Congressman Larson’s Road to Washington

John Larson ’71
Congratulations to the men’s basketball team on its amazing championship season and trip to the NCAA Tournament! This year’s squad played with a certain heart and relentless determination that has made the entire CCSU community proud.

While we still bask in the glow of this feel-good story, it is just one of a myriad of faculty, student and alumni successes in which the University is taking great pride. A sampling of the intriguing work of Central faculty engaged in diverse fields of exciting research and publications bringing distinction to the University includes: the work of Dr. Sylvia Halkin, professor of biology and a specialist in animal behavior and ornithology, who has published a groundbreaking study on the behavior of squirrels; the writings of associate professor of history Dr. Matthew Warshauer ’90, whose recently published book on Andrew Jackson is the centerpiece of an article in the January 29, 2007 issue of The New Yorker (see inside); and a new book, America Beyond Black and White: How Immigrants and Fusions are Helping Us Overcome the Racial Divide from the University of Michigan Press, by Dr. Ronald Fernandez, professor of criminology and criminal justice, which provides a riveting discussion to add to the national dialogue on race.

Dedicated students who work for the annual phonathon informing alumni of the critical need for support are among our student champions. CCSU’s outstanding Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo both finished in second place at the prestigious Villanova Jazz Festival. Additionally, sophomore saxophonist Andrew Lefebvre won the Outstanding Soloist Award for the Big Band competition, while Dennis Alex, Alvaro Maldonado, Dana Russo, John Anderson and Weena Walton won the award for Best Trombone Section.

Alumni, too numerous to cite here, are yet another group of champions who continue to bring great distinction to the University. This cadre of achievers includes leaders in education, business, industry, the military and service professions. There is no question that alumni play a pivotal role in advancing the mission of CCSU in Connecticut, across the nation and around the world.

Dr. Jack Miller

President
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From Us to You  John Larson’s life has taken him from the neighborhoods of East Hartford to Capitol Hill, but some of his fondest memories are of his undergraduate days at Central. In this edition, we take a look at the prominent CCSU alumnus’ accomplished career and just how, 36 years removed from campus, he has emerged as one of Congress’ most influential Democrats.

Larson studied in the Department of History, which itself has evolved. We offer an overview of some of this dynamic department’s most noteworthy recent accomplishments. Also, you’ll enjoy the profile of Ebenezer Don Carlos Bassett, who used his State Normal School education to become the nation’s first African-American diplomat.

Nearly a century after Bassett’s graduation, Barbara and Bill Detrick attended the Teacher’s College of Connecticut. Both would become lifelong educators; Barbara as an elementary school teacher, Bill as the legendary coach of CCSU basketball. The Detricks talk of their love for all things Central in our donor profile on the back cover.

Go Blue Devils!

The Central Focus Editorial Staff
It sits just off Burnside Avenue in East Hartford, a drop kick from the venerable Marco Polo Restaurant, hard by “The Hock” (local-speak for Hockanum River) and up the street from the now-abandoned Molinski’s Garage. The Community Center still stands, as does Labor Field, the playground dedicated to the union laborers who called this village home and worked, in round-the-clock shifts, at the massive Pratt & Whitney plant off Main Street.

It is Mayberry Village, an unassuming community of 600 or so modest, weathered single- and multi-family homes that, like Pratt & Whitney and East Hartford itself, has experienced both prosperity and pain.

And it is the boyhood home of John Barry Larson ’71, son of Raymond and Pauline, Central alumnus — and Connecticut’s 1st district congressman, vice chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives’ Democratic Caucus and the House’s fifth-ranking Democrat behind Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.

How it is that this gregarious, self-described “chubby Irishman” — a former high school history teacher and insurance executive whose political career appeared derailed after a crushing 1994 Democratic gubernatorial primary loss — today stands as one of Washington’s rising House Democrats is a story inextricably tied to his East Hartford roots.

During a recent visit to campus, Congressman Larson debates economic theory in Vance Academic Center’s Financial Technology Room with Dr. John A. McDonald, associate professor of finance, and student Marcus Buffaloe.

**Andy, Opie – and the Larsons**

“We used to say there were two kinds of kids in East Hartford,” says Larson’s boyhood pal and later campaign organizer Craig Jordan. “Those who grew up in Mayberry Village and those who wished they did.”

To know Mayberry Village in the 1950s and ’60s is to know John Larson. Not to be confused with the fictional television nirvana of Andy and Opie, Mayberry Village was nonetheless a little slice of heaven for the families who grew up there back in the day. It was not unlike thousands of government-subsidized housing developments across the country in the wake of World War II;
victorious vets were coming home, and with them came the prospect of good jobs, economic prosperity – and the need to house the by-product of these glad tidings, America’s baby boomers.

“It was a wonderful place to grow up,” says the 58-year-old Larson, the oldest son in a large Irish-Catholic family of five boys and three girls. “We didn’t have much money, but we never lacked. My parents were of the Greatest Generation; they placed sacrifice and family above all else.

“The neighborhood was full of large families,” he continues. “We played in the streets all day, and if we weren’t doing that we were putting cement tubs on ‘The Hock’ and paddling around – against the will of our parents, of course.”

Making friends, influencing people and perfecting the fine art of compromise – particularly in a household with eight children and one bathroom, as Larson says, “the size of a pay telephone booth” – were skills Larson learned early in life. He would use these skills to become a star athlete and senior class president at East Hartford High School. Today, some of Larson’s closest friends and advisors remain people he played with in Mayberry Village.

“Guys from that neighborhood learned to survive,” says Bob Carlson ’70, who grew up with Larson and would become his roommate at Central. “John has the strongest people skills of anyone I’ve ever known. He just knows how to treat people, respect them and listen to them.”

Central Days

Carlson remembers when Larson, a year younger, joined him at then-CCSC in 1968. They shared an off-campus apartment on Allen Street and became members of the athletic fraternity Omega Kappa Delta. Carlson, a biology major, would go on to a 35-year teaching career.

When John Larson studied Jacksonian democracy at CCSU under the tutelage of Dr. Peter Tolis, he no doubt learned a historical lesson in Manifest Destiny. As though realizing a manifest destiny all its own, Central’s Department of History and faculty are earning notice thanks to a variety of diverse initiatives.

A $1 million U.S. Department of Education grant – secured in part with assistance from Congressman Larson – has made possible a groundbreaking teaching partnership with six local school districts, the state’s technical high schools and the Connecticut State Library. HISTORY is CENTRAL aims to raise student achievement in U.S. history by connecting participating teachers to the best in history scholarship, local historical resources and an ongoing network of colleagues. Dr. John Day Tully MA ’95, assistant professor, is academic director of this enterprising project.

Another CCSU history professor, Dr. Matthew Warshauer ’90, was recently featured prominently in The New Yorker magazine. In a feature story examining the lessons and legacy of Andrew Jackson’s use of martial law during the Battle of New Orleans, Warshauer’s 2006 book Andrew Jackson and the Politics of Martial Law (University of Tennessee Press) is cited as “lucid and well-researched.” Warshauer’s book engages the age-old controversy over if, when and who should be able to subvert the Constitution during times of national emergency.

Dr. Warshauer, not incidentally, is also the editor of Connecticut History, the state’s only professional journal devoted to the history of Connecticut. The journal is integral to the entire department, including the HISTORY is CENTRAL project.

Meanwhile, the Department of History’s new master’s degree program in public history is using the entire state of Connecticut as its “field lab” to prepare graduates for work as public historians, front-line interpreters who bring historical knowledge to a broad public audience through their work at museums, historical societies and the like. Dr. Briann Greenfield, associate professor, is coordinator of this innovative program.

For more information on all the happenings in CCSU’s dynamic Department of History, call (860) 832-2800 or visit www.history.ccsu.edu.
at Rockville High School, while Larson studied history. (Larson would eventually teach for about six years in Farmington and East Hartford before entering the insurance business and, later, politics.)

Having been the star quarterback in high school, Larson had designs on playing football for then-CCSC coach Bill Loika. “When John didn’t make the football team, it was a disappointment,” Carlson says. “It was a pivotal moment in his life.”

“I thought about transferring, but I had so many friends here,” says Larson. “My goal was to teach and coach. I was fortunate to have great professors like Dr. (Peter) Tolis ’54 and Dr. (William) Winter. I still have notebooks from Dr. Tolis’ class.

“I don’t think I could have met any more decent, fun, caring, good people than those I met at Central,” he continues. “People who went here came from blue-collar backgrounds. We had a lot of similar experiences; maybe we had to work a little harder. I’m proud to be a Central grad and very proud of the school’s growth and accomplishments.”

Dr. Tolis, retired and living in Old Saybrook, fondly recalls Larson.

“John was a very sincere, very bright student,” says Dr. Tolis. “He was a voracious reader, and wrote very well. We had a rapport between us.

“John always had what I call a very public personality,” he continues. “I can recall discussing John’s future with other professors and saying, ‘We are going to hear from John Larson.’”

A Public Life

Larson put his “public personality” to work in local East Hartford politics before being elected a state senator in 1982. He quickly – and surprisingly according to veteran State Capitol observers – rose through the ranks, achieving the position of President Pro Tempore of the State Senate in 1987 while only in his second term. Larson’s upset victory over then-Senate minority leader and odds-on favorite Cornelius O’Leary was a precursor to his unexpected rise in Washington 20 years later to the caucus’ vice chairmanship, a bruising, intra-party battle in which he began as a lightly regarded third candidate only to end up with the big prize.

“I never saw someone so determined and tireless,” says Joe Harper ’78, MS ’99, who chaired the General Assembly’s Appropriations Committee during Larson’s eight-year run as Senate president. “John was always the kind of guy who, if he didn’t endear himself to you the first time around, he kept coming back until he found a common thread that won you over.”

Between 1987 and 1994, the Central alumni troika of Larson (Senate president), Harper (Appropriations) and Bill DiBella ’67 (Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, Senate majority leader and a Larson fraternity brother at Central) wielded extraordinary power at the Capitol.

“We were respected and we were resented. But we got things done,” says Harper. “John provided leadership that was new to that institution. He was bold enough to say that we are not just going to react to what the governor wants. The whole paradigm changed under John.”

I don’t think I could have met any more decent, fun, caring, good people than those I met at Central.”

John Larson

While in the Senate, Larson authored the nation’s first family leave law. And he – and the troika – was instrumental in the legislature’s reworking of how the state funds the Connecticut State University system, of which Central is part.

“The CSU system had always been the stepchild of UConn,” says Larson. “We changed the formula by which these schools received...
funding. We wanted to make sure that CCSU got what it so richly deserved.”

Addrs Harper, “John and I are products of these schools. We are fervent believers in public higher education. The stage for UConn 2000 (the state’s major infrastructure funding initiative for UConn as well as CSU) was set with our move to increase funding for the state’s universities.”

“I think sometimes you have to lose to know how to win.”
John Larson

Washington Bound

Larson’s rise took a decided detour in the 1994 governor’s race. The Democratic front-runner, he dropped a bitter primary battle with Bill Curry that stunned his camp and placed his political career in limbo. He’ll be the first to say he looked too far ahead to the November election.

“I think sometimes you have to lose to know how to win,” he said afterward.

His youngest brother Tim, a former mayor of East Hartford, remembers the disappointment.

“He felt terribly about it,” says Tim Larson. “But it was good for him from the perspective of taking it on the chin, dusting yourself off, learning from your mistakes and getting back on the horse.”

That “horse” arrived in 1998, when 1st district Congresswoman Barbara Kennelly’s failed run for governor opened the door to her coveted House seat. In a political resurrection of historic proportion, Larson put to good use the lessons learned from his defeat four years prior; he won handily.

During his 10 years on Capitol Hill, Congressman Larson has found his stride. In addition to his plum Democratic Caucus assignment, he currently serves on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee.

Among his legislative initiatives, he has championed a decrease in dependence on foreign oil; the government’s negotiation of lower drug prices for the nation’s 40 million Medicare beneficiaries; and incentives for technology partnerships between community colleges and four-year institutions.

But it is the nation’s growing disenchantment with the war in Iraq, Larson’s fervent opposition to it and the nationwide Democratic victory last November that have helped raise his profile. He has spoken passionately on the House floor during Congress’ debate over the war, and on his home turf he has conducted a series of public forums on the war throughout the 1st district.

Larson today is one of Pelosi’s most trusted allies. The high-profile California Democrat has even been a guest at Larson’s infamous annual summer bocce tournament for friends, family and colleagues at his East Hartford home, which he shares with wife Leslie (Best) ’80, teenage daughters Carolyn and Laura, and son Raymond.

Dare it be asked if the House speakership might be in his future?

“How can you not have aspirations for Speaker of the House when you are fifth in line in your own party?” Larson asks rhetorically. “People even ask me if I’d like to run for governor again. Listen, these are jobs that anyone who likes to look at big issues and effect change would want.

“If you work hard, if you are diligent, if you have the enthusiasm, then opportunity will present itself,” he adds. “My mother said to me after I lost the governor’s race that when one door closes, another opens; that the hard work I did will serve me well in another capacity.”

Larson’s political rebirth is compelling evidence that his mother may have been on to something. Those days long ago on the streets of Mayberry Village have provided, perhaps, much more than nostalgia. The cement tubs on “The Hock” may be a distant memory, but John Larson’s political career remains buoyant, sailing forward to a port to be determined.
From Tikrit in northern Iraq, seven CCSU alumni salute the Blue Devils men’s basketball team. From left to right: CPT Derek Musgrave ’92, battalion S-2; CPT Steve Landry ’02, battalion senior battle captain; CPT David Nutt ’87, battalion chaplain; 1LT Regina Grant ’00, daytime battle captain; CPT Cory Olmstead ’93, battalion S-3; CPT Christian Gutierrez ’96, MS ’03 garrison liaison officer; and SPC Jason Cruz ’04, SPO transportation specialist.

I-r: Russ Marcotte ’62 and Peggy and Rick Lantz ’64 at 2007 Florida Reunion.

I-r: Maryalice (Ward) Sundberg ’55; Dave ’64 and Carmay (Santoro) Monti ’64; and Carol (Ward) ’64 and Bob Lanese at 2007 Florida Reunion.

Peg (O’Brien) Meotti ’50 and George Gustin ’50 at February 2007 Florida Reunion in Boca Raton.

Norm Feitelson ’51 and Lois Dwyer at 2007 Florida Reunion.

I-r: Al Pelligrinelli ’64, Gretchen (Anderson) ’64 and Nick DelRosso ’63 at 2007 Florida Reunion.

I-r: Joan and Mike Perrone ’59 were celebrating their 46th wedding anniversary the day of the 2007 February Reunion.
APPENINGSH

I-r: CCSU football coach Jeff McInerney, Ray and Janet (Sinkiewicz) Sola ’57 enjoy alumni networking happy hour in November, 2006 at Eli’s on Whitney in Hamden.

I-r: Judi (Proto) Starno ’71 and Helen (Jacobs) Morrissey ’74 at alumni networking happy hour at Eli’s on Whitney in Hamden.

Darren Sweeney ’98, WFSB Channel 3 weekend meteorologist and honorary co-chair of the CCSU Alumni Association Read Across America program, reads to 4th graders at Wolcott Elementary School in West Hartford.

Terri Savino ’96, dressed as Cat in the Hat, with son, Kyle, a 1st grader at the Kathleen Goodwin Elementary School in Old Saybrook, where Terri was a volunteer reader on Read Across America Day.

Donald M. Casey Jr. ’86, special education teacher, and 10 students at Stepney Elementary School in Monroe performed an original play entitled Dr. Seuss Characters Come Alive for the entire school population to celebrate Dr. Seuss’s 103rd birthday and promote the love of reading and learning.

CCSU president and honorary co-chair of the CCSU Alumni Association Read Across America program, Dr. Jack Miller, reads to students at Chamberlain Elementary School in New Britain.
Ebenezer Don Carlos Bassett

CCSU’s long and proud history is chock full of distinction. Over its 150-plus years, it has been home to distinguished scholars, visited by international luminaries and lauded for educational excellence. This tradition of distinction has its roots in the State Normal School’s earliest days.

Among those in the fourth graduating class of 1853 was one Ebenezer Don Carlos Bassett. Bassett’s graduation was noteworthy not only because of his academic achievement (he graduated with honors), but because he was the first graduate of African-American heritage in school history.

Appropriately, Bassett immediately became an educator. He was principal of Whitney Street School in New Haven (while continuing studies at Yale), and from 1857-69 — through the Civil War years — Bassett was principal of The Institute for Colored Youth in Philadelphia.

Bassett also played an important role in the emancipation movement. He was an active member of Connecticut’s Convention of Colored Men, and was a powerful voice in Connecticut’s movement to free black slaves.

In Philadelphia, Bassett befriended renowned abolitionist Frederick Douglass. It was Douglass’ recommendation that helped secure Bassett’s appointment in 1869 as the nation’s first minister to Haiti; he was, in fact, the country’s first African-American diplomat.

Wrote Douglass to Bassett upon his appointment: “Your appointment is a grand achievement for yourself and for our whole people. It forms an important point in the history of our progress and upward tendency.”

Bassett would serve in the post for eight years, and would later serve another nine years as American consul general for Haiti in New York. He passed away in his adopted hometown of Philadelphia in 1908.

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By mail — send check or money order in the envelope in the middle of Focus;

Phone — by VISA, MasterCard or Discover at (860) 832-1740.
Steve Addazio ’81

Blue Devil Pedigree on National Stage

Steve Addazio’s introduction to the world of college football happened on the CCSU campus; it was “love at first sight.” He attended many games as a child with his father, the late Dr. Louis Addazio, a popular history professor at Central and a Blue Devils fan. As a player he progressed from a stellar scholastic career at Farmington High School to become an outstanding CCSU lineman and brilliant student who won several awards before graduating in 1981.

Professionally Addazio has coached at almost every level, culminating in this past year’s national championship for the University of Florida, where he’s responsible for offensive linemen and tight ends under head coach Urban Meyer. He launched his career more than 20 years ago at Western Connecticut State University, later moving on to Cheshire High School (where he won three state Class L championships) and Syracuse University.

Addazio left Syracuse in 1999 for Notre Dame, where Meyer was also an assistant. Five years later when Meyer was named head coach at Florida, he wasted no time in calling on Addazio, who by that time had moved on to the offensive coordinator post at Indiana University; in a matter of days, the CCSU graduate was added to the Gators’ brain trust. The collaboration has resulted in a 22-4 record over two seasons and a national championship.

The “kid” from Farmington, who resides in Gainesville, Fla., with his wife Kathy (Donoghue) ’81 and three children, has become one of the most respected position coaches in the country. Will he stay at Florida? Will he take an assistant’s job in the NFL? Or might he become a collegiate head coach himself? Only Steve Addazio knows what play comes next, but with his track record of success, one thing’s for sure – it’s his call.

For Sagnelli, a Very Good Year

Any way you look at it, Linda Sagnelli had a great year.

CCSU’s volleyball coach saw her team finish the past season with a 19-10 record and reach the semifinals of the Northeast Conference tournament before bowing to Long Island University. Along the way, she was inducted into the C.W. Post Athletic Hall of Fame.

A three-time C.W. Post captain and MVP, Sagnelli helped her alma mater finish in the top 10 nationally as a senior. The 47-5 Pioneers also made their first NCAA volleyball tournament appearance.

In 21 seasons, including seven at Central, Sagnelli has 242 wins. She is the only 100-game winner in CCSU volleyball coaching history.
36 Ruth (Perkins) Gibson and her husband of 67 years, John, have been enjoying cruising all of their married life and have plans to cruise the Rhine River in May.

55 Robert F. Skinner, a recognized leader in the insurance industry, and Frances L. Mainella MS ’75 have been collaborating for years on a mutual passion — the preservation of natural areas and the establishment of parkland in Florida. Both have been committed environmentalists for more than 40 years and became allies and friends when Fran, former director of the National Park Service, served for 12 years as director of Florida’s Division of Recreation and Parks overseeing the management of 155 state parks from the Florida Keys to Pensacola Bay.

61 The United States Tennis Association has ranked Raymond A. Brodeur #7 in singles and #2 in doubles in the age 65 bracket for New England. Jeanette (Mitchell) Church is enjoying retirement after 40 years of teaching at Brookside Elementary School in Norwalk.

64 Diane (Zabicki) Crannis was a “stay-at-home” mom and active volunteer. An avid reader, knitter, skier and golfer, she enjoys “retirement” in the western mountains of Virginia, continues to volunteer, belongs to an investment club, and sees her college roommates at least once a year.

68 Richard C. Langer MS ’73 retired from Haddam-Killingworth High School after 38 years of teaching, but continues to coach the girl’s volleyball team.

69 Beth (Moreland) Ardaioilo MS ’75 retires in June after serving 19 years in the Prince William County, VA, school system as a teacher and reading specialist. She and husband, Jim ’70, will remain in Manassas, VA, where Jim owns a financial planning firm.

70 Patrick M. Clow is director of the Southfield Children’s Center, an inter-faith initiative by Newington churches and synagogues for pre-school education of children of all faiths, races and special needs from infant to kindergarten. Robert H. Hartley recently retired after 34 years of teaching Spanish and serving as head of the foreign language department at Seekonk High School in Seekonk, MA. Frank P. Nacci retired after teaching business education for 36 years.

71 Retired educator Margaret B. Morse (MS) has published her third book, A Matter of Perception Breaking Through.

72 Gary J. Blanchette MS ’75 is retiring after 35 years of teaching, and was re-elected to a fourth four-year term on the Ellington Board of Education.

73 Thomas F. Callinan, who was Connecticut’s first official state troubadour in 1991, released his 12th solo CD entitled Connecticut Sampler; 17 of the 20 songs on the album are Tom’s original compositions. Sharon (Golden) Katz is a project manager for UnitedHealth Group in Hartford.

Robert J. O’Connor, physical education teacher at West District Elementary School in Farmington for 28 years, was selected as Farmington’s Teacher of the Year. O’Connor’s teaching skills were recognized by his peers and he has been lauded in the community for promoting physical fitness and mentoring young athletes. Robert credits spouse, Christine (Kenyon) O’Connor ’72, MS ’80, who teaches physical education at Irving A. Robbins Middle School in Farmington, as his inspiration, saying she’s “an awesome teacher.” Sylvia (Andreasen) person is the director, and teaches, at Immanuel Lutheran School in Danbury.

74 Susan (O’Brien) Lebeck MS ’79 is chair of the social studies department and teaches American government, psychology and sociology for the Simi Valley Unified School District in Simi Valley, CA.

75 Alan D. Friedman joined Colliers Dow & Condon, commercial real estate consultants, as vice president of operations for the firm’s Hartford and New Haven offices, managing the strategic growth of the company and its business development and operations. John W. Kukulka is the director of housing development for New Neighborhoods Inc., a nonprofit bricks and mortar affordable housing developer dedicated to building and preserving rental and ownership housing in Stamford for growing families, graduates entering the workforce and retirees. CCSU Alumni Association secretary Fernando G. Rosa, as committee chair, delivered the welcoming message to the attendees of the Portuguese American Leadership Council of the United States annual gala in New York City on October 13. Fernando is deputy director of the Hartford Economic Development Corporation and a long-time activist in the Portuguese-American community.

David A. Scavotto is a principal in the Chicago, IL office of Tatum LLC, an executive services and consulting firm. He and his wife, Laurie, reside in Wheaton, IL.

76 Sharon J. Gemza is a project manager at IBM in Southbury. Michael R. Martin MS ’79 is a technology

Mary Loftus Levine accepted a position with the Connecticut Education Association in Hartford after representing Fairfield County CEA members for 18 years.

Marriages

Teresa Diaz-Faes & Brett M. Joly ’91 7/21/06
Jodi Kissinger & Ryan E. Carrigan ’98 10/7/06
Erin E. Naugle ’98 & Brian L. Scozzafava 6/30/06
Judy F. Wisniewsky ’00 & Andrew Foreman 10/8/06
Taryn N. Miller ’04 & Earl S. Grey III 9/26/06
Quinn E. Wazorko ’04 & Theodore Christopher 11/24/06
education instructor at George C. Marshall High School in Falls Church, VA. Jane McGill teaches AP economics and contemporary history at Key West High School in Key West, FL.

Joseph P. Wolnick is managing general partner and chief investment officer for Halcyon Asset Backed Advisors LP in New York City.

James R. Haslett is vice president of operations and partner for Perlmart ShopRite located in Toms River, NJ. Barbara L. Iversen is director of aquatics K-12 and women’s varsity basketball head coach for Stephen S. Wise Temple Schools in Los Angeles, CA.

Terrence M. Milka joined MassMutual’s broker/dealer, MML Investors Services Inc., as second vice president responsible for the investment products due diligence team.

Thomas F. Laske is director of distributor relations for Novartis Medical Nutrition. Mark A. Suprin is a professional development manager for Aetna in Middletown and is involved in Aetna’s information systems college recruiting programs.

Karen (Wunsch) Ferranti joined Prudential Connecticut Realty in Glastonbury as sales executive.

Cindy-Lee (Zaleski) Corriveau works in human services for the Connecticut Department of Mental Retardation, eastern region, and has authored an Images of America book about the history of Salem, CT. Christa A. Sterling was appointed program manager at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Hartford. Katherine (Pellerin) Sweetland MS ’91, a physical education teacher at Eric G. Norfeldt Elementary School in West Hartford, was chosen as the Elementary School Physical Education Teacher of the Year for 2006 by the Connecticut Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Jill Knight Weinberger MA ’87 discussed her new book, Vienna Voices: A Traveler Listens to the City of Dreams at CCSU’s Central Authors monthly series. Formerly associate professor of English teaching creative writing and American literature at CCSU, Dr. Weinberger retired in June, 2006.

Leigh M. Fitzgerald BS ’94 was promoted to senior account executive at Cronin and Company Inc. in Glastonbury. William G. Nemer is vice president of client services for Weichert Relocation Resources Inc. in Morris Plains, NJ. Leslie (Nowacki) Traver MSOM ’88, a teacher of business, computer science and civics at Lyme-Old Lyme High School in Old Lyme, was named the 2006 Connecticut Business Educator of the Year by the Connecticut Business Education Association.


Donna M. Fiedorowicz ’80, vice president of champions, tour business affairs, was promoted to senior vice president, tournament business affairs, the PGA Tour.

finance for the New Britain Museum of American Art. Lori (Toback) Lubetkin was named director of human resources for Arbors of Hop Brook, Manchester Manor, Vernon Manor and Penn-Woode. Helen M. Moriarty is a product consultant for MetLife.

Former Hartford Public Schools administrator Kathleen (Conlin) Greider MS ’94 was appointed deputy superintendent of Greenwich Public Schools. Kathy was also honored by the Connecticut Board of Education as Educational Leader of the Year for 2006. Dr. Pamela A. McMullin-Messier is assistant professor of anthropology and sociology at Kutztown University in Kutztown, PA. Scott J. Nolan is a bioanalytical scientist for Envivo Pharmaceuticals in Watertown, MA.

Stephen M. Emirzian is busy freelance writing for several magazines and newspapers in the Hartford area and producing videos.

Suzanne Wargo (MS) is director of media services at Millbury Memorial Junior/Senior High School in Millbury, MA and was recently elected to the executive board of the Central Massachusetts Regional Library System.

Justine A. Dougherty is a curriculum and assessment English language arts specialist for Measured Progress, an organization that provides customized assessment products and educational services. Joseph F. Krocheski Jr. was named a security analyst in the core/value equity team at Turner Investment Management. Aaron J. Steinberg is co-owner of Provident Estate Jewelry in Naples, FL.
Unlimited Changes Inc., a personal fitness and performance center in Easton, PA, is a personal fitness trainer and the #1-ranked national bodybuilder in the nation.

**94** Elia V. Acosta MS ’97 is head of the surgical technology department for the Connecticut Technical High School System. Craig T. Sollose is a chiropractic physician in Brookfield. Robert T. White II, MSgt. USAF, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron since 1987, completed a tour of duty in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle and Iraqi Freedom while stationed at Westover Air Reserve Base in Massachusetts, during which time he was also deployed to Southwest Asia where he served as a passenger service representative.

**95** Kristen F. Bloom received a master’s degree in publication design from the University of Baltimore in 2003 and spent eight months traveling through Asia. She presently works in consumer marketing for Smithsonian magazine. Heather C. Giordanella is an attorney shareholder in the law firm of Miller Alfano & Raspanti in Philadelphia, PA specializing in commercial law, employment law and qui tam litigation. Kimberly A. Roman MS ’05 is a literacy teacher for the Torrington Board of Education.

**96** E.J. Howard began a new career in advertising sales with the Hartford Business Journal. Jennifer (Hill) Thompson is a licensed social worker and started her own business, DPW Home Study, completing adoption home studies in the Dallas-Fort Worth, TX area. Toni (Silano) Villines and Kenneth R. Villines ’97 moved to Meriden after 10 years living outside of Boston. Toni volunteers for the Connecticut chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and is a member of the Nutmeg alumnae chapter of Gamma Sigma Sigma. Ken is a senior software engineer at CBS Corporation in Shelton, and an independent web development consultant.
Jermaine R. Evans is a network coordinator for ESPN in Bristol. Salvatore LoGiudice is a financial sales specialist for TD Banknorth in West Hartford. Rachel (Vizner) Pac is a computer teacher for Newington Public Schools. Erin (Naugle) Scozzafava is a science teacher and tennis coach at Seymour High School in Seymour. Paul J. Sutera MS ’99 is associate athletic director of development at Rice University in Houston, TX. He and wife Jennifer (Kaufman) Sutera ’98 and son live in Manvel, TX. Jennifer M. Welch is founder and director of The Dancer’s Image Dance Academy in Cromwell. Sheng-Fu Yang is a radio frequency engineer for Huawei Technologies Inc. in Dallas, TX.

Rebecca N. D’Agostino was named a group insurance account executive at Dill, Joyce & Thresher Insurance. Maureen A. Nadeau is the new owner of the Developing Artist Institute in Manchester which serves more than 100 students ages six and up.

Joseph R. Avitable, a doctoral candidate in the Department of History at the University of Rochester, was awarded a research fellowship by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. Christine (Bedard) Tardette is a family relations counselor for the State of Connecticut.

Sonny Gamboa is employed as an art director at Mintz & Hoke Communications Group in Avon. Elizabeth C. LaMontagne (MS), a first grade teacher at Orchard Hill Elementary School in South Windsor, earned the teaching profession’s top credential by achieving national board certification through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that measures what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do. Duane P. Pierre works for Cox Communications Inc. in Cheshire as a producer and public access coordinator.

Karen (Gaylord) Benson is director of latency services at YOU Inc./Wetzel Center in Worcester, MA. Mary Maciulewski is a teacher and coach for the Shelton Board of Education. Barrie Thibodeau, SPHR, is human resources manager at McDonald Bradley Inc., an information technology solutions provider to the government marketplace with headquarters in Herndon, VA.

Dr. Matthew S. Warshauer’s ’90 recently published book, Andrew Jackson & the Politics of Martial Law, was reviewed in The New Yorker (January 29, 2007). Matt is an associate professor of history, completing his 10th year at CCSU. He returned to Connecticut after completing graduate work at St. Louis University, and he and his wife, Wanda, are raising their family of three little girls in West Hartford.

Fernando F. Mendoza is a residence hall director at Stony Brook University in Stony Brook, NY. Taryn (Miller) Grey is an assistant project manager at Education Station and is pursuing a master’s degree in education at Loyola College.

Kara S. Perreault is a court liaison in New Haven for The Connection Inc., a Connecticut-based nonprofit human services and community development agency.
At the NCAA men’s basketball Final Four in Atlanta in March, Barbara and Bill Detrick felt the tingle in their very souls that any true-blue CCSU alumni would feel as they approached the Georgia Dome.

No, their beloved Blue Devils would not be playing that day, having exited valiantly at the hand of Ohio State in Round 1. But the Detricks’ Blue Devil pride emerged nonetheless, as they gazed upon the arena’s exterior. There for all to see, featured among the names of all 64 tournament teams, were those four magical words: Central Connecticut State University.

“I said to Bill, ‘Gee, look at that. We’ve got to get a picture,’” laughs Barbara. “It meant an awful lot to anyone associated with Central. It was truly something to see.”

Nearly 20 years retired from his legendary career as CCSU head basketball coach, Bill Detrick’s life transformation is complete. He and Barbara, who met in their first class at then-Teacher’s College of Connecticut back in 1946, are unabashed Central fans.

A charter member of the CCSU Alumni Association’s Athletic Hall of Fame, Bill was a three-sport athlete at the University and coached the Blue Devils — then a Division II New England power — from 1959-1988, amassing 465 career victories. He was instrumental in the program’s move to Division I, and the William H. Detrick Gymnasium stands today in his honor. At 79, he is still coaching, leading the men’s golf team at Trinity College in Hartford.

Barbara, a New Britain native, retired in 1989 after a near 30-year career as an elementary school teacher in the city’s school system. Their children Barbara, Deborah and Scott ’80 are all Connecticut public school system educators, and all live in Wethersfield — which affords the couple plenty of opportunity to enjoy their six grandchildren ages 3-19.

The Detricks’ love of Central — and dedication to supporting it through the William Detrick Athletic Scholarship — is rooted in much more than Bill’s years of coaching. It has as much to do with the students and friends they have met through the years, and the couple’s respect for the value of a public higher education.

“The people of New Britain and Central have always been so hard-working and friendly, like members of your family,” offers Bill. “They were doctors, lawyers — and factory workers. Many of the people going to games today are some of the same people who came when I was coach.”

“We believe in public education. It’s important that students can afford to go to college,” adds Barbara. “We want to give and we wish we could give more.”