

# CENTRAL *focus*

Spring 2014

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



President Barack Obama  
speaks at CCSU

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



President Barack Obama's visit to CCSU in March, while in itself an exciting event for our campus and our communities, is actually only one in a series of developments this year indicating that we are making progress in becoming a truly exceptional university. As was reported in this magazine last spring, we have staked out a goal to become an exceptional regional public comprehensive university.

In the list of those developments, first come our students, of course. Since last March when our Jazz Band Ensemble won the Villanova Jazz Band Festival, our students have repeatedly demonstrated the outstanding quality of the CCSU educational experience: as you will read in this issue, their research and preparation has enabled them to place at the top in academic competitions against students from distinguished institutions of higher learning. And in athletics, always a part of the collegiate experience, our men's cross-country team won both the Northeast Conference Championship and the New England Championship, where they outpaced teams from perennial powerhouses in the sport.

The awarding of AACSB accreditation to the School of Business testifies to how well our academic programs are flourishing. CCSU is now one of only two public universities in Connecticut accredited by the AACSB and one of only 687 worldwide. New programs such as our masters in STEM education, weekend cohort program in Marriage & Family Therapy, and the MBA (launching in fall) further enrich our educational offerings. And adding to that will be the opening of the Confucius Institute early this summer.

With the fall 2013 opening of the new Social Sciences Hall, the dedication and opening of the Anthony and Helen G. Bichum Engineering Lab, and, earlier this year, the groundbreaking for a new residence hall, the campus continues to evolve to meet changing academic dynamics as we move forward. Such responsiveness is echoed by our expansion of classrooms and academic programs at our downtown campus on Main Street New Britain and by our exploration of instituting programs in Hartford, as CTfastrak Busway comes more fully online. Our embrace of these cities includes providing the public with new programs from our offices of Continuing Education, the Institute of Technology & Business Development, and Community Central.

We are also reorganizing our School of Engineering & Technology and the Carol A. Ammon School of Arts & Sciences to foster natural academic relationships and create opportunities for more inter- and multidisciplinary programs that respond to vital educational developments as well as to changing workforce needs. Clearly, our academic enterprise is flourishing.

Beyond their teaching, our faculty have been producing award-winning art and conducting research that advances our understanding of a deep range of things, whether it's drones, the US Civil War, racial profiling, the history of African Americans in New Britain, or environmental science.

And, as a mark of both our stewardship of resources and of our ability to create greater potential for student support and academic programming, our endowment has grown to \$51 million, up nearly \$3 million from last year at this time.

We have more work to do, certainly, but based on the progress we've made during the past year alone, I am confident that we are on course to become exceptional.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

Jack Miller,  
President

## in focus

### Letters to the Editor

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# CENTRALfocus

Spring 2014



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# President Obama VISITS CENTRAL

by Janice Palmer

It's unlikely that a louder, more exuberant audience has packed Central Connecticut State University's Detrick Gymnasium than the one which greeted US President Barack Obama on March 5.

More than 3,500 people — students, faculty, staff, and the public — stood outside Kaiser Hall for hours, in lines curled around Kaiser Circle and down the slope toward Sam May and Gallaudet residence halls, to get a chance to see the president. He arrived at the podium yelling "Go Blue Devils," pumping up the already roaring crowd.

"It's good to be back in Connecticut," he told them, and he thanked CCSU President Jack Miller for welcoming him to campus. He was flanked by US Labor Secretary Thomas Perez and the governors of Vermont, Massachusetts, Maine, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

The 44th US President came to Central for a pep rally, carefully orchestrated by a White House Advance Team, to push support for the legislation sitting before both houses of Congress that would increase the federal minimum wage to \$10.10. He demonstrated his commitment to the crusade by signing an executive order, in February, to raise the wage to \$10.10 for federal contract workers.

As the event's host, Governor Dannel Malloy introduced the president with a short, rousing speech of his own. Before launching into his own remarks, President Obama pointed to the CCSU student leaders standing on the stage behind him. He teased them about the Student Government Association's logo he said he had "seen on their web page."

"A gavel and a pitchfork — interesting," he mused, and then added wryly, "I just wish the folks in Congress used the gavel more — less of the pitchfork," which triggered laughs and cheers.

Seeming relaxed, the President appeared to bask in the euphoric atmosphere and feed off the comments supportive individuals shouted out. For nearly 30 minutes, he built a case for how his "Opportunity Agenda" would restore the American dream and return the US to the kind of society where "wages and paychecks support a family."

Roughly 1,000 CCSU students attended the event, and many spoke of it as a "once-in-a-lifetime" event. CCSU alumni of a certain age will know that feeling well, as they recall President George W. Bush's visit to campus in March 2001.



# Preserving the Nation's Architectural Heritage



An unusually warm October day in midtown Manhattan draws people out of their office buildings to the sidewalks for lunch or a stroll. On First Avenue, Ken Champion '79, a Central construction management graduate, stands with his head tilted to take in the brilliant blue sky reflecting in the glass façade of the United Nations Secretariat. This iconic skyscraper, which boasts the first exterior glass curtain of its kind, was recently restored to its original glimmering splendor. For his contribution to this architectural triumph, Champion allows himself a rare moment of pride as he reflects on his career — one that has been driven by his ambition to create a legacy based on preserving the nation's architectural heritage.

As program director and deputy to the executive director of the \$2.1 billion United Nations Capital Master Plan (CMP) since 2008, Champion manages the challenging day-to-day construction and renovation work at the UN's World Headquarters. The 17-acre site, which draws one million visitors each year, consists of four landmark buildings: General Assembly, Conference Building, Secretariat, and Dag Hammarskjöld Library.

Champion reports to the executive director, renowned Master Architect and historic preservationist Michael Adlerstein who, in turn, reports to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Champion's work has involved some of this country's greatest cultural and architectural gems, from Disney's Epcot Center in Florida to the US Supreme Court

building in Washington, DC. In New York City his imprint is on a dozen places including the Natural History Museum, Rockefeller Center, a Madison Avenue skyscraper, Pier 17, and the Fulton Street Fish Market commercial center.

But it is the renovation of two iconic monuments off the end of lower Manhattan that perhaps best articulate Champion's passionate commitment: the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. At the time, the \$200 million restoration project was the largest ever undertaken in US history. For Champion, it was more about saving a significant piece of history than it was about reaching a pinnacle in his career.

"We have to remember that millions of people came here pursuing the American dream. And many of us — 50 percent or more — are tied to someone who entered through Ellis Island. It just had to be preserved, as did the Statue of Liberty, another treasure," he says. "I've been entrusted with incredible pieces of history. It's humbling and it's demanding."

### Remarkable Record of Safety & Ethics

"In 33 years of construction management," Champion says, "I've had no security incidents, no serious accidents or injuries, and no litigation." Considering the scale of his prominent assignments, his record is remarkable. Skanska, Morse Diesel, and Tishman are just some of the big name construction firms that have asked him to manage in doing more than \$8 billion of work. "It's not a career for the mild," Champion says.

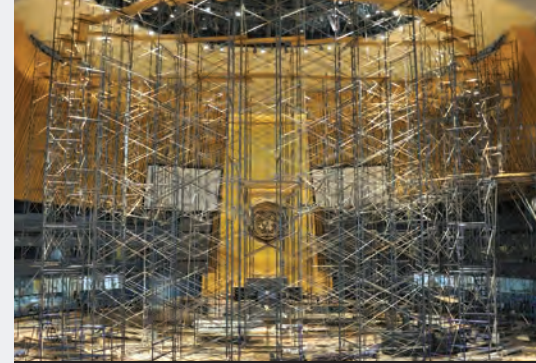
"You have to be ready to deal with unions, negotiations, and agreements and you have to keep your composure."

Adlerstein is responsible for selecting Champion to run the construction end of the UN restoration while he deals with the ongoing politics with the delegates and senior UN leadership. The pair met nearly 30 years ago while working on the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island renovations. Adlerstein, employed by the National Park Service at the time, managed the restoration, and Champion, hired by the construction company, was project manager.

"We sat on opposite sides of the table during the project, but I learned that I could respect his word," Adlerstein says of Champion. "He is highly ethical and a moral person, which is unusual in the construction industry, and it's something the owner's side always looks for — someone who takes the extra effort to ensure the bolts are tightened properly and the walls are plumb. Ken doesn't want corners cut. At the same time, he protects the vendors to see that they get a fair deal financially."

### Orchestrating a Daunting Project

As the second-highest ranking American on the UN project, Champion likens his position to that of an orchestra leader directing a large ensemble of architects, cost managers, attorneys, and construction managers who represent up to 700 subcontractors and 900 daily construction workers. One of the first challenges was to find offsite swing space for 3,000 UN staff and to construct a temporary building on the north



UN, General Assembly



UN, Security Council Chambers



UN, Trusteeship Council

lawn worthy of high-level, secure meetings. His office — the CMP — is also responsible for getting security clearance through the US Department of Homeland Security for every worker on site. Every decision Champion makes, direction he gives, or advice he shares must be balanced with his ultimate responsibility of keeping the job on time and on budget.

The scale of the project is daunting. The UN demands that it continue to function without major disruption, and that further complicates the orchestration of this historic undertaking. This includes Security Council meetings that can be called with just several hours' notice and the dozens of conferences and meetings held daily.

"High level people are meeting here all the time, and diplomats are very demanding," Adlerstein reveals. "Ken is managing one of the most difficult projects ever and doing it superbly." Alluding to Champion's six-foot-seven stature, Adlerstein explains, "He knows when to turn on the intimidation and when to be the gentle giant. He pushes teamwork using a lot of metaphors from his basketball days. Ken's approach is wonderful."

Champion credits his parents, his Catholic upbringing, and the coaching he got at Central for giving him "a lot of confidence" and teaching him the value of hard work and determination. "I always felt confident in the path I chose. I never looked back. I guess it was a calling."

Even back in his senior year at Central, when he started looking for jobs, the self-described "country mouse" says he "felt there was a bigger world out there," and he wanted to be part of it. Residential and civil construction projects were not for him. "I wanted the legacy aspect of construction — to be able to look out the window and say, 'We built this. We built that.' It's incredibly rewarding."

During the colossal endeavor to bring the UN into the 21st century, heating and cooling systems are being replaced or improved. Fire protection and security systems are being added. Essential technology upgrades are being made, and energy efficient materials and practices are being put into place. The architecture and the integrity of the historic spaces and irreplaceable treasures—such as the stained-glass window designed by French artist Marc Chagall and the pair of abstract Fernand Léger murals—will not be compromised.

"It took 10 years to get this project off the ground and to get the funding lined up. Nobody believed we were going to do it," Champion shares with a smile. "As of October,

we have 7.5 million hours into this project, and we've probably delivered about \$1.5 billion of construction work. The nice thing is, 98 percent of the materials we've demolished — concrete, steel, glass — have been recycled."

Stepping into the Security Council Chamber now seems no different than it did 60 years ago and, says Champion, "That was the intent." Stripped back to its concrete walls and with its dangerous asbestos removed, the space still focuses on the horseshoe-shaped table where world leaders hammer out agreements to resolve conflict and keep peace. The desk, and a large canvas mural that hangs at the front of the room, were sent out to be refurbished. The wallpaper, matching draperies, carpeting and gallery seating were all replaced. Many of the vital additions to the room, explains Champion, cannot be seen, including tons of blast-proof steel. A portion of the chamber straddles the FDR Drive making it "vulnerable to a terrorist attack," Champion mentions under his breath.

The most visible sign of change is the Secretariat interior where, Champion says, dim hallways redesigned to become an airy, open working environment. New furniture in an "open pod system" allows easy reconfiguration of work space. The glass curtains on the east and west exteriors had been leaking water and air for decades and were replaced with energy-efficient, blast-resistant glass panels. The sleek Vermont marble covering the north and south ends, turned dingy by soot from the now-idle Con Ed energy plant a few blocks away, was returned to its original luster. This jewel of the UN complex reopened a year ago and is expected to earn LEED Gold status, says Champion, for meeting energy and environmental sustainability standards.

The last to be transformed is the General Assembly and its stately Assembly Hall, where delegates from the 193 member states meet to discuss pressing international issues and the largest space in the UN.

When the renovation work is done in the summer of 2014, Champion will have been on this job for six years — the longest of any of his assignments. "I always find another job. I've been fortunate—blessed, you could say. There are always important places that need to be preserved. Theme parks are fun, but when you think of a museum or the UN, their role is to educate people about life, about their heritage. They are treasures that need to be preserved."

— Janice Palmer

## CHAMPION'S LEGACY

Ken Champion '79 and his college sweetheart, Mary (Trella) '79, recently celebrated their 34th year of marriage. They are parents of two adult daughters, one a CCSU alumna. Sara caught the Blue Devil bug and graduated in 2005 with a BA in English. Here are key pieces in Champion's Legacy.

**2002-2003** US Supreme Court Washington, DC, *On-site Manager*  
\$122M infrastructure repairs, modernization, and security upgrades

**1999-2001** Rockefeller Center Redevelopment New York, *Sr. Vice President & Business Unit Project Executive*  
\$65M renovation of 200 retail and dining venues

**1999-2001** 838 Fifth Avenue, New York *Sr. Vice President & Project Executive*  
Conversion of 12-story office to high-end residential condos

**1996-1998** Disney's Animal Kingdom Orlando, FL, *VP Territory Manager*  
\$1.3B phase 1 construction of 400-acre park

**1991-1996** Orange County Courthouse Orlando, FL, *VP Project Executive*  
\$185M construction of courthouse and complex


**1986-1989** Ellis Island Restoration, New York *Senior Project Manager*  
\$200M construction and restoration

**1986-1989** Statue of Liberty, New York *Project Manager*, \$100M restoration

**1985-1986** IBM Headquarters Somers, NY, *Senior Project Manager*  
\$174M construction of 5 building complex

**1982-1984** Pier 17, Fulton Street Fish Market New York, *Project Manager*  
Renovation of Seaport Museum, construction of pier and commercial center

**1980-1982** Walt Disney's EPCOT Center Lake Buena Vista, FL, *Project Engineer*,  
Construction of 6 theme buildings and dredging of 40-acre lagoon



## Kristine Larsen '84 Guide to the Cosmos

Think of CCSU's Professor of Physics & Earth Sciences Kristine Larsen as the North Star, guiding academics, students, youth, backyard stargazers—anyone, really, interested in navigating the cosmos. The astrophysicist is Polaris, a steadfast star for would-be astronomers.

“Science can be understood at some level if approached the right way. It doesn't have to be a black box where you can't see inside,” declares Larsen, who

adds energetically, “I use 20 different ways of explaining for 20 different people.”

Her creative teaching methods meld science with pop culture, from the science of Middle-earth found in J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, to the astronomy in the Harry Potter books, to science fiction movies and rock and roll. Movie clips of Jodie Foster's “Contact,” which depicts possible communication with extraterrestrials,

move students to consider how egos, politics, and gender clash in the scientific world. “Unconventional methods are my hooks to reel students to hard information,” she says.

Larsen was particularly pleased when this past August the North East Region of the Astronomical League (NERAL) presented her with the Walter Scott Houston Award during the Stellafane Convention in Springfield, VT.

She was honored for her “distinguished legacy of creative work in astronomy education,” according to Maryann Arrien, NERAL chairwoman. She said, “It is very significant to me that her vision back in 1994 was to bring more children into amateur and professional astronomy.”

A proud alumna of CCSU, Larsen earned a bachelor of science degree in physics in 1984. She graduated in the first Honors Program and went on to become its director. In 2002 she was honored with the CCSU Excellence in Teaching Award and then CCSU's Distinguished Alumni Service Award in 2007. Not to mention being named “A Great Prof of Connecticut” in the *Hartford Courant's* “Northeast Magazine” (August 2002).

Larsen holds the PhD and MS in physics from the University of Connecticut; and “her doctoral thesis advanced our understanding of the evolution of black holes and their connection to the structure of the universe,” according to her UConn advisor Professor Ronald Mallett.

Celebrated astronomer Stephen Hawking's revolutionary theories on black holes informed Larsen's thesis. Her book *Stephen Hawking: A Biography* (Greenwood Press, 2005) grew from her admiration for Hawking's work. His “insights into the behavior of black holes and cosmology have helped to reshape some of our most fundamental conceptions about the universe,” she notes. A testament to both Larsen's excellent biography and Hawking's worldwide esteem, her book has been translated in Portuguese, Chinese, Indian, and French.

Larsen has written other accessible publications to help popularize

understanding of science. These include: *The Mythological Dimensions of Neil Gaiman*, edited with Anthony Burdge, and Jessica Burke (Kitsune Press, 2012). Recipient of the Gold Medal for Science Fiction/Fantasy in the 2012 Florida Publishing Association Awards, *The Mythological Dimensions* is a collection of essays written by fans and scholars of the prolific Gaiman's works, which include short fiction, comic books, and graphic novels. Larsen has been a reader of mythology, fantasy, and science fiction from an early age, all of which Gaiman regularly weaves into his storytelling. Two years earlier with the same editors and press, she co-edited *The Mythological Dimensions of Doctor Who*. And Larsen's *Cosmology 101* (Greenwood Press, 2007), an invited addition to the Science 101 project, was applauded as “an incredible tour de force.”

Her expertise in Tolkien is widely recognized. She has had works listed in every bibliography of Tolkien scholarship published within *Tolkien Studies* since the 2005 edition with four works listed in the 2010 edition (the most of any author that year). She's also presented a number of times at the University of Vermont Annual Conference on Tolkien.

Since joining Central in 1989, Larsen has also tried to showcase women's many and significant contributions to astronomy and science in general. She has focused her scholarship on the role of women in the history of astronomy; methods of improving pedagogy and attracting underrepresented groups in science; and the role of critical thinking in science education. While she has taught a range of courses in planetary, stellar, and observational astronomy, earth science, and astrophysics, she

says, “The Women's Contributions to Stellar and Galactic Astronomy course is simply my baby.”

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT— NEAR AND FAR

Larsen has been indefatigable in participating in educational “Night Sky” workshops and a “Partners in Science” series for middle school students.

Driven to debunk pseudoscience, Larsen gave talks to the public and to professional societies on “2012, Apocalypse: Fact or Fiction,” discussing the Internet hysteria about a supposed “end of the world” scenario linked to the Mayan calendar. Recently, focusing on another end-of-the-world-as-we-know-it film, she participated in an international conference on “Melancholia: Imagining the End of the World” at Philipps University in Marburg, Germany.

But it is perhaps in the classroom where Larsen has her most powerful impact. Larsen is “a mentor, role model, an extraordinary teacher and an inspiration to all who know her,” according to CCSU junior Jessica Johnson. She recalls a First Year Experience class on zombies that highlighted ethical and legal parameters of human experimentation. “There were zombie movies associated with the lecture and Dr. Larsen played devil's advocate throwing in ideas from “Doctor Who” and “Star Trek” to get us to think harder. It worked,” exclaims Johnson. “That bunch of scared freshmen couldn't stop talking. What an awesome feeling!”

— Geri Radacsi

# Troy McMullen '89

## A Passion for the News

Some say TV network newscasts and print newspapers are going the way of the dinosaurs. Troy McMullen '89 is not among them. By day, he is a senior assigning manager for ABC News, helping to shape the network's foreign and domestic news coverage. In his spare time, he writes for the *Financial Times* of London, contributing occasional articles to one of the largest daily international newspapers. Earlier last year, he took a day off from his assignments in New York to visit with CCSU journalism students and share his thoughts on the future of the profession.

"This is a great time to be in media despite all the obituaries written about it," McMullen assures the students in Professor Darren Sweeney's (CCSU, '98) Introduction to the Profession class. "Technology has changed the way most journalists share their storytelling, but broadcast is still a big part of that — both radio and TV." To underscore the point, he added: "I don't believe journalism is a dying profession."

The New York City native is one phone call, one text, and one tweet away from news as it is happening around the world. If you are getting your daily dose of news from Diane Sawyer, Good Morning America, or any of ABC's platforms, McMullen and his news colleagues have likely had a hand in it.

Along with a team of assignment editors at ABC News headquarters in New York, McMullen sits at the hub of the network's news operation — the assignment desk, where breaking news and story ideas come to life or die. The sprawling news desk is a large, open workspace shared by journalists from the broadcast, digital, and executive wings of the news division. When news breaks or a developing story takes an unexpected turn, it is the assignment desk team that takes the lead in dispatching reporters and producers from ABC bureaus around the globe to cover the story.

Assignment editing jobs are notorious for being demanding and stressful. The phones rarely stop ringing; email and snail mail are forever piling up; scanners are hissing and crackling with police and fire calls; and dozens of monitors are flashing video images from satellite feeds and competitors' news programs. In the center of this tornado, the desk team keeps an eye (and ear) on it all while juggling the demands of the news operation.

McMullen's work day typically starts with a division-wide conference call at 9 am when news managers compare notes and set the agenda for the day. But as for all journalists,

the hour or so preceding the conference call is filled with reading newspapers, wire service reports, and ABC affiliate rundowns to help get a handle on current events. The conference call itself is often led by ABC News President Ben Sherwood. Reporters, producers, and digital journalists from all of ABC's bureaus are involved: from Beijing to Boston, London to Los Angeles. The bureau managers then marshal the troops to cover news stories that can range from missing Malaysian airliners to political turmoil in Ukraine.

"We start with a review of what went right yesterday — what we did well," McMullen says. "Then it's a broad discussion about what topics or events the news division will focus on that day — what stories will resonate with our viewers. It's also the time to bring up any story ideas we might have." After 30 or so minutes, the shows have selected the stories and interviews they want, and the meeting ends.

McMullen and his team spin into action. It's their responsibility to get reporters, producers, videographers, and the engineering staff to wherever they need to be and make sure the needed equipment arrives with them. There could be coverage of a court trial that needs a sketch artist or a Pentagon report that needs a military expert to decipher it. It's the desk that makes the calls and arranges for the services. Most importantly, they must stay up on news as it develops and assign or reassign crews to cover it.

"There's no magic trick to knowing the news — national or international. It's simply a matter of keeping up with it," McMullen states matter-of-factly. "I skim the New York Times and Washington Post every morning. I check a lot of news sites including Google, Bloomberg, and many others. And I stay in contact with our crews who are in the field." Social media has increasingly become part of the news gathering process, he says, so he spends time each day canvassing Twitter and Facebook blasts from a variety of sources, including news and government agencies from the US and abroad.

As a communication major at CCSU, McMullen was bitten by the news bug during an internship at WVIT, the NBC affiliate in Connecticut. After graduation, he landed a job at WTNH, the ABC affiliate in New Haven. There he moved up the ranks to a position as a broadcast producer, guiding one of the station's afternoon newscasts. His enthusiasm for news and drive to inform helped him earn a job at ABC News in New York where he took

a position as an associate producer for Good Morning America.

But the always curious McMullen soon realized he wanted to be where the news was happening "to talk to real people and write about them." He applied for and won a journalism fellowship that sent him to Berlin. For more than three years, he honed his overseas broadcast reporting skills covering everything from the German elections and European Union enlargement to the US diplomatic fallout over the war in Iraq. He used that experience to secure a position with the *Wall Street Journal* writing for its arts and weekend sections.

McMullen spent the next few years hopscooting Europe to places like Latvia, Estonia, Austria, and Poland covering international news. The assignment also included covering what was then an expanding and important part of Germany's economy: a building boom that was transforming Berlin. That allowed McMullen to tap into reporting on one of his growing interests: architecture and design.

"After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, there were trillions of dollars of new investment in East Berlin. It had been a desolate place compared to the west [Berlin], but new skyscrapers, residences and government buildings started going up. Prominent names in architecture — Norman Foster, Richard Meier, and others — descended on Berlin."

Berlin's Pulitzer-winning bureau chief Ian Johnson served as a mentor and guide, helping McMullen churn out some of his best writing and reporting. "Everything from identifying a good story and reporting techniques to working European sources and culling research increasingly became more solid under the *Journal*," he says. "Those lessons and experience will stick with me forever."

For McMullen, his stories about architecture and international property would become his particular favorites. That interest would later lead to assignments contributing stories to Condé Nast's *Portfolio*, which has since ceased publication, and to the *Financial Times*. But an offer from ABC News in early 2008 would lure him back to broadcast journalism.

The network offered him a three-month assignment in Iraq reporting on the war and political strife erupting there and devised the role as a hybrid which allowed McMullen to write for ABCNews.com and produce broadcast reporting for television.

"Inevitably, I always want to be challenged," McMullen says as he ruminates about what led to his return. "Covering a war involving America and its allies is a rare opportunity for a journalist, and I didn't want that chance to pass me by," he added later.

After his stint in Iraq, McMullen returned to New York and began his role on the

ABC assignment desk. As the 2008 presidential campaign neared, he migrated to political news and helped ABC with coverage of the historic campaign that eventually brought Barack Obama to the White House. McMullen became senior editor of "50 States in 50 Days," the network's multi-platform coverage of the last six weeks of the 2008 presidential campaign. The coverage eventually spawned *America Speaks*, a book detailing the network's political coverage, which McMullen co-edited.

Always hungry to share a good story, McMullen also finds the time to regularly contribute to the *Financial Times*, considered the most important business read. Tapping into an address book filled with contacts he has developed through the years, McMullen stays connected to developments in architecture and international real estate. His stories for the *FT* have ranged from detailing the revitalization of Bogota, Colombia to reporting on an emerging slice of the Los Angeles property market known as "Silicon Beach." His writing has also had him returning to Berlin to report on rising real estate costs for land where the infamous Berlin Wall once stood.

"I love being informed and getting the news firsthand," he says. "That's why I got into the news business. I love the free flow of information and, at the end of the day, I know a lot more than when my day began." — Janice Palmer



**Troy McMullen has spent two decades crafting compelling news and feature stories for high profile publications such as *The Wall Street Journal* and the *Financial Times*. Real estate, architecture, and the arts are topics that ignite his passion for writing. Below are excerpts from two of his favorite pieces.**



February 9, 2007  
"Nobody's Home"

**FIVE-FIFTEEN PARK Avenue has everything one could want in a Manhattan home: sprawling floor-through apartments, unobstructed**

**views, and concierge and maid services. But on most days, the limestone and beige-brick tower at the elegant Upper East Side address lacks one thing: many of its residents.**

**More than half of the building's 35 units belong to absentee owners, whose main residences stretch from Tokyo to Wichita, Kan., city deeds and mortgage documents show. Some spend little more than a few weeks a year at**

**their apartments, say other owners and building staff.**

**It can feel a little empty," says Las Vegas developer and billionaire Phillip Ruffin, who stays "a day or two" a month at his \$2.8 million home at 515 Park.**

**Wealthy jet-setters have long maintained cozy Manhattan pieds-à-terre, but the city's choicest properties are increasingly being scooped up**

**by out-of-towners.**

**More than 10% of Manhattan apartment sales are second-home purchases, up from about 5% eight years ago, estimates Jonathan Miller of Miller Samuel, one of Manhattan's largest real-estate appraisal firms.**

**Donald Trump says that more than half the condo owners at his buildings on Central Park West and Park Avenue.....**



Oct 6, 2013

**"Melissa Aldana, Moving Between Old and New"**

**When she took the stage at a recent Manhattan performance, Melissa Aldana, the 24-year old tenor saxophonist, moved evenly across the cozy performance space at the Kitano as she led her band through two dazzling sets. The quartet executed a sophisticated mix**

**of original compositions and jazz standards that saw Ms. Aldana's slender, elegant frame do little to hide the tenor's big, robust sound.**

**Vivid and occasionally bewildering, the lucid performance, including a series of eloquent**

**saxophone solos, showcased what Ms. Aldana's most ardent fans have long known: the young tenor with the breezy, accented voice is a hard-toned, unsentimental instrumentalist steeped in classical jazz.**

# School of Business Earns AACSB Accreditation Joins Ranks of Top Business Schools

This fall, CCSU's School of Business joined the ranks of the most prestigious business institutions worldwide, and became only the second public university in the state to hold accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

To earn the mark of excellence, the School of Business, under the leadership of Dean Siamack Shojai, undertook a rigorous self-evaluation process and then implemented a series of improvements and initiatives during the past seven years.

Shojai praised his faculty, staff, and students for their diligence. "This is," he said, "a long-term investment in the education of Connecticut's citizens and commitment to excellence in business education. More than 86 percent of our graduates remain in the state and bring to their professions and employers an education recognized by the industry and peers for its quality." Shojai noted that both current students of the School of Business and its alumni will benefit significantly from this honor.

With just 687 business programs having earned the endorsement, Shojai says his students "can be assured they are receiving a world-class education at a tremendous value." Additional benefits will be realized immediately as new graduates of the School of Business will find that many top MBA programs accept undergraduate prerequisite courses earned at an AACSB-accredited school and that GMAT requirements are waived for students who've earned a high GPA at an accredited school.

Founded in 1916, AACSB is the largest and longest serving global accrediting body for business schools. The agency's standards nationally and internationally regarded as the most stringent for business schools.

As part of its plan to meet AACSB's demanding criteria, the School recruited highly qualified faculty and adopted a set of measures for maintaining high standards for faculty. The School



also adopted a strategic management plan to more effectively operate the school, make decisions, and pursue new endeavors.

Among the activities established during the last several years are expanded services and programs for students. The Student Professional Advancement (SPA) workshops and speaker series connect some of the state's top business executives and CCSU alumni with students for advisement and to share their insights into current industry issues.

The Insurance & Financial Services (IFS) Boot Camp is a free, week-long summer program for business majors interested in working with top executives who develop seminars on industry topics. In addition, a peer mentoring program has been working to close the achievement gap.

The quality and quantity of faculty research and publications have been substantially increased and teaching excellence carefully monitored. An elaborate Assurance of Learning System has been put in place to assess student learning and ensure success. A Hall of Honor now recognizes outstanding achievement and contributions to the business industry by both individuals and firms.

"I have been fortunate to work with an outstanding group of colleagues in the School and from Connecticut's business sector in our pursuit of achieving excellence on behalf of our students," Shojai said. He also extended his appreciation to members of the School's Business Advisory and Advancement Council for their generosity in sharing their time and knowledge with our faculty and students. "Industry support was a crucial component in achieving this accreditation," he says.

AACSB accreditation is retained for five years after which the School must once again undergo a rigorous review process.

— Janice Palmer



The Connecticut Trio, from left, Julie Ribchinsky, Gerard Rosa, and Linda Laurent

For 20 years filled with "high notes," The Connecticut Trio has performed classical and contemporary music that inspires, delights, and instructs audiences. Together, ensemble members Linda Laurent, piano, Gerard Rosa, violin, and Julie Ribchinsky, cello, have melded their vitality and camaraderie touched with magic as they divide their time between preparations for concerts and teaching their CCSU courses and students.

At a rehearsal this past September for the first concert of the Trio's 20th-anniversary season (the Messiaen "Quartet for the End of Time," with guest clarinetist Thomas Labadorf), they discussed nuances, to arrive at a unanimity of style.

To come to a consensus, Rosa said, "We ask ourselves, what do we prefer, what is more authentic, what is practical? Ultimately we strike a middle ground, consider fidelity to the score, keep in mind the size of the concert hall, and adjust our playing to account for today's instruments. We want to bring out the timelessness of the work so it speaks to any audience, any culture." Ribchinsky smiled and added, "Whatever our interpretation, it will be original, because it is unique to us."

Laurent reminisced about The Connecticut Trio's formal beginnings in the spring of 1994, not long after her arrival at CCSU. "We played the Beethoven "Archduke" Trio at a concert at Carnegie Recital Hall," she recalls. "The enthusiastic reception accorded that performance was the prime catalyst for us to join our efforts in the creation of a permanent ensemble."

The Trio has performed extensively in the United States, Europe, and in New York, at Carnegie Recital Hall, the Kosciuszko Foundation, Wave Hill, the 92nd Street Y, and on National Public Radio. Their travels

have taken them, collectively and severally, to London, Brussels, Hamburg, Vienna, Rome, Tunis and Casablanca.

Each of the Trio's members is distinguished. Laurent studied piano at the Oberlin Conservatory and The Juilliard School, receiving her PhD from New York University. A publisher is considering her book on the extensive correspondence of French singer Jane Bathori and the actress Andrée Tainsy. Rosa studied violin at Yale (where he received the Houpt Award) and at Boston University on a doctoral fellowship in performance. He has toured extensively in the US and abroad and recorded for Overtone and Desto records. Ribchinsky studied cello at the Eastman School of Music and has performed at Tanglewood and the Aspen Music Festival. She's performed concerti in symphonies throughout Connecticut and directs the CCSU Sinfonietta.

Ardent proponents of contemporary music, the ensemble has performed works of both world-renowned Polish composer Krzysztof Penderecki and distinguished American composer Ezra Laderman, in the composers' presence.

Laderman's second piano trio, written in 1995 for The Connecticut Trio, was given its New York premiere at the Landon Gallery. Of that concert, demanding critic Dennis Rooney in *Strad* magazine (January 1999) commented on the "wonderfully played Arensky Trio whose exceptional beauty was fully realized by the players' outstanding teamwork." The Trio's CD of four major works of Laderman has recently been issued by Albany Records.

The Trio has also showcased CCSU musicians. "The New England Trio" (2005) by Associate Professor of Music Brian Kershner, composer and bassoonist, was written at the request of the group. "We've invited composers whose works

# High Notes

The Connecticut Trio  
Celebrates 20th Anniversary

— Geri Radacsi

we've commissioned to come to our rehearsals. It's been a joy knowing we're making the piece come alive," stated Ribchinsky.

In addition to its travels, The Connecticut Trio gives an ongoing series of concerts locally, at CCSU and the New Britain Museum of American Art. As soloists with the New Britain Symphony, the ensemble played the Beethoven Triple Concerto "as it must only be done, by three virtuosi. . . to a standing ovation" (*New Britain Herald*).

In a review of their concert in Hartford's Belding Theater at The Bushnell, critic Matthew Erikson (*Hartford Courant*) wrote: "The Connecticut Trio played superbly and, together with its support for new music, amply demonstrated. . . that it is one of the foremost treasures in Hartford's classical music scene."

When the Trio brings its "rarified" art to classrooms of CCSU students, music majors and non-majors, the ensemble achieves instruction touched by magic. The three musicians say the students "discover" something intangible as they are drawn into the "magnetic field" of great music being performed live.

For example, prior to their opening concert in September the ensemble gave a "preview" performance of the Messiaen Quartet in Laurent's graduate course, Structure and Style. The following day they received this unsolicited response by Whitney Perrine a member of the class:

"I cannot tell you what a profound impact each of your performances, both individually and collectively, made on me. I had goose bumps entirely through the Messiaen performance, and felt all the intensity, timelessness, and tenderness each of you gave to the piece. It is one live performance that will go down in the history of my life as being utterly unforgettable."



# PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING PROJECT GENERATES REAL-WORLD BENEFITS



Since 2009, when Michele Dischino joined a National Science Foundation project that promoted problem-based learning (PBL) methods in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, the Associate Professor of Technology and Engineering Education has been researching ways to incorporate PBL into her Introduction to Engineering class.

During a 2011 interview, Dischino explained her interest: “PBL is an instructional approach where students learn content by actively and collaboratively solving authentic, real-world problems. Research shows that PBL improves student learning and retention, critical thinking, problem-solving skills, teamwork, and the ability to apply knowledge.”

And after attending a workshop about including a community engagement component into coursework in any discipline, Dischino felt strongly that any project her class took on should have positive, real-world benefits.

During her own college career, Dischino’s coursework included working with an assisted living facility to help solve a care issue for a disabled resident. The resident was unable to press a traditional call button, so Dischino and

her fellow students engineered a breath-operated mechanism to activate the button, solving a critical issue for the resident.

This spring, Dischino’s engineering students were able to tackle their first PBL project. Connecting with Apple Rehab in Rocky Hill and the nonprofit Chariots of Hope in Bloomfield, Dischino found a worthy project—repairing used wheelchairs from Apple Rehab, then donating the refurbished chairs to Chariots of Hope to distribute to disadvantaged, disabled people around the world.

“Each wheelchair was different,” explained Dischino. “The students had to figure out what needed to be done to make each chair functional. Some chairs had missing parts, and all of them needed cleaning and general refurbishment. It was a problem-solving project in a socially meaningful and hands-on way.”

Using their engineering skills and parts from additional wheelchairs, four groups of students successfully completed the challenge, and during finals week presented their “projects” to Chariots of Hope board member Paul Bobbitt.

“Our mission is to provide mobility to disadvantaged persons, so they can have a better quality of life and participate in community

activities and services,” Bobbitt said. “Our thanks to these CCSU students for their support.”

Chariots of Hope estimates that there are 18 million bedridden people worldwide. Wheelchairs are a luxury in many poor countries, yet countless chairs sit idle in the United States.

“I’ve always been one to help out people in need, and this is such a good cause,” said student Michaela Melillo, who participated in the project. “Life is so hard for people without mobility, and it’s satisfying knowing how much of a difference these wheelchairs will make for them.”

Now, with the first PBL project successfully completed, Dischino is confident that future classes will find opportunities to help others while gaining practical engineering skills. Dischino said that students not enrolled in the class also showed interest in the wheelchair project. She is hoping this interest expands to the club level, where students could focus on hands-on projects that help others in the community and around the world.

— Patrice Dumond



## SCOTT PIOLI '88 Creating Opportunities for Success

### ABOUT COLLEGE FOR EVERY STUDENT

For the past 22 years, CFES has helped make college a reality for more than 75,000 low-income, first generation youth by raising academic aspirations and performance. Over the last seven years, 95 percent of CFES Scholars graduated from high school and went on to college. For more information, visit [www.collegefes.org](http://www.collegefes.org).

CCSU alumnus and NFL executive Scott Pioli '88 is no stranger to hard work and navigating uncharted territory. Now the Atlanta Falcons assistant GM and head of scouting, he’s made a career of surviving the front office politics and controversies for five other NFL teams including the New England Patriots — whom he helped to win three Super Bowl championships. He is also the five-time winner of the NFL Executive of the Year award and has been honored by ESPN, The Sporting News, and national media. Clearly he knows what it takes to be successful, but this hasn’t always been the case, and this is why he established the Scott Pioli Scholarship for College For Every Students (CFES) students at CCSU.

“My involvement with CFES began long before I established the scholarship, so this was a natural extension of my commitment to CFES and helping low-income kids get on the path to college,” said Pioli, who joined the CFES board in 2004. “When I learned about the types of kids CFES supports, I immediately identified with them. As a first-generation college student who had little knowledge about the college-going process or what to do once I got there, I vividly remember that very daunting period in my life.”

Pioli noted, “My path was athletics and it served me well, but the great majority of people don’t have that particular opportunity and the infrastructure that comes with a scholarship. I can’t imagine how I would have navigated applying to, paying for, and being successful in college otherwise. With this scholarship I want to extend those advantages to a broader audience.”

And he is doing exactly that. Jasmyn Almodovar, a former CFES scholar who is currently a sophomore at CCSU, is a recent Scott Pioli Scholarship recipient. “Receiving this scholarship is an honor,” said Almodovar. “The financial support alleviates a tremendous amount of stress, allowing me to focus on my studies.” Added Almodovar, “I would not have thought about going to college without the interest and support of CFES and the college-going culture they create. They saw qualities in me I didn’t see in myself. Mr. Pioli knows how important college truly is for every student, and for that I am grateful.”

Said Pioli, “Establishing this scholarship was a way to recognize an organization that works to get low-income, first-generation kids across the country on the path to college while at the same time acknowledging CCSU—an institution that provided a particularly supportive environment to me, and many kids like me.”

“We are extremely appreciative to Scott and his family for investing in our university and more importantly our students,” said Vice President for Institutional Advancement Christopher Galligan. “Scott understands the importance of making access and affordability a top priority but he also gives back in countless other ways— from delivering guest lectures to opening doors for our students in the workplace. We couldn’t ask for a better ambassador.” The Pioli Scholarship is derived from an endowed fund created by a \$100,000 donation given to CCSU by Pioli and his family.

In 2010, prior to establishing the scholarship, Pioli was responsible for the expansion and funding of four CFES schools in Kansas City, MO, that have served 600 children. — Janice Palmer

# focus on Philanthropy

One of the most important—if not the most important—reasons that CCSU’s loyal alumni contribute to the University is to make a difference in students’ lives, to help a student just as someone had helped them. In the fall, the University celebrated that dynamic connection by bringing together many of this year’s scholarship recipients and some of the generous donors who helped make the scholarships possible.

For many CCSU students, the gift of financial support is the crucially important margin of excellence without which a university education would be impossible. For others, it’s the critical resource that frees them from hours of part-time work and enables them to focus on and excel in their studies. For still others, alumni generosity provides the means to join faculty in scholarly research that enriches their education and genuinely advances our knowledge.

This was the second year of the Scholars and Donors Reception, and nearly 300 student scholarship recipients were on hand to meet and share their gratitude with donors and representatives of the endowed scholarship funds. Please see the profile of Shae Sau on page 16 of this issue for one example not only of the grateful mutual admiration between donor and student but also of what donor generosity makes possible.



CCSU Alumni Association scholarship students and representatives (left to right), **Velma Walters '94**, **Richard Donovan '82**, **Thomas D'Orvilliers**, **Marisa Donovan**, **Sierra Wilder**, **Amy Hewitt Cunningham '85**, **Imani Heron**, **Ariana D'Avanzo**, **Amanda Berman**, **Sara Ilnicki**, **Rebecca Henn**.



Professor of Communication Emeritus **Ben Sevitch** and **Shae Sau**



Graciette Maria Simao Rosa Scholarship recipient **Paulo F. Gouveia** and donor **Fernando G. Rosa**.



Travelers EDGE scholars and representatives (left to right), **Michael Arroyo**, **Kate Sinicrope**, Travelers Vice President, Finance, **Tony Torsiello**, **Bela Pina**, **Richard Hernandez**, **Kesi Brathwaite**, CCSU Professor of Management **David Fearon**, **Molly Merenda**, and **Richard Torres**.



**New Scholarship Endowed for Veteran Construction Management Majors**  
KBE Construction has endowed a scholarship for individuals who are active in or honorably discharged from any branch of the United States armed forces and enrolled in CCSU's Construction Management program. The scholarship is named in honor of **Kenneth J. Russo** (third from left), Director of Preconstruction at KBE and an active supporter of CCSU's Construction Management program, including two years as chairman of the Industrial Advisory Board. The \$25,000 endowment was given through KBE's "50 Ways to Make a Difference" philanthropic program. In picture, from left: CCSU Professor of Manufacturing and Construction Management **Raymond Perrault**, KBE Director of Marketing **Jonelle Lawhorn**, Russo, CCSU Major Gifts Associate **Laura Marchese**, and KBE Senior Vice President and owner **Simon Etzel**.



The Women of Influence Gala, in February, celebrated the achievements of Central alumni **Sue Ann Collins '75** and **Susan Walkama '81**, good friend of the University **Judy Young**, and Central educators Dr. **Karen Beyard** and Dr. **Paulette Lemma**, as well as distinguished community leaders **Barbara Miller**, **Paulette Fox**, and **Nancy Fox Judd**. Alumnus and NBC meteorologist **Darren Sweeney '98** emceed the event, which raised funds for students enrolled in graduate study at the University. In picture, from left: Young, Walkama, Fox, Lemma, Judd, Congressman **John Larson '71**, Beyard, Miller, and Collins.

# Shea Sau

## "A Remarkable Student"

The CCSU Scholars and Donors Reception is a time of celebration, when the University congratulates scholarship recipients and expresses gratitude to the generous donors who have helped to fund scholarships at Central. During this fall's reception, one student's name was announced more times than any other—Shae Sau.

Sau was recognized for receiving an impressive three scholarships—a Ruthe Boyea Scholarship, a Student Government Association Scholarship, and the Professor Ben Sevitch Communication Department Scholarship, a newly endowed scholarship, which, thanks to the warm generosity of Professor of Communication Emeritus Ben Sevitch, is awarded to the senior communication major with the highest cumulative GPA. Sau, who currently holds a 3.97 GPA, also had the opportunity to spend the evening with Sevitch.

There is mutual admiration between Sevitch and Sau. Sevitch, a distinguished scholar and educator who is not easily impressed, praised the student who received the scholarship he endowed. "Shae Sau is a remarkable student, and the only one to receive three scholarships this year. I was pleasantly surprised and impressed that Shae sent me a thank-you note before the ceremony. To me, that speaks of professionalism, excellent communication skills, and an appreciation for the educational opportunities made possible with hard work."

Similarly, Sau says, "It was great to meet Dr. Sevitch and to learn that we had a lot in common. Dr. Sevitch was a member of the Diversity Committee when he was teaching at the university. Some of their efforts focused on gender inequality, which I am interested in as well."

Sau transferred to CCSU from Manchester Community College (MCC) after earning an associate's degree in communication. Sau, who is on track to graduate in four years.

"I have always been interested in film and media production. I was involved in video production in high school, and I work in the Media Center here at Central. Learning more about theatre and production values, costuming and set design, it all fits into my goals."

Ultimately, Sau would like to create films that change how women are portrayed and that challenge perceptions and prejudices.

Digital Media Production Coordinator Ryan Wark speaks highly of Sau: "We hired Shae as a student worker in the Media center at the beginning of the spring 2013 semester. From the beginning, Shae has shown not only a great understanding and love of the field, but a professionalism I have seldom seen among colleagues out in 'the real world.'"

Sau grew up in Windsor, CT, the youngest of four children born to a Puerto Rican mother and Chinese father. Sau's mom is a one-on-one paraprofessional, working with children with disabilities, and dad is a machinist. Sau's parents value education, and celebrate their children's academic successes, encouraging them to do well in school. Sau's three older siblings are all college-educated, all with graduate degrees.



Sau loved growing up in Windsor because of the diverse community. "Everyone I interacted with had their own ideas and views. Everyone was different. Different races, different religions, and different morals. The way I view the world so open-mindedly is due in part to the people I know from Windsor."

Activities were varied—Sau was a cheerleader for nine years, but also found time to skateboard at the local skate park. Sau played basketball and softball, was on the track and field team, the wrestling team, and the swimming and diving team in middle school and high school.

Sau was also vice president of the Gay Straight Alliance in high school. As Sau got older, the rigid confines of just two socially acceptable sexual identities became more apparent.

At Windsor High, Sau caused a small societal uproar when questioning the right to wear cheerleading pants instead of a skirt while

cheering at games and during competitions. At MCC, Sau was president of the PRIDE (People Respecting Intimacy and Diversity Everywhere) Club, and spearheaded the effort to have additional gender neutral restrooms designated on campus.

Sau's thoughts: "I feel that having bathrooms designated for 'men' or 'women' shows inequality. A few decades ago, people were segregated from bathrooms based upon race. I see gendered bathrooms as no different. It is still a systematic inequality that everyone uses every day.

At MCC, I helped open up a multi-stalled gender-neutral bathroom, in hopes that people will change their perceptions of men, women, and others, like myself, who don't box ourselves into one of those two genders. Many universities are exploring these concepts, both with restrooms and with gender-neutral housing. My hope is that with more public awareness will come understanding and acceptance."

In addition to college courses and two jobs, Sau volunteers with the National Conference for Community Justice as an advisor in training and speaks in workshops about diversity and creating safer schools.

Sau's voice, video production skills, and degree in communication are vital tools in Sau's quest to educate people about diversity and acceptance. The source of this passion? "In addition to my parents and siblings, my motivation absolutely comes from my fiancée, Kayla, whose similar morals and values have inspired me to speak up and have the open conversations that I do."

— Patrice Dumond

CCSU currently offers gender-neutral restrooms in Copernicus, Maria Sanford, Willard, and Davidson Halls. The University also offers a gender-neutral housing option. For more information, go to the LGBT Center's web page at [www.ccsu.edu/LGBT](http://www.ccsu.edu/LGBT). The LGBT Center provides a welcoming, approachable, and consistently staffed safe space for the CCSU LGBT community. The center offers resources and student support services for the University's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and ally community.

## Continuing Education @ Central Connecticut State University



Recent graduate or mid-career professional, Continuing Education at Central Connecticut State University is the right place for your professional development needs!

**Build your skills or build your business with us!**

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Csterling@ccsu.edu 860-832-2277



"CCSU's outreach programs benefit not only the members of our larger community but also our students. By refurbishing wheelchairs for people in need, my students are using their problem-solving skills in meaningful ways, and that motivates them to learn even more. With support from our alumni, we can grow these important programs and improve even more lives."

— Michele Dischino, Associate Professor of Technology & Engineering Education

**Your gift helps students learn how to solve real-world problems — and help others!**

Your contribution to the annual fund can enable students in Professor Dischino's class to acquire needed parts and tools to refurbish wheelchairs for Chariots of Hope, which distributes them to disadvantaged people worldwide.

Please join us in supporting the kinds of academic programs that deepen student learning and improve lives! A gift of \$25 could make a big difference for our students and the people they help.

### CCSU ANNUAL GIVING

Please support CCSU with a gift!

**ONLINE:** [www.ccsu.edu/giving](http://www.ccsu.edu/giving) and select Chariots of Hope

**MAIL:** Return the envelope with a check or money order (payable to CCSU Foundation), or complete the information to donate with your credit card.

**PHONE:** Call the Office of Development at 860-832-1740.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



# FALL-WINTER 2013-14 SEASON WRAP UP

With the academic year quickly drawing to a close it is a good time to look back on the success of the Blue Devils during the fall and winter seasons.

The first championship event of the year brought early success as the men's cross country team won its fifth consecutive Northeast Conference Championship. In the process, senior **Craig Hunt** also earned CCSU its fourth straight individual title at the meet. In a dominating showing the Blue Devils captured first, second, third, eighth, ninth, tenth, twelfth and thirteenth places, which gave CCSU an impressive eight All-NEC selections.

**Shannon McBride** paced the women's cross country team at the 2013 NEC Championship earning an All-NEC selection for her 12th place individual finish and helping the Blue Devils to a sixth place finish as a team.

The Blue Devils also had a successful season on the soccer field as the men's program won the NEC Regular Season Championship and the women's team finished the regular season tied for second. Both squads featured several standout performances, which led to a combined 11 All-NEC selections. In addition to solid play on the field, both squads were also recognized with the NSCAA Team Academic Award for their performance in the classroom.

On the football field, the Blue Devils remained in the NEC title race right up until the final week of the season before sliding down the standings. However, seven All-NEC selections highlighted some of the individual success on the season, including **Rob Hollomon** leading all players at the NCAA FCS level in all-purpose yardage for the season.

Inside Detrick Gymnasium the CCSU volleyball team won 21 matches and finished the regular season in second place. The Blue Devils also finished as the runner-up in the NEC Tournament. The season was highlighted by a stretch in which CCSU won 17 of 19 matches, including a 10-match winning streak. Also during that stretch the squad went undefeated for the entire month of October.

The winter months brought basketball back to Detrick Gymnasium with the men's basketball team reaching the NEC Tournament for the 16th consecutive season. On the women's side, **Jessica Babe** earned Second Team All-NEC and NEC All-Defensive team honors while finishing her career with another standout season.

In the pool, the Blue Devils finished third as a team at the NEC Championship Meet. Several CCSU swimmers and divers claimed individual gold during the meet, including sophomore **Jessica Goldman** who swept the one and three meter diving events.

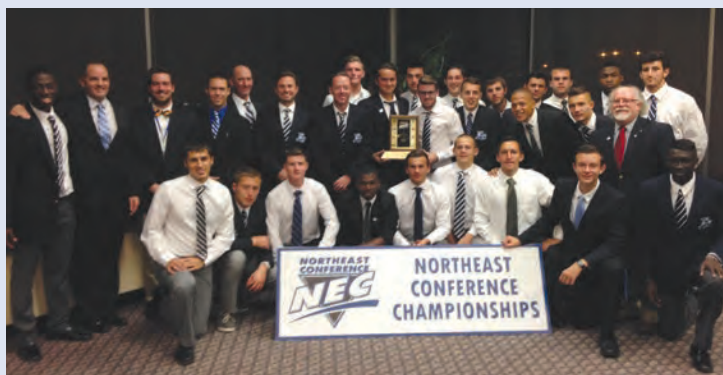
On the track the Blue Devil men claimed third place at the 2014 NEC Indoor Championships. Individually, CCSU won four events with **Jamal Fruster** winning the 400, **Brian Biekert** taking the mile and **Craig Hunt** capturing the 5,000m. The Blue Devils' distance medley relay team also claimed gold in that event. The women's team also won the distance medley relay, while **Ronea Saunders** captured her second consecutive gold medal in the high jump at the indoor championships.

#### TIMES OF CHANGE IN BLUE DEVIL ATHLETICS

CCSC welcomed **Pete Rossomando** as the 13th head coach of the football program. Rossomando replaces **Jeff McInerney** who resigned after eight seasons and 48 wins, the second highest for Blue Devil football coaches.

And Dr. **William Moore**, former coach and athletic director for the Blue Devils, and member of the CCSU Alumni Athletics Hall of Fame, died at the end of last year. During his 21 years with the Blue Devils he coached football, basketball, and golf as well as serving as director of athletics and physical education.

— Tommy Meade '09, MA '12



## KEEP THE LEGACY STRONG



Do you have a high school junior or senior in your house who is considering colleges? Do you have grandchildren or other relatives starting a college search? Why not recommend CCSU? Central played an important role in your life. Committed to academic excellence and offering an array of exceptional academic and social programs, CCSU has been selected by Princeton Review as one of the *Best Northeastern Colleges* and one of *America's Best Value Colleges*. To learn more: [www.ccsu.edu](http://www.ccsu.edu) or send an email to [admissionsdepartment@ccsu.edu](mailto:admissionsdepartment@ccsu.edu).



## CCSU SUCCESS SUCCESS BEGINS WITH CCSU

# ALUMNI LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

#### CCSU Alumni Association Scholarship Fund

- Provides scholarship support for the children and grandchildren of CCSU graduates or its predecessors.
- Matriculated undergraduate students at CCSU with 24 hours of earned academic credit and a minimum 2.75 cumulative grade point average.
- Student must be registered for at least 6 credits in the semester to which the scholarship is being applied.
- Student must demonstrate qualities of service, leadership and academic achievement.

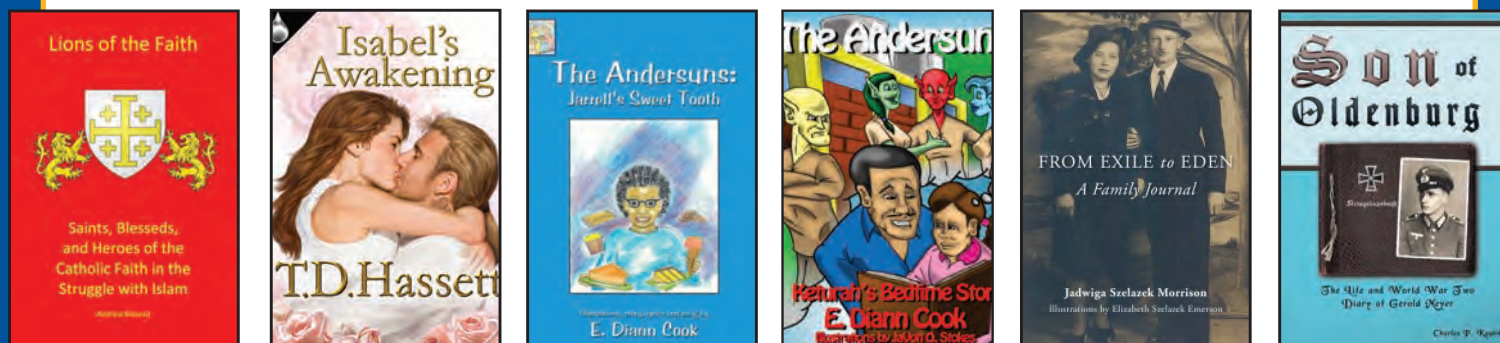
#### Special Application Instructions

- Applicants shall submit an essay stating why the candidate believes he/she deserves the scholarship.
- Essay should be no more than 250 words.
- Please include with your application the name, degree and class year of the legacy alum.



To apply visit the CCSU Foundation website at [www.ccsu.edu/foundation](http://www.ccsu.edu/foundation)

## Recent Books & News by CCSU Alumni



**Andrew Bieszad '07**  
*Lions of the Faith: Saints, Blesseds, and Heroes of the Catholic Faith in the Struggle with Islam*  
 Lux Orbis Press  
<http://www.lionsofthefait.com/>

**E. Diann Cook BA '92, MS '98**  
*The Andersuns: Keturah's Bedtime Story*  
 AuthorHouse  
<http://www.dijarodesigns.com>

**Tiffany Hassett BA '95, MA '98**  
*Isabel's Awakening*  
 Liquid Silver Books  
<http://www.amazon.com>

**Jadz Morrison '71**  
*From Exile To Eden*  
 Turning Stone Press  
<http://jadzmorrison.com>

**Charles P. Koubik '88**  
*Son of Oldenburg: The Life and World War Two Diary of Gerold Meyer*  
 Xlibris  
[www.xlibris.com](http://www.xlibris.com)

**Donna Marie (Mulcahy) Merritt '88**  
*Her House and Other Poems*  
 Stairwell Books  
<http://stairwellbooks.co.uk>

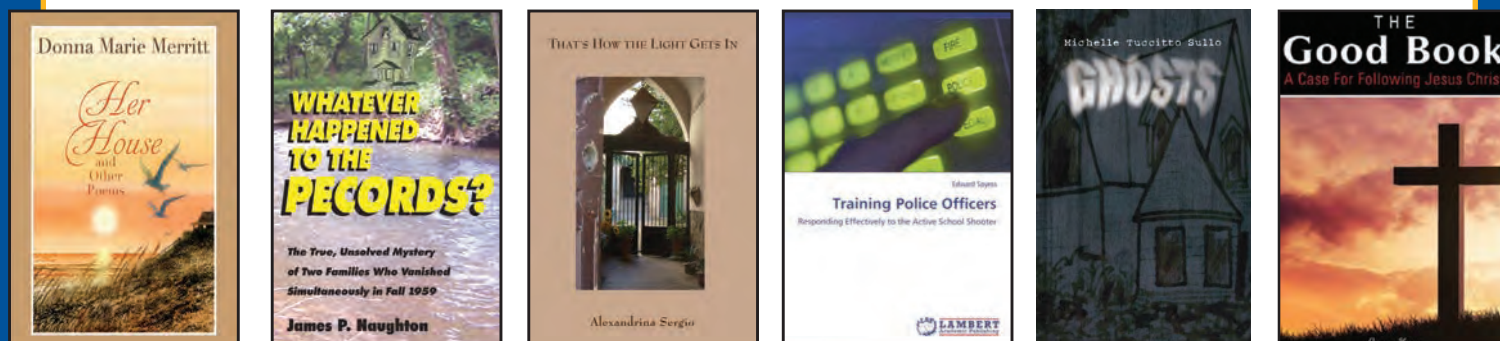
**Jim Naughton '71**  
*Whatever Happened to the Records?*  
 Key Publishing Company  
[www.KeyPublishingCompany.com](http://www.KeyPublishingCompany.com)

**Alexandrina Bain Sergio '57**  
*That's How The Light Gets In*  
 Antrim House Books  
[www.antrimhousebooks.com](http://www.antrimhousebooks.com)

**Edward J. Spyros '10**  
*Training Police Officers: Responding Effectively to the Active School Shooter*  
 Lambert Academic Publishing  
<http://www.amazon.com>

**Michelle Tuccitto Sullo '92**  
*Ghosts*  
 Xlibris Corporation  
<http://www.barnesandnoble.com>

**Melvin Douglas Wilson '09**  
*The Good Book*  
 Tate Publishing  
<http://www.amazon.com>



Central alumni—please let us know about your recently published books: [alumnibooks@ccsu.edu](mailto:alumnibooks@ccsu.edu)

## Recent Books & News by CCSU Alumni

### ALUMS TAKE ON CONNECTICUT IN THE CIVIL WAR



CCSU Professor of History **Matthew Warshauer '90** has been taking the lead in the state's commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Connecticut's engagement in the Civil War by developing and producing wide-ranging academic conferences, rugged encampments and re-enactments as well as extensive travels to several of the nation's historic battlegrounds. Now, he has enlisted eight (and one soon-to-be) history alumni to produce a collection of essays. *Inside Connecticut and the Civil War: Essays on One State's Struggles*, edited by Warshauer and published by Wesleyan University Press, covers a wealth of topics such as the abolitionist movement in Windham County, wartime shipbuilding in Mystic, and post-traumatic stress disorder among Connecticut Civil War veterans.

Warshauer says, "I'm very excited about this book. This all-graduate-student publication adds a new chapter in the University's history and reveals the astounding, original research in which our faculty and students are engaged."

According to Warshauer, several of these former students have history-related careers—the authors' biographies boast a museum guide, a historic preservationist, and multiple history teachers.



Contributors include (top row, l-r): **David C. W. Batch MA '12**; **Todd Jones BA '08**; **Warshauer**; **James E. Brown**; **Michael Sturges BS '05, MA '13**; (bottom row, l-r): **Michael Conlin BA '01**; **Emily E. Gifford MA '11**; **Carol Patterson-Martineau MA '13**; **Luke G. Boyd MA '13**; and (not pictured) **Diana Moraco MA '10**.

# AROUND CAMPUS

**Campus Becoming Even More Inviting, Congenial, and Educationally Supportive** From the beginning of the academic year in September, when the new Social Sciences Hall opened for classes and the activities of five academic departments, and when most of the residence halls welcomed students to renovated rooms and enhanced study spaces, the University has been busy with ongoing and new projects designed to provide a more welcoming campus that better promotes learning. In addition to major renovations of Willard and DiLoreto halls and the creation of a new dining facility, for the first time in over a decade the University broke ground in February 2014 for an \$82.3 million new residence hall. The eight-story hall will house some 600 students when it opens in fall 2015, and will support the University's strategic plan to recruit and retain more students. It will also enable the University to effectively steward state resources by taking older residence halls offline for long-deferred maintenance and renovation.

Award-winning journalist and former columnist at the *Hartford Courant* **Susan Campbell** has been appointed the Robert C. Vance Endowed Chair in Journalism & Mass Communication in the Carol A. Ammon School of Arts & Sciences. The professorship, created in 2003, is supported by the Robert C. Vance Chair in Journalism & Mass Communication fund.

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

As noted elsewhere, **CCSU students** are demonstrating the exceptional quality of the University on state, regional, and national stages. Most recently, anthropology major **Tracy Cella** triumphed over students from Yale, Baylor, Vanderbilt, UCLA, and Notre Dame (to name only a few of her competitors) for her poster presentation at the annual conference of the Society for Applied Anthropology in Albuquerque. Near the end of last year, a team of construction management students (l-r **Ian Rogers, Sean East, Anthony Diana, Kristen Cortigiano, Mike Fallat, and Douglas Hess**) took a solid second place among 15 student teams, including those from such major engineering schools at RIT and Drexel. And in head-to-head competition with a team from UConn, a team of CCSU Management Information Systems students (l-r **Aaron Zamojski, Melissa Mulcahy, Andrew Rose, and Paul Pioselli**) won first place in the Hartford Technical Case Competition.



▲ Social Science Hall

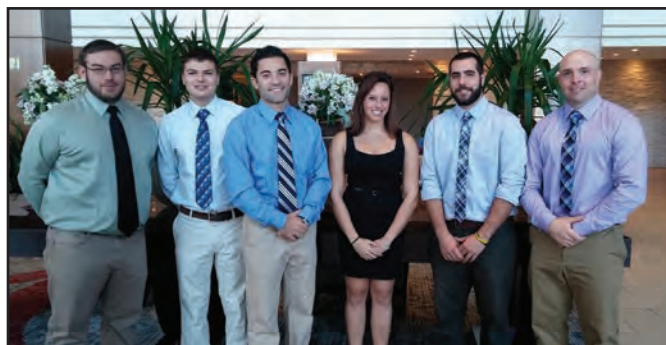
◀ New Residence Hall



Susan Campbell



Peter Sposito

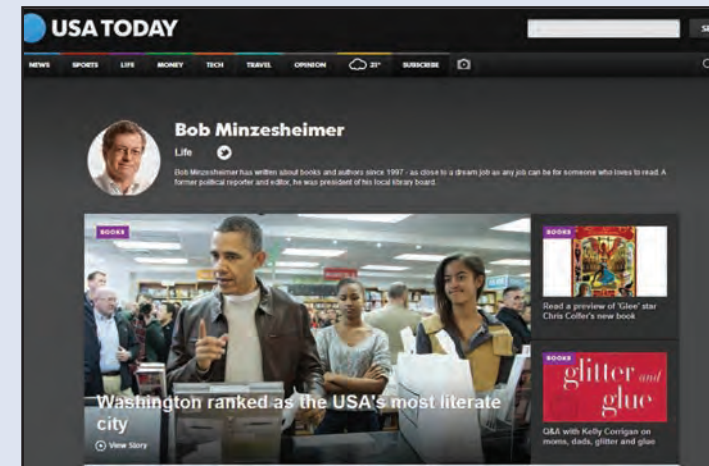


Construction Management students



Management Information Systems students

## President Miller's America's Most Literate Cities Study Receives National Coverage



The publication of President Jack Miller's 11th annual survey of America's Most Literate Cities was announced in USA Today in February. The study ranks the nation's 77 largest cities based on research data for six key indicators of their citizens' literacy: booksellers, educational attainment, internet resources, library resources, newspaper circulation, and periodical publishing resources. The information is compared against population rates in each city to develop a per capita profile of the city's literacy.

This year Miller offers a regional outlook, finding clear regional differences in reading habits and resources for reading. Nearly

90 percent of the cities representing New England and the Mid-Atlantic states, for example, are above the median for all cities studied, and 55 percent of that region's cities are in the top quartile, making the region the national leader for literate behaviors. By contrast, in the Southwest region, 86 percent of the cities are below the median of all the cities ranked, and none of the region's cities make it into the top quartile, making it the lowest ranking region for literate behavior.

Miller also notes a revealing historical trend: the oldest cities in the Northeast (Boston, New York, Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, for example) have some of the highest literacy practice levels. But moving from Northeast to the Southwest, there are fewer and fewer highly ranked cities. This suggests to Miller that "it may take a very long history to develop a culture of literate practice"—to develop, in other words, the vital tradition of reading that generates both readers and resources for reading.

The first America's Most Literate Cities study was published in 2003. The survey has become hugely popular and generates widespread media attention, reaching a national and international audience of well over 100 million. Research for this edition of the study was conducted in collaboration with the Center for Public Policy and Social Research at CCSU. The complete study is available at [www.ccsu.edu/AMLC2013](http://www.ccsu.edu/AMLC2013).

— Janice Palmer

## ANTHONY & HELEN G. BICHUM ENGINEERING LABORATORY

The University dedicated the **Anthony and Helen G. Bichum Engineering Laboratory** in October. The building houses several labs, including energy, aerospace, and environmental and water resources labs. The Bichums endowed several scholarships at the University as well as donating funds for the new laboratory building. Present at the dedication were friends of the Bichums, **Paul Gianaris '70** and **Diane Abraham** along with honored guests Dean Emeritus of the School of Engineering and Technology **Zdzislaw Kremens** and President Emeritus **Richard Judd**.



Unveiling a commemorative plaque for the Anthony and Helen G. Bichum Engineering Laboratory building. Left to right, **Gianaris, Kremens, Abraham,** and Dean of the School of Engineering & Technology **Faris Malhas**.



SCHOOL OF  
**GRADUATE**  
STUDIES

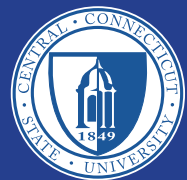
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# HAPPENINGS



The Department of Educational Leadership & Instructional Technology held its annual **Networking Reception** in March to recognize the accomplishments of students, alumni, and faculty and celebrate individual and collective successes and to extend the University's engagement with the school leadership community in Connecticut. Pictured are the evening's special awardees: back row: (l-r) Professor of Educational Leadership **Olusegun Sogunro**; **Paul G. Cavaliere Jr.**, Principal, Sage Park Middle School; Dean, School of Education & Professional Studies **Michael Alfano**; **Judian Wright**, Principal SouthEast College, Jamaica, 2013 Jamaica National Community Education Award.

Front row: (l-r) Professor of Educational Leadership Emeritus **Dr. Carol Carter-Lowery**; **Emily Wright**, 2013 CREC Teacher of the Year; **Maren Sussman**, Math Specialist, New Canaan Public Schools, 2013 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics & Science Teaching; Associate Professor of Educational Leadership **Ellen Retelle**




Nationally acclaimed author and CCSU alum **William J. Mann '84**, spoke at CCSU earlier this year about "Writing Hollywood," elaborating on his books about Katherine Hepburn, Elizabeth Taylor, John Schlesinger, and, most recently, Barbara Streisand. Look for a profile of Mann in the next *Central Focus*.



**Class of 1963 Celebrates 50th Reunion.** Sharing memories of good times and friendships are (l-r) **Marion (Tracy) Deschaine**, **Dolores (Pomponio) Hession**, and **Carmela (Matarazzo) Balducci**.

**SAVE THE DATE: HOMECOMING 2014: OCTOBER 9-11**



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## 1953

**Vincent M. Perrone** is 'semi-retired.' "I closed my office and ceased office practice of surgery in December 2012. I resigned major surgical privileges in January of 2013."

## 1956

**Don Deneen** was among a group of attorneys honored at the 2012 Connecticut Bar Association's annual meeting for having been a member of the bar for 50 years.

**Anita (Hakkila) Smiley**, after retiring from 40 years in business education at Norwich Free Academy and Three Rivers Community-Technical College in Norwich, has immersed herself in volunteerism related to her Finnish heritage. On a national level, Anita is serving her fourth year as national president of the Finlandia Foundation National (FFN), having previously served eight years as secretary. FFN is comprised of 45 chapters and over 7,000 members and is the most important source of support for Finnish and Finnish-American culture in the USA. Having traveled extensively in Finland, Anita now organizes unique tours to Finland, with plans for her 19th tour underway. She has been actively involved with the Finnish American Heritage Society in Canterbury for 25 years, including three years as president. A hobby of organizing tours to other areas of the world has taken Anita and her husband Jack to many exciting places.

## 1963

**Kathy (Martin) Kurzatkowski**, a lecturer in developmental studies – English, is an adjunct professor at Housatonic Community College in Bridgeport.

## 1965

**Patricia (Tytor) Hahn** is a secretary in admissions at Iowa State University in Ames, IA.

## 1970

**Douglas R. Beach** is a circuit court judge in St. Louis, MO. **Lanny M. Gaynor** is "Living on a desert island in the Caribbean and loving it!"

## 1971

**Candace (Catlin) Hall** retired from the State of Connecticut as a librarian several years ago. She then earned a certificate in therapeutic recreation from Manchester Community College and works at a local health and rehab facility. She is back at CCSU in the public history graduate program. **Bob Peck** is self-employed as a cabinet maker in Dover, NH.

## 1972

**Ann (Humphrey) Malafrente**, retired unified sports director of the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) and former principal of Emmett O'Brien Technical School (1985 - 1995) in Ansonia, was recently inducted into the New Agenda Northeast Women's Hall of Fame for her efforts in promoting girls and women in sports. **David Manso** retired in 2012 from Rogers Corporation's Laurie R&D Center after 34 years as a metallographer/microscopist.

## 1973

The **Nancy Larson** Foundation has awarded six \$1,000 scholarships to college students across the country in recognition of their outstanding academic records and community service.

## 1974

**Dennis McCabe** is vice president of human resources for the North American Public Sector at CSC (Computer Sciences Corporation) in Falls Church, VA.

## 1975

**Richard C. Cadran** is a retired Massachusetts state police sergeant with 30 years of service. His wife, Debi (**Deborah Ormond Cadran '78**) is a retired RN, and they have two adult children, Kathryn and Mark. "Wife and I spend retirement time in Daytona/Ormond Beach, FL. Our interests include motorcycle riding and touring in Florida and the New England states. I'm an active member of the Fraternal Order of ELKS, Greenfield, MA Lodge 1296."

## 1976

**Michael L. Bogdanski** is the owner of Life Skills in Putnam. "Mike is a professional speaker and anti-bully activist."

## 1977

**Keith A. Coote** is a mental health worker at St. Vincent's Medical Center Department of Psychiatry/Behavioral Health Unit-Emergency Department in Bridgeport. **Sally Ann Tanasi** retired from teaching special education for 34 years in Enfield in June of 2011. "In March of 2013 I received the Archbishop's St Joseph medal for extraordinary work in my parish of Blessed Sacrament Church in East Hartford, CT. I am active in my parish and serve on the Parish Council, am a Eucharistic Minister and Lector. I serve on a Winter Games Committee for Floor Hockey for Special Olympics Connecticut. I have done international translating for two World Games for Special Olympics and the Tall Ships. I enjoy international travel as well as camping."

## 1978

**Edward F. Burke** is the principal of Short Beach Business Services LLC in Branford, a provider of part time CFO and controller services to small and medium sized businesses. **Paul Hensler** was a speaker at the 25th annual Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and American Culture held at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY, in May 2013. **Gery Mayes** is director of application development at Marriott Vacations Worldwide Corporation in Lakeland, FL.

## 1980

**John S. Harman** retired from the exhibit department at the Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk. **Stephen P. Milas** is a senior buyer at Canberra Industries Inc. in Meriden. **Christopher J. Tracey** retired from the East Hampton, NY, School District as principal of the John M. Marshall Elementary School in January 2012 after a 31-year career which included physical education teacher grades K-12, varsity soccer, basketball and baseball coach K-8, assistant principal-director

of health, physical education and athletics, middle school assistant principal and high school principal." Tracey is currently residing in Mount Pleasant, SC.

## 1981

**Bob D. Traverso** is the marketing manager at Jukonski Truck Sales in Middletown. "Married to the most wonderful woman named **Donna (Bozadjian Traverso '92)** who also went to CCSU, and adopted 3 great kids – Jeremy, Melina and Grace. They are my world. Aside from my full-time job, I work as a marketing consultant for various small companies in Connecticut and Massachusetts."

## 1983

**Andreas Diakidis** is the director of engineering and transportation in Karpathos, Greece. He is also the owner and director of Zephyros Village & Garden Villa Hotel Apartments in Karpathos, Greece. **Christine Festa** has been appointed assistant controller at Quinnipiac



University. Prior to joining Quinnipiac, Festa was the business manager at Hamden Hall Country Day School where she served as the school's

chief financial officer for eight years. **David S. Perlmutter** is a major gift officer for the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences at the University of Massachusetts – Amherst.

## 1984

**Laurie (Santini) McCarthy** is associate director and manager of revenue operations at Boehringer Ingelheim in Ridgefield.

## 1985

**Joan Conning Afman** has published her fourth book, a novel set in her hometown of Pittsfield, MA. *Kingsley Woods* is available now in digital form on amazon.com, and will be available print-on-demand in several months, when it may be ordered from Amazon or Barnes & Noble. **Carmine Aquino**, a per-

sonal financial representative, is the owner of Carmine Aquino Allstate Insurance Agency in Stamford. **Ben Fricks Jr.** is an administrative assistant with Premier Subaru in Branford. He recently moved to East Haven where he shares a home with his partner. **Cynthia R. Hodsdon** is a product owner and consultant at TyMetrix Inc. in Hartford. **Norm Ostasiewski** is an application development manager at Aetna in Hartford.

## 1986

**Donald M. Casey Jr.** was selected by *Packer Report Magazine* as Fantastic Fan of the Month for December 2013. Casey was selected for this recognition by developing a flag football program at Stepney Elementary School in Monroe as part of an award-winning Fit Kids program to promote a healthy lifestyle for students.

**Lisa Hurley**, a financial advisor at Loomer & Associates, a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial in East Hartford, has achieved the certified financial planner certification. **Michael J. O'Sullivan Jr.** is assistant director, Appellate Division, at the State of Connecticut Department of Revenue Services.



## 1989

**Eugenia Hatziagelides** is a school counselor at the Moraitis School in Psihico, Greece. **Michael T. Picard** is the chief financial officer at New England Air Systems in Williston, VT. **Judy (Sbona) Squadrito** is the founder and managing partner of Channel Consulting Group LLC in Portland. **Terri Lee (Whitney) Switzer** is working as an independent contractor in merchandising. "I have two children, a son Evan Brust '19 and a daughter Hannah Brust '14. I relocated to Virginia 7 1/2 years ago when I met my current husband."

## 1990

**Jeffrey W. Focht** is vice president for academic affairs at Northampton Community College in Bethlehem, PA.

## 1991

**Michael J. Coppola** is the product development project manager for Geneva Watch Group in New York, NY.

## 1992

**John Iovine** is the product marketing manager at Cisco Data Center Products in Merrimack, NH. TD Bank has promoted **Caroline H. Jones** to account manager in government banking in the Glastonbury office. Jones has 20 years of banking experience, at TD Bank as well as Citizens Bank in Middletown. **Nelson Pomeroy** is director of wealth management information technology shared applications at The Hartford in Windsor.

## 1993

**Dale DeMille** is the director of the licensed practical nurse program at Stone Academy in East Hartford.

## 1994

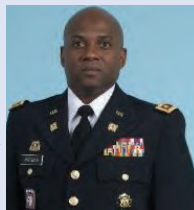
**Jeffrey M. Cretella** resigned from C&D Technologies in July of 2013 "...and I am now employed with Interstate Battery as the National Account Manager for their PowerCare Division based in Dallas, TX. PowerCare is dedicated to the mission critical data center market, servicing customers with critical power needs."

## 1995

**Paul E. Kleinkauf, Jr.** is Regional Director at the Merrill Corporation - Southeast in Atlanta, GA. **Shirley Taylor** is vice president of research and development and engineering and quality control at Standard Manufacturing Company Inc. in Bay Minette, AL.

## 1996

**Henry C. Andrews Jr.** was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel dur-



ing a ceremony at the Pentagon Conference Center in Washington, DC on May 3, 2013. Andrews serves as the acquisition, ordinance, transportation, logistics, joint staff, and defense agencies personnel system staff officer (PERSSO) for the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel at the U. S. Army.

## 1997

**Virginia (Marques) Doxsey** is coordinator of student activities and community service at the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford. **Christopher K. Mays** is associate director at the Office of Executive Programs in the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland in College Park, MD.

## 1998

**Carol (Anilowski) Cain** is an assistant professor of financial accounting courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels in the School of Business at Wake Forest University in Winston Salem, NC.

## 1999

**Noel A. Beaver** is a quality manager at AAR Composites in Clearwater, FL. **Chris Gallagher** finished work, as technical director at Walt Disney Animation Studios, on *Frozen* which opened in November 2013, and started work on *Zootopia* which will be released in the spring of 2016. **Juan Fernando Hoyos** is an adviser in export value chain for the International Trade Centre in Geneva, Switzerland.



## 2002

**Joseph K. Rasamny** is the lead systems architect at Western Union Business Solutions in Washington, DC.

## 2003

**Leanna Phan** is a senior business analyst for student financial services at Temple University in



Philadelphia, PA. **Jason Smith** is regional vice president at InSource, Inc. annuity and life insurance in Indianapolis, IN.

## 2004

**Susan Wichrowski** is executive operations manager at Prepare to Act LLC in Watertown.

## 2005

**Raquib Choudhury** is an information technology business development manager at Vantis Life Insurance Company in Windsor. **Charles Kirk** is eCommerce manager at Prudential Financial in Shelton. **Melissa McCue** is the national accounts senior account manager at Aetna in Norwalk. **Nicholas Palko** is an outside sales representative at United Rentals Power & HVAC in West Haven. **Bethany (Wendtland) Schmidt** is a special education teacher at Windsor Public Schools.

## 2006

**Doug Bottaro** has joined Barnum Financial Group in Glastonbury, an office of MetLife, as a financial advisor. **Peter Kisela** is an officer in the West Hartford Police Department. "My daughter, Autumn Grace, is turning 1 year old!" **Kristin Kropp** is a field producer for NBC Universal at NBCUniversal, Inc. Kropp won an Emmy Award in April 2013 for her contribution as segment producer and camera operator for the NBC show *George to the Rescue*. **Tina M. (Jock) Muzzy** is an intellectual property compliance associate at Yale University's Office of Cooperative Research in New Haven. **Michelle (Gillim) Thomas**, who retired from the Air Force, Air National Guard, at the rank of master sergeant in December of 2010 with 21 years of honorable service, is an art instructor and consultant at the Montessori School of Greater Hartford in West Hartford.

**2007**

**Brian V. Altieri** graduated from Quinnipiac University School of Law, cum laude, and also received honors in his concentration, Civil Advocacy and Dispute Resolution. Altieri has joined the law offices of Balzano & Tropiano, PC, in New Haven as an associate attorney. **Ian J. MacDonald** is an IT project manager at Stanley Black and Decker in New Britain.



**2008**

**Michael Grabowski** is a senior project manager at Allied World Assurance in Farmington. **Justin Haberern** is a financial planning and analysis analyst at Ensign Bickford Aerospace and Defense in Simsbury. **Joseph Sinkiewicz** is a software engineer at Guilford Specialty Group in Hartford. **Brian Spyros** is a correspondent, co-host, and fill-in anchor reporter at WBOC-TV in Delaware and Maryland.



**Mary (Guidone) Weil** is a lecturer at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, SC.

**2009**

**Brenton J. Costa** moved to California and is writing scores for the film, TV and game industries. Costa is currently working on an exciting new project, writing the music for an upcoming major video game called *Terra Ex*, a space exploration and combat game with a unique educational twist. **Alice Lee**, assistant women's lacrosse coach at Amherst College, is currently enrolled in UMASS Amherst's masters in sport management program '15. **Jessica M. Nicolas** is a contract specialist at Otis Elevator Company. **Randi (Laco) Plake** is a communications specialist and program assistant in the marketing department at Middlesex Community College in Middletown.

**2010**

**Caitlin F. Daly** is an inventory accountant for Keeney Manufacturing in Newington. **Fahd Rafiq** is a PhD candidate in the Department of Political Science at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. **Gail Tomala** is a self-employed marriage and family therapist in West Hartford. "I also provide interactive workshops for educators about shifting perspectives and creating positive change in school climates." **Inez Vera** is an advising and career specialist at Central Connecticut State University.

**2011**

**Audrey Cox** is a senior pricing analyst at Nationwide Insurance in Columbus, OH.

**2012**

**Alex B. Googe** is a certified peer support specialist in substance use disorders for the Department of Veterans Affairs at Northampton Veterans Hospital in Leeds, MA.

**2013**



**Kaitlin Goslee** joined WWLP 22 News, an NBC-affiliate, covering stories in Western Massachusetts.

**Olivia Higgins** is a leadership development and training coordinator at Rexel Holdings USA in Shelton. The Pita Group, an integrated marketing agency in Rocky Hill, recently welcomed new team member **Stephanie Hughes** as account coordinator.

**Class Notes and Other Alumni Information: Please send information for Class Notes, Marriages & Births, and In Memoriam to: [ClassNotes@ccsu.edu](mailto:ClassNotes@ccsu.edu) or Class Notes, Office of Marketing & Communications, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT, 06050-4010.**

**Marriages**

**Elia V. Acosta 1994, MS '97** and Tommy Smalls 6/16/2012

**Ginette T. Templeton 1997** and Rudolf H. Kempf 8/4/2012

Maren E. Garval and **Nicholas H. Odell 2003** 5/3/2013

**Colleen A. Downey 2004** and **Justin G. Haberern 2008** 6/29/2012

**Courtney E. Linder 2004** and Matthew S. Freiman 7/28/2013

**Heather A. Plenzio 2006** and Brian M. Dierberger 3/30/2013

Cera Megan Dominello and **Brian P. Spyros 2008** 9/28/2012

**Ashley M. Reverendo 2011** and **Eric D. Benner 2009** 11/12/2013

**New Arrivals Birth/Adoptions**

**Tina M. (Jock) Muzzy '06** and Robert C. Muzzy: a son, William Robert 1/23/2012

**Melissa J. (Damiata) Chilberg '03** and Adam Chilberg: a daughter, Linnea Grace 7/8/2012

**In Memoriam**

**1920**  
**Ruth Henry Babcock** 2/28/99

**1923**  
**Florence Cloutier Eisele** 1/12/03

**1929**  
**Edna Larson Carroll** 12/23/12

**1930**  
**Arline Wilkie Kenyon** 11/14/03

**Mary Walsh Ryter** 2/8/13

**Helen Erikson Varsell** 2/16/01

**1931**  
**Katherine Grabowski Godlewski** 8/27/09

**Helen Tibbals Way** 1/21/08

**1933**  
**Doris Reynolds Jewett** 12/10/13

**1934**  
**Florence DelVecchio Massey** 1/20/13

**1935**  
**Eleanor Murray Antan** 11/11/13

**Rosalyn Hersh Katz** 12/11/05

**1936**  
**Durward H. Grafe** 9/12/04

**Loretta Schultz** 11/7/08

**1937**  
**Katharine Shelton Curtis** 3/1/07

**Anna Kolesar Estona** 12/21/03

**Eva Kleman** 5/24/10

**Virginia Ogren Kwantz** 1/19/04

**Hazel Nolan Robinson** 5/6/13

**1938**  
**Ruth Daven Wattenberg** 11/7/12

**1939**  
**Margaret Loehner Arnold** 10/12/04

**Florence Gerstein Pinsky** 4/1/10

**Miriam Sudarsky Rudy** 10/4/13

**Eunice Minor Sweeton** 10/20/13

**1940**  
**Regina P. Adajian** 11/16/13

**A. Winthrop Ballard** 1/23/07

**Henrietta Elkins Gitlin** 1/21/13

**Dorothy Parker Lee** 1/29/13

**1941**  
**Florence Statchen Dorsey** 6/19/13

**Dorothy Herlihy Doyle** 1/10/03

**Barbara Fenn Hinckley** 2/12/13

**1942**  
**Lillian Kelevin Semolic** 2/14/13

**1943**  
**Gladys Thompson August** 5/14/13

**Martha Vorwerk Brazis** 1/15/13

**Arline Kagan Himmelstein** 10/6/13

**Edith Intravaia LaPaugh** 7/7/13

**Frances Scapellati Murphy** 8/26/13

**Bessie Backus Nichols** 12/25/12

Helen Gondek Ogorzalek 4/4/13  
 Italia Verdile Pirro 5/9/10

**1945**  
 Barbara Shurberg Bosco 2/23/13

**1946**  
 Gloria Picone Bryan 9/30/10

**1947**  
 Leonard Cohn 6/26/13  
 William C. Lichtenfels 1/10/13

**1948**  
 Irene L. Buden 8/26/13  
 Carolyn Klingberg Lounsbury 6/25/13  
 Gloria Fiorillo Wilchynski 3/26/13

**1949**  
 Sarah F. Kotok 6/10/04  
 Alfred R. Schofield 7/27/07  
 Frank E. Shoby 11/24/05

**1950**  
 John Bryan 9/17/08  
 Graham R. Chase 8/29/13  
 Robert A. Costin 1/14/13  
 Eleanore Wesche Deters 5/30/13  
 Henry Jazwinski 3/21/13  
 Lorraine B. Lemire 12/5/13  
 Michael E. Marseglia 1/11/11  
 Elizabeth Young Miller 6/14/13  
 Thomas F. Reardon 7/19/13  
 Leonard A. Rich 9/12/07  
 Edward M. Rosmarin 9/30/13  
 Walter Roth 6/29/13  
 Robert G. Ryan 12/26/11  
 Peter A. Velidow 4/10/10

**1951**  
 Livingston V. Crowell 2/4/14  
 Irving M. Kravsow 10/4/13  
 Frances Ustilla Mayhew 7/29/13  
 William L. Perry 9/9/13  
 Stanley J. Stowe 1/30/13

**1952**  
 Jean-Paul Berard 1/6/14  
 Leo Domijan 7/7/13  
 Donato L. Gonillo 4/20/13  
 Marjorie Lanza 12/2/13

Joseph J. Lipka 6/3/13  
 Janine Routhier Rugens 7/22/13

**1953**  
 Frances Diotalevi Bourque 8/24/13  
 Adelord J. Cantin 4/27/97  
 Anthony Constantine 2/8/13  
 Thomas Dickson 8/25/13  
 Rosann Decroce Fitzpatrick 7/1/13  
 Doris Kiriluk Rayder 9/26/13  
 Irene Miller Struble 12/23/07

**1954**  
 Frank E. Elliott 4/28/13  
 Carl J. Otfinoski 1/5/13  
 Catherine Godzyk Schmitt 5/12/12

**1955**  
 Richard P. Fitzpatrick 8/30/13  
 Donald J. Luke 1/18/14  
 William R. Papallo 4/12/13

**1956**  
 Claudia Garafano Allen 6/3/09  
 Sheila Kirby 5/9/13  
 Marilyn Randall Leveque 10/3/06  
 Gerda Lex Syversen 10/9/11  
 Janet Pestillo Viselle 10/6/11

**1957**  
 Leo E. Arsenault 3/8/08  
 Thomas F. Cosgrove 5/27/07  
 Dino Lorli 4/25/13  
 Patricia Garber Somers 3/13/12

**1958**  
 Estelle Parkos Antonio 12/6/13  
 John R. Elden 3/2/13  
 J. George Jalbert 5/24/12

Arthur W. Jones 12/14/13  
 Edmund L. Perzanoski 9/16/04

**1959**  
 Alfred A. Lorenzetti 8/22/13  
 Edward W. Stankiewicz 1/14/13

**1960**  
 Frank P. Budaj 4/7/13  
 John J. Deady 12/4/11

Robert T. Statchen 2/21/13  
**1961**  
 Paul P. Domin 2/4/14  
 Paul M. Gregerick 7/14/13  
 Helena Platkin Kavalier 1/3/09

**1962**  
 Thomas P. Bojko 5/28/13  
 Helene I. Collins 4/23/13  
 Carolyn Rypysc DeThomas 4/11/13  
 John C. Skubel 8/17/13

**1963**  
 Edna D. Bailey 11/26/12  
 Elwyn N. Kernstock 12/9/12  
 Joseph J. Zablocki 12/25/12

**1964**  
 Marilyn Veneziano Feldman 10/12/12  
 Marilyn A. O'Brien 1/27/13

**1965**  
 Lee Cottone Caputo 1/29/13  
 Pamela Lord Hart 6/16/10  
 Joseph J. Jankot 10/23/06  
 Wilfred J. Reil 12/23/13  
 Nancy L. Rouillier 9/26/10

**1966**  
 Wealtha Baker Bardosy 9/21/03  
 Charles N. Bonadies 11/28/13  
 Peter A. Bonee 10/13/08  
 Joan Pelletier Jarosz 11/20/13  
 Elaine White Johnson 12/11/13  
 Marco S. Savona 4/3/12  
 Jerine Swanson-Jacob 12/24/12  
 Madeline Viens 12/30/98  
 Kathleen Parodi Willinsky 11/27/13

**1967**  
 David S. Baily 5/10/13  
 Linda Freese Braun 3/9/13  
 Janice Coe Desautels 3/31/13  
 Geraldine Gaudiosi Kishonis 3/1/13  
 Carol Graybill Lewis 4/2/13  
 Ann M. Mestuzzi 10/6/10  
 John J. Salerno 1/21/14

**1968**  
 Ann B. Harris 6/12/13  
 Thomas V. Hennessey 6/11/05  
 Janet C. Jaeger 10/23/10  
 Raymond S. Judd 8/26/13  
 Marlene Rossi Latimer 10/17/13  
 Janet Goddard McKeon 3/5/97  
 Janet Klinzmann O'Keefe 11/16/13  
 Catherine Daniel Saliske 2/9/14  
 Judith Coughlin Varley 1/5/14  
 Richard H. Watterworth 1/18/13

**1969**  
 Grace Russell Adamowicz 7/29/09  
 Joan DeCicco Beckwith 11/24/05  
 John T. Berggren 8/3/13  
 Edward A. DeLeon 2/3/09  
 Susanne Shinaly Fracasso 10/25/13

Stephen J. Gerent 4/11/06  
 Michael F. Goggin 2/2/13  
 Michael A. Grisko 10/3/03  
 Alfred D. Larson 2/16/13  
 Mary Lee McKee 12/10/13  
 John S. Saranotski 11/16/05  
 Freda Watkins Savio 4/17/13  
 Patricia Pikiell Sobota 6/26/05  
 Hope R. Tonkonow 1/21/07  
 William G. Turner 10/12/12  
 Jeffrey A. Walden 1/19/14  
 Eric J. Wiener 7/9/11  
 Diane C. Woodford 3/6/13

**1970**  
 Victoria Malinowski Caron 5/4/10  
 Myrna Dubbrin 9/10/04  
 Jack G. Hoxie 7/15/95  
 Laurence W. Maybin 8/1/11  
 Ronald A. Osborne 1/23/13  
 Helena Jenks Rafferty 1/28/13  
 Elizabeth Annunziata Riley 12/17/12

**1971**  
 Frederick G. Berckmann 5/10/13  
 Wanda Stolarun Dabrowski 2/28/13

Carolyn Hance Groff 10/27/13  
 Thomas P. Kirkwood 3/26/12  
 J. Allen Lamb 10/18/13  
 James L. Masters 10/28/13  
 James C. Miczak 2/10/13  
 Edward S. Przytulski 2/26/07  
 Francis J. Reilly 6/14/13  
 Jane Boratko Sabatelli 11/26/13  
 Mary Fitzgerald Shea 12/19/11  
 Francis Slavinski 8/30/12  
 Hattie Taylor 10/3/02

**1972**  
 Sue D. Accuosti 2/1/13  
 John E. Andrews 11/18/12  
 Marie D. Beauregard 6/22/13  
 Rene Blanchette 5/8/13  
 Theresa Concatelli 5/14/13  
 Mary Kehr Donovan 9/13/12  
 James L. Fagan 10/9/07  
 Paul J. Fazzino 6/22/08  
 William J. Harrington 12/23/03  
 Donald C. Lacourse 8/16/13  
 Beverly A. Manning 8/8/13  
 Donald M. Morrissey 10/25/11  
 Janet T. Poitras 4/21/13

**1973**  
 Anna Johnson Adshade 7/18/08  
 Barbara A. Anderson 1/1/13  
 Geraldine McDermott Armstrong 1/25/13  
 Nancy T. Baba 2/24/13  
 Paul L. Bernier 2/11/13  
 Joline M. Breton 2/16/13  
 Barbara Buzinski Capitano 2/3/13  
 Gregory S. Choquette 8/21/13  
 Arlene Rutkowski Daigle 1/25/13  
 Christopher M. Deluca 11/17/92  
 Janet Rice Lee 5/21/08  
 William F. Morgan 5/16/13  
 Robert J. Pennell 2/19/11  
 Bruce P. Peterson 6/4/13  
 Michael R. Pohorylo 7/22/13  
 Kathy Joyce Robustelli 6/28/13  
 Irene Scanlon 6/4/11

Bruce A. Slauenwhite 11/16/13  
 Stan D. Slomcinsky 11/1/13  
 Francis Tamosunas 8/17/06

**1974**  
 Patricia Champion Balfe 4/29/13  
 Evelyn D. Bixler 3/16/13  
 Robert A. D'Errico 8/6/13  
 Henry C. Gift 3/20/13  
 Robert J. Harris 10/12/13  
 Mary Harris Hilli 2/26/13  
 Richard A. Klimoff 2/1/13  
 Thomas W. Terrenzi 4/2/09  
 James J. Vanasse 12/19/13  
 Kenneth R. Walker 6/29/12  
 Dora Cornell Wendrow 8/20/13

**1975**  
 Mary Zabilansky Balavender 5/24/93  
 Christine DiBenedetto Fazzina 11/29/13  
 Diane E. Olinatz 5/18/13  
 Brian M. Pillion 8/28/13  
 Helen Mazurkiewicz Winalski 1/10/13

**1976**  
 Patricia Dowling Barry 2/14/11  
 George R. Berube 10/20/13  
 Stephen J. Clubb 8/2/13  
 Roger A. Hocking 1/4/14  
 David F. Machell 2/6/14  
 Phyllis Dodge Meredith 1/17/13  
 Sara Goellner Reid 2/16/13  
 Thomas M. Sheridan 12/31/13  
 Edwin J. Zalewski 7/2/13

**1977**  
 Donamaria Ruocco Barrows 12/14/13  
 Joseph G. Borkowski 7/22/13  
 James J. Bougie 10/23/13  
 John D. Garasimowicz 6/13/09  
 Patricia J. Hurley 4/24/13  
 Carole Simmons Rubino 1/15/13  
 Joseph S. Santore 11/24/12

**1978**  
 Craig E. Anderson 7/23/13  
 Alfred V. Coleman 1/20/13  
 James A. Luther 1/17/06  
 Steven F. Petrowski 2/7/13  
 Jeffrey R. Pinyan 11/15/12  
 August A. Scappini 9/21/13  
 Catherine M. Sylvester 5/28/08

**1979**  
 Mary F. Johnson 5/25/13  
 James MacHardy 4/24/13

**1980**  
 Joanne Santoro Bartholomew 1/23/14  
 Alan R. Kirk 6/6/13

**1981**  
 Gail Weiss Byron 3/26/13  
 James J. Defato 11/17/08  
 Anthony F. Intino 10/30/09  
 Patricia Crawford Leslie 6/28/13  
 Daniel J. Mancuso 6/6/13  
 George Tirado 1/25/13

**1982**  
 Elizabeth F. Johnson 8/14/13  
 Jamys E. Moriarty 6/16/13  
 Susan Pierce Parker 11/17/13  
 Sophie Trent Stevens 10/8/11

**1983**  
 George A. Edwards 5/22/13  
 Faith V. Emond 12/9/09  
 Michael R. Jancin 11/21/03  
 Annie Krugman Rosen 3/16/03  
 Beverly C. Wagner 12/26/13

**1984**  
 Mary Scanlin Bouton 4/14/13  
 Linda Perretta Fiori 11/7/12  
 Joan F. Hall 8/16/07  
 Suzanne Albrecht Juros 9/6/08  
 John F. Klingler 7/31/12  
 Debra A. McQueen 6/10/13  
 Mary S. Russell 1/6/13  
 Joan B. Shea 10/26/13  
 Brenda Cole Thorington 1/2/13

**1986**  
 Janet Hyde Donovan 10/5/13  
 Frederick J. Morton 9/11/13

**1987**  
 Anne M. Melly 4/26/13  
 John F. Pillis 11/29/13

**1988**  
 Gregory E. Polanski 1/28/14

**1989**  
 TeddiAnne Lewandoski 7/17/10

**1990**  
 Martin P. Czepiel 2/5/13  
 Naaman E. Green 11/1/13  
 Deborah T. Mehr 9/12/09  
 Ralph E. Noonan 2/12/11  
 Patricia H. Peters 6/5/13  
 Bruce E. Root 3/1/10

**1991**  
 Francis R. Burke 9/25/11  
 Deborah J. Kahl 9/8/94  
 Brian H. Sisk 7/27/13

**1992**  
 Gregory S. Boryslawskyj 1/1/13  
 William A. Dossias 7/4/13  
 Timothy D. Lewis 3/20/13

**1993**  
 John F. Keane 5/22/07

**1994**  
 George J. Smoliga 1/21/14

**1995**  
 Cecile G. Alix 11/10/13  
 Mary J. Shannon 5/13/13  
 Michael N. Truhan 12/31/13

**1996**  
 Susan M. Spadjinske 12/5/13

**1997**  
 Kathy Bidwell Athorne 10/6/13

**1998**  
 Elizabeth Matyola Lanza 11/4/13

**2000**  
 Barton S. Fisher 1/25/13  
 Debra Gattinella Kurys 10/16/13

**2001**

Jill L. Shackett 8/6/13

---

James F. Shay 10/22/07

---

Marion D. Sponzo 11/28/13

---

**2002**

Marie D. Cesaro 4/14/13

---

**2003**

Carolyn P. Benvenuti 6/3/12

---

**2004**

John E. Zeugner 9/17/13

---

**2005**

Jamie K. Gerardi 9/21/13

---

Natasha M. Spyke 1/19/14

---

**2007**

Theresa M. Jones 8/20/13

---

Gregory J. Schena 5/12/10

---

**2008**

William A. Smith 1/10/13

---

**2009**

Timothy R. Hine 4/7/13

---

Lindsey N. Pepin 10/19/13

---

**2010**

Jonathan F. Boros 4/3/13

---

Leslie A. Noury 12/9/13

---

**2011**

Earnest Baldwin 8/1/13

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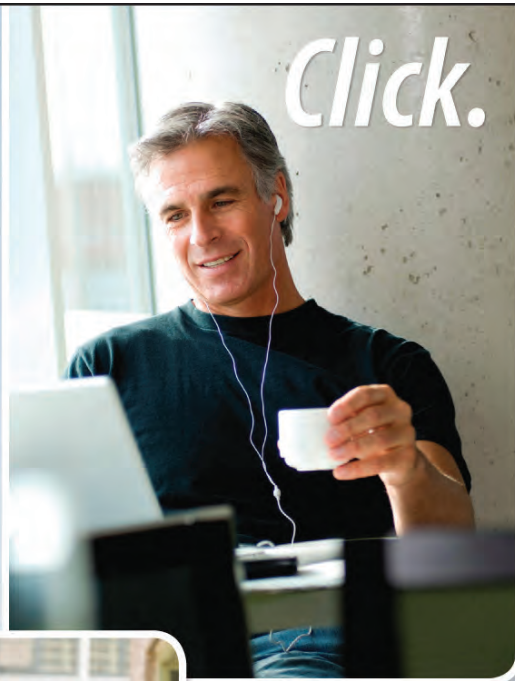
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