brand Activation, Sierra Mist, SoBe, Ice Breakers and Mastercard."



Bob MacDonnell · The Hartford Courant

Veteran educator **Joan E. Hurley '90 MS '97**, a third-grade teacher at the University of Hartford Magnet School, is the Connecticut Teacher of the Year for 2007-2008. School principal Penny Jojin said "(Joan) Hurley goes beyond the traditional role of a teacher, taking the time to learn about the interests, strengths and weaknesses of each student. She has maximized the potential of even the most challenging students."

92 **William J. Coyle** is director of finance and operations at Palm Beach Day Academy in Palm Beach, FL. **Clifford A. Rankin**, CPA is a manager with the Farmington firm of Harper & Whitfield, P.C. **John-Paul Rocznik** is associate vice president for principal giving at the University of Arizona Foundation in Tucson, AZ. **Richard B. Stewart** is a teacher for Gwinnett County Public Schools in Lawrenceville, GA. **Mark A. Terranova** is a senior graphic designer at Bertz Design Group. **Eric R. Wahl** is global manager for project and portfolio management for NXP Semiconductors in San Jose, CA.

93 **Gregg M. Angelillo** is regional marketing director for Lincoln Financial Distributors in Philadelphia, PA. **Lisa M. Bourque**, CLTC is a financial planner for Barnum Financial Group in Shelton. She earned a masters degree in business administration at Sacred Heart University where she was inducted into the Epsilon Chapter of Delta Mu Delta (National Honor Society in Business Administration). **Carol (Campbell) Daly** is a senior underwriting consultant for Aetna in Middletown. **John P. Loughran** is accounting manager at Sun Life Financial in Windsor. **Raghu M. Nandan** (MS) is a project manager at American SuperConductor, Inc. in Westborough, MA. Rev. **John M. Santone** is associate pastor at St. Paul Church in Glastonbury.

94 **Shawn A. Anderson** (MS) is dean of student services at Minnesota State Community and Technical College in Moorhead, MN. **Charlene (Curtiss) Corbett** is a student minister at UCC First Church in Windsor and is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at Andover-Newton Theological School in Newton, MA. CareGuide, a total population health management company, announced the appointment of **Daniel M. Galdenzi** as senior vice president and chief information officer. Dan was most recently assistant vice president of information technology at Metropolitan Life, and prior to that spent seven years at ConnectiCare, Inc. as director of ebusiness and application development. **Syed S. Jameel** is accounting supervisor for Field Aviation Company, Inc. in Mississauga, ON, Canada. **Michele C. James** is an accountant for Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity, Inc. **Robert J. Kane**, Republican councilman from Watertown, won a special election to fill

the state senate seat in the 32nd district. **Jean M. Kostak** (MSOM) joined the University of Connecticut Health Center in Farmington as its diabetes education specialist. A former football, basketball and track athlete at Stoneham High School in Stoneham, MA, **David P. Pignone** is the new health, physical education and athletic director at SHS, his alma mater. **Gregg W. Ricco** is the founder and president of GWR Search Group in Southport (Fairfield), a personnel placement firm working with investment banks, hedge funds and private equity funds.

95 **John K. Bundy** is senior project engineer for Space & Sea Systems International at Hamilton Sundstrand in Windsor Locks. **Pedro W. Douglas** (MS) is associate vice president for student affairs at California State University in Chico, CA. **Lynne Ewing** is a quality mentor at ADP in Jacksonville, FL. **Jason D. Newman**, CPA is a member of the Farmington firm of Kostin, Ruffkess & Company, LLC.

96 **Ndidi Susan Emeagwali** was named managing editor of *Techniques Magazine*, published by the Virginia-based Association for Career and Technical Education. **Todd H. Grimes** is an experienced animator and co-founder of Evil Plan Studios with **T. J. Sullivan '96**. Todd's production credits include: *Barnyard: The Original Party Animals* feature film, *Hershey's Really Big 3D Show* stereoscopic ride, *FoodFight!* feature film, *Edward Fudwupper Fibbed Big* and *Butt Ugly Martians*. Todd is currently working as a director on the *Barnyard* TV series. TJ is a director with O Entertainment Productions in San Juan Capistrano, CA. Todd and **Kelly (Clark) Grimes 2000** reside in Rancho Santa Margarita, CA. **William J. Halla** is a manufacturing engineer for Grosite Precision Components in Farmington. **Brenden M. Healy**, CPA is a tax manager for Haggett Longobardi in Glastonbury. **Barbara (Zembrzuski) Powell** and her husband, Nathan, moved to Keller, TX where she began a job as senior software quality assurance specialist with the Tarrant County government in Fort Worth, TX.

97 **Judith (Page) Barry** is district sales coordinator for Aflac Insurance Company in Portland. **Christopher L. Dukes**, university judicial officer at CCSU, was selected to serve as the



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Daniel B. Rouillard '03, was featured in a story about rising stars in the faculty of New York City public schools in the December 2007 issue of *Esquire* magazine. Dan is a science teacher at the High School for Arts, Imagination and Inquiry in Manhattan, and was nominated by his principal.

assistant director of the 2008 Association for Student Judicial Affairs Donald D. Gehring Academy for Student Conduct Administration. **Eric A. Eaton MS '03** teaches social studies at A. I. Prince Technical High School in Hartford. Dr. **Gregory J. Mizera** (MS) is a lecturer for the Department of Linguistics at the University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, PA. **Jennifer Bruce Montalto** joined Avid Inc., an East Hartford-based marketing agency, as senior art director. **Kimberly A. Timpany** is associate director of leadership development at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) in Blacksburg, VA. **Michael P. Wolak** is the new executive director at the Rose City Senior Center in Norwich, where he has been the program administrator for the past seven years.

98 **Gayle (Knobe) Kuhr** is relationship manager at ADP in Stamford. **Bruce D. Seymour** is executive producer for Fitter Happier Films which produced the movie *A New Wave*, starring John Krasinski, filmed in Connecticut.

99 **Michael L. Cerullo** is assistant offensive line coach for the New Orleans Saints. **Hillary (Gordon) Foster** is an education officer for the Ministry of Education in Montego Bay, Jamaica. **John A. McDonald III** is a materials manager at Pratt & Whitney in Atlanta, GA. **Brian S. Montanari** (MBA) is the

newly appointed chief operating officer at HABC0 Inc., designer and manufacturer of ground support equipment and test stands for military and commercial aircraft, in Glastonbury. **Andrea R. St. John** is assistant principal at Sherwood Elementary School in Olney, MD.

00 **Sonia (Faria) Betz** is the records clerk for the Wethersfield Police Department. **Melody T. Cummings** is employed as a correctional counselor for the Hampden County Sheriffs Department in Ludlow, MA. **Jennifer (Zenobi) Sexton** is a supervisor at Simone Macca & Larrow LLP in Rocky Hill.

01 **Gregory J. Darin MS '05** was hired as a technology educator at the newly-opened Oxford High School in Oxford, after teaching at Woodland Regional High School in Beacon Falls

since 2002. **Timothy R. W. Guernsey** teaches health and physical education and is the head varsity volleyball coach and assistant baseball coach at RHAM High School in Hebron. He and **Jennifer (Rathbun) Guernsey '02** and their son live in Franklin, and Jennifer teaches third grade at Hebron Elementary School. **Christopher J. Mientus** moved to Beaver Dam, WI to be the choir director at Wayland Academy. **Thomas C. Perrine (MS)** is a counselor with Fulton County (GA) Schools, and assistant varsity lacrosse coach for Roswell High School in Roswell, GA where he lives with his wife and their two children.

03 **Michael A. Bozzi** was named program manager in the marketing department at Rensselaer at Hartford, a branch of Rensselaer Polytechnic

Institute. **Jodi M. Briggs** is associate director of alumni relations at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, MA. **Rebecca Hamel** is a graphic designer with A La Carte Acquisitions in West Hartford. Dr. **JoEllen (Blunt) Sefton (MS)** is an assistant professor in the Department of Kinesiology at Auburn University in Auburn, GA. **Kathleen J. Weber** is sales manager for the Hilton Garden Inn and Homewood Suites in Glastonbury.

04 **Lisa Aschenbrenner** is a microbiologist with the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Plum Island Animal Disease Center in Orient Point, NY. **Mary Frederickson** earned a Master of Education in College Student Affairs at Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, CA. **Sarah F. Kluge** is an academic advisor at

In Memoriam

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| 1927 | 1943 | 1967 | 1978 |
| Grace Lawlor Keilty 7/25/07 Mildred Nahum Nossal 8/12/07 | Ann Cooke Coy 5/1/05 | Louise Garland Berry 1/16/08 Raymond V. Crothers 2/28/08 Anne Gaffney Richter 1/10/08 | Christian Arndt 9/25/04 Anthony L. Giannattasio 10/28/07 Elizabeth A. McKenna 8/6/07 |
| 1928 | 1946 | 1969 | 1979 |
| Olga Srogi Kaufman 11/9/07 | Betty Jane Petts Basile 7/29/07 Robert J. Harrington 7/11/07 | Kathleen Novak Reichler 10/12/07 | Alice Serbek Dyson 7/6/06 Patrick F. Mattera 12/22/05 Richard D. McLelland 12/31/2007 |
| 1932 | 1948 | 1970 | 1983 |
| Katherine Ambot Urban 10/2/07 | Catherine Kurys Leiner 9/29/07 | Carol Allen Bloomquist 9/19/07 John P. Bonaventure 7/18/07 Marcia A. Maglisco 10/8/07 | Rebecca A. Roy 11/3/07 |
| 1933 | 1949 | 1971 | 1984 |
| Catherine Casey Stecchini 6/7/00 | Shirley Steinmiller Roche 8/30/07 | Roger A. Lewis 6/22/07 Thomas F. Potter 10/13/07 | Kenneth J. Donahue 12/20/06 |
| 1935 | 1950 | 1972 | 1988 |
| Daisy E. Kerr 11/17/07 Mary Smedley O'Connell 7/8/07 | James S. Salafia 9/9/07 | James N. Barlow 10/9/07 Robert J. Garvey 8/14/07 Susan Wheeler Riggat 4/12/07 Linda M. Woike-Shea 7/21/07 | Margaret Dwen Andrews 8/4/07 |
| 1937 | 1954 | 1973 | 1992 |
| Rosalind Schaefer Savitsky 9/18/03 Beatrice Cohn Tamaren 3/5/07 | Harry Grossman 9/22/07 Donald E. MacCormack 12/9/07 | Jane Haddad Dressler 9/1/06 Eileen Carey Kowal 11/4/07 | William A. Neptin 8/14/07 |
| 1938 | 1956 | 1974 | 1993 |
| Dorothy Cann Bennett 7/28/07 Thomas L. Carroll 10/27/07 | Beatrice Coviello Adamson 5/11/07 | Russell E. Andrews 8/24/07 | Eric M. Taylor 9/27/07 |
| 1939 | 1959 | 1975 | 1996 |
| Sylvia Phelps Klecak 9/7/07 Bernadine O'Donnell 8/31/07 | Jeanne Bireley Arcuni 5/28/07 | Camille DelPrincipe Brayton 10/28/07 Glenn T. Davis 1975 William A. Foran 8/9/06 Mary Klapatah 12/19/06 | Bernice Jones Fazzina 10/8/07 |
| 1940 | 1960 | 1998 | 2006 |
| Margaret D. Cenci 9/22/07 Rhoda Anderson Ingram 5/4/07 | Ruthe Wright Boyea 12/7/07 | F. Jacques von Schneden 10/27/07 | Susan Vallancourt 5/2/06 |
| 1941 | 1961 | 2007 | |
| Frank R. Carter 9/15/07 Ruth J. Straub 10/26/07 Leonard R. Tice 9/2/17 | Andrew Goulis 9/29/03 Ruth A. Urban 8/25/07 | James J. Leclerc 12/28/07 | |
| 1942 | 1963 | | |
| Merle Greiner Marlatt 9/29/05 Herbert H. Wilber, Jr. 6/26/04 Benjamin J. Zajac 9/25/07 | Dorothy White Leonard 8/12/07 Laurence R. Raber 1/6/08 | | |
| | 1964 | | |
| | Nicholas J. Moran 1/31/08 Edward L. Ward 11/10/07 | | |
| | 1966 | | |
| | Marjorie Brunjes Dolinsky 10/12/07 | | |

Memorial gifts may be made to the
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New Britain, CT 06050



Thomas X. Brodnitzki MS '03, MS '07 (left), a social studies teacher at the Metropolitan Learning Center in Bloomfield, is the recipient of a National Educator Award from the Milken Family Foundation. A check for \$25,000 was presented by Milken Family Foundation Chairman Lowell Milken at the 2008 Milken Family Foundation National Education conference in Los Angeles, CA on March 30, 2008.

Stony Brook University in Stony Brook, NY. **Fernando F. Mendoza** is assistant director of student life and leadership development on the C. W. Post campus of Long Island University in Brookville, NY.

05 Brian J. Bigelow (MBA) is payroll manager at the University of Chicago Medical Center in Chicago, IL. **Daniel S. Boothby** is program director of the Dan Boothby Performance Center in North Andover, MA and Dan Boothby Performance Training in Kennebunk, ME. He has served as the director of player development for the Northeastern University men's and women's hockey teams since July 2006. **Jeanine S. Cephas** is the microbiologist

for the Eastern Water Purification Plant at the Houston (TX) Public Works and Engineering Department. **Danielle L. Cusson** is a realtor with William Raveis Real Estate. **Christopher M. Roy** is a claims adjuster for Travelers Insurance in Hartford. **Milaim Tahiri** (MA) is a developmental mathematics instructor at Manchester Community College.

06 Agnes L. Bates was sworn in to the U.S. Foreign Service and is currently serving as office management specialist to the U. S. Ambassador to Estonia. **Alicia (Howard) Gonzalez** is a project manager at UNAPEN Inc. in Wallingford, a consulting and software development firm for asset managers in the financial services industry. **Shannon M. Lumley** is an assistant account manager at Keiler & Company, a marketing communications firm in Farmington. **Phong S. Nguyen** is an IT analyst at Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford. **Bryant V. O'Neill** is a ticket sales representative for the New Haven County Cutters Baseball in West Haven. **Dale N. Sandilands** is a financial advisor for Ameriprise Financial in Norwalk. **Aaron R. Underwood** is a financial advisor for Waddell & Reed in Hartford.

07 Gayle E. Cvengros is an accountant with Pue, Chick, Leibowitz & Blezard, LLC in Vernon.

Upcoming Events

Gridiron Events

Mid-Season Update Dinner
Monday, October 6
6:00 pm
 Constitution Room, Memorial Hall
 CCSU campus

50th Reunion

Class of 1958
Saturday, September 27

Homecoming

Saturday, October 18
Reunions
Morning Fun Run
11:30 am Barbeque
Kids Activities
1:00 pm Football Game
 CCSU vs Duquesne
After Game Party

CT BEST

Robotics Competition Just Plane Crazy

Sunday, October 19
8:30 – 3:30 pm
 Detrick Gym – CCSU

55th Reunion

Class of 1953
Saturday, October 25

ENews is the CCSU Alumni Association's monthly electronic newsletter for alumni & friends. It provides up-to-the-minute news from CCSU and the association, including events, membership benefits, club gatherings and campus goings-on. Sign up for the CCSU Alumni Association monthly ENews at www.ccsu.edu/Alumni/ENews.htm.

Join the **CCSU Alumni Group** on the LinkedIn professional online network at:

www.linkedin.com

You will need a free Linkln account to join.

Information/Reservations

Contact the Office of Alumni Affairs
phone: (860) 832-1740
website: www.ccsu.edu/alumni

Bill '69 and Patty '71 Panetta

Advocates, Volunteers, Donors



Bill Panetta's career took him and his wife, Patty '71, away from Connecticut. But it never took them away from CCSU. They've never forgotten what they owe the University.

For starters, they met at Central. Bill '69 is from Long Island, while Patty grew up in Bridgeport. He was a business education major, and she majored in history and social studies.

Soon after completing his MBA degree at UConn, in 1973, Bill found employment in Pratt & Whitney's human resources department in East Hartford. He also found a way to remain connected to Central. "I was in a collaboration program with Central, working with the very early offerings of the industrial technology program," he recalls. "We brought a number of interns into our Southington plant, and Central had prepared them well. It was a good fit." That program remains in place to this day.


While Bill was establishing his career at Pratt, Patty worked as a classroom teacher and adult literacy volunteer before the Panettas started their family. Their two sons are now adults. Patrick is an architect at Arizona State University and Kevin is a convention planner in Chicago.

In 1990, Bill accepted a position as vice president of human resources with Pratt's Government Engine and Space Propulsion Operations division in West Palm Beach, Fla., where his responsibilities included recruitment and executive development. He was there eight years. Then, in 1998, he became director of human resources development at United Technologies' corporate headquarters in Hartford, where he continued to recruit talented Central graduates until his retirement last March.

Both Panettas are grateful for the education they received at Central. And when they returned to the Nutmeg State a decade ago one of the first things they did was to reestablish ties with their alma mater.

"Central afforded me a topnotch education and friendships that still sustain me today," says Patty, who now volunteers as a tutor for Adult Basic Education and GED students at the Helping Our Mothers Through Education (H.O.M.E.) program in Hartford. A docent at the Butler-McCook House and Garden Museum in Hartford, she earned a master's degree in Theology at Holy Apostles Seminary, in Cromwell in 2001. As chairperson of the Women of Hope Ministry at St. Patrick-St. Anthony Parish in Hartford, she strives to raise awareness of women's issues through education, prayer and advocacy.

"I attended Central on a scholarship," she says, "and so I want to help other students have the benefit of the many excellent programs Central offers. At Butler-McCook a number of our interns and guides have been Central students and our new house tour coordinator is a recent Central grad with a master's in History."

"Patty and I have become more active in supporting alumni and fundraising activities," says Bill, who is also very active in programs at St. Patrick-St. Anthony. "I was one of the early graduates of the business administration program. It provided a very solid base and footing for my acceptance and enrollment in a fulltime MBA program. These educational experiences contributed significantly to my 35-year career with UTC." 



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