Succeeding for 40 Years
The Educational Opportunity Program Celebrates a Milestone
We all know that bad news has a greater impact than good news, and these days we do not lack for bad financial news. So I think it is important to be reminded of the good news about our University. We recently concluded two important assessments of the climate of our community here, and the results are encouraging. They clearly indicate that the work faculty, staff, and administration have been doing over the past few years has made a real and significant difference in the quality of life for our students and for our campus community.

Student Satisfaction Survey

Satisfaction was higher in 2008 than in 2006 on 45 out of 55 survey items. Thirty items were higher at statistically significant levels, and five were higher by more than 0.2 standard deviations.

The top items on which perceptions increased significantly and most meaningfully from either 2004 or 2006 to 2008 were:

- Billing policies are reasonable.
- Financial aid awards are announced in time to be helpful in college planning.
- Registration processes and procedures are convenient.
- Respondents seldom get the “run-around” when seeking information on this campus.
- A variety of intramural recreational activities are offered.
- Tuition paid is a worthwhile investment.
- There is an adequate selection of food available on campus.

Complete results are available online at: http://www.ccsu.edu/oira/assessment/surveys/SSI/default.htm.

Employee Satisfaction Survey

Satisfaction was higher in 2008 than in 2007 on 53 out of 55 items; 41 were higher at statistically significant levels, and 33 were higher by more than 0.2 standard deviations.

The top items on which perceptions increased significantly and most meaningfully from 2007 to 2008 were:

- The reputation of this institution continues to improve.
- This institution is well-respected in the community.
- Efforts to improve quality are paying off at this institution.
- There is good communication between the faculty and the administration at this institution.
- Administrators share information regularly with faculty and staff.

Complete results are available online at: http://www.ccsu.edu/oira/assessment/surveys/CESS/default.htm.

These results are, indeed, very good news for the University. They give us confidence that we are moving in the right direction and that our work is making an important difference in the quality of this institution. We take pride in the educational services and intellectual resources the University offers our state, especially in these troubled financial times.

Dr. Jack Miller

President
FROM US TO YOU

In 1968, a CCSU mathematics instructor named George Wyer tossed a pebble into a pond. Wyer’s “pebble” was the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). In the past 40 years its ripples have transformed the lives of nearly 2,000 young people. Read about the EOP and some of its successful alumni in this issue of Central focus.

CCSU Athletic Director Charles “C. J.” Jones ’69, MS ’72 became the EOP’s director in 1970. Jones came to Central to play basketball, but ended up finding his meaning. Learn about how he and his wife, Linda (Coggshall) Jones ’70, MS ’80, 6th Yr ’86 are repaying Central. And spend some time with grateful EOP alumnus, Mike Cohen ’70. A cancer survivor and inveterate bicyclist, Cohen rediscovered himself while pedaling from Seattle, Washington to his home in Massachusetts.

Also, in this issue, find out how Dan Boothby ’05 is putting his education to work pursuing his dream of a career in fitness and training. And read about Central’s women’s soccer team, which continues to represent the University with distinction, winning the Northeast Conference Championship last fall, their fifth in seven seasons.

It’s all in this issue of Central focus.

Enjoy!
The Central focus Editorial Staff
Succeeding for 40 Years
The EOP Celebrates a Milestone

C.J. Jones was a 24-year-old graduate student in the summer of 1970 when a job opened as co-director of the new venture Central was calling the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). The program was the brainstorm of George Wyer, a 28-year-old mathematics instructor. Its purpose was to identify high school students who had the potential and desire to do college-level work, but who did not meet admissions standards, and offer them a crash course over one summer that would prepare them for entering college. Most importantly, the program would provide those students with a support system to help them succeed.

Wyer found champions for the idea in the University administration and held the first summer session, with 31 students, in 1969. A very high percentage of those students went on to graduate. Still he couldn’t guarantee Jones the program would be a long-term success. But one thing Jones had learned during his four years at Central, was to engage with passion. He took on the EOP assignment as though he had invented it, little suspecting how dramatically it would succeed or that he would remain at its helm for a quarter of a century, while also coaching Central basketball before being named athletic director in 1995.

EOP alumni returned to Central last year from as far away as Seattle, Washington to celebrate the program’s 40th anniversary at events in the summer and fall. They, and their fellow EOP alumni, stand as inarguable evidence of the program’s effectiveness.

Listen to Aida Silva ’86, for instance. “I had emigrated from Puerto Rico in 1980,” she says. “I completed my last two years of high school here. I wanted to go to college, but no one else in my family had gone. I was clueless about the process. I didn’t know how to handle the college experience.”

Thanks to the EOP she enrolled at Central, graduating in 1986. She worked for a while at the International Institute of Connecticut before landing a job at UConn, where she subsequently earned her master’s degree and where she is now associate director of admissions. “The EOP was my first exposure to what success could be,” she says. “The program helped us learn to believe in ourselves.”

It’s a conviction you will hear again and again from EOP alumni. In a typical EOP class there are about 50 students. These are educationally and economically disadvantaged young people. Most are the first person from their family to attend college, and

We’ve had alumni go on to successful careers in law, television, administration, politics, business and education. For these kids, EOP is a gateway to hope.

Awilda Reasco ’84, EOP Director

On the cover: EOP alumni Henri Alexandre ’76 and Aida Silva ’86.
they have a lot of impediments to overcome. Yet, says Awilda Reasco, the current director, the program’s retention rate is in the 90 percent range.

“Nearly 2,000 students have graduated from the EOP over the past 40 years,” she says. “We’ve had alumni go on to successful careers in law, television, administration, politics, business and education. For these kids, EOP is a gateway to hope.”

Take Henri Alexandre ’76, who came to the United States from Haiti in 1967. Like Silva, he was a bright young person, but woefully prepared for the college experience. “The program provided structure for students who didn’t know how to organize and study,” he says, “but there were lots of programs to help us develop as individuals, also.”

After graduating from Central, Alexandre worked as an administrative assistant for the Judicial Department of Connecticut and applied to the UConn Law School. Today he is an assistant attorney general and head of the Public Safety Division of the Attorney General’s Office.

Again and again, alumni employ the same metaphors to describe what the EOP meant to them, when it was their conduit to a college education, and what it has meant to them as their professional lives have unfolded.

“The summer that changed my life,” is the way John L. “J. L.” Williams ’80 remembers the EOP. He was a high school wrestler who grew up in a large family. Central provided him with a partial scholarship for wrestling. The EOP took care of the rest.

“The EOP made it possible for me to get into college,” he says, “and that enabled me to become an engineer.” For the past 28 years he has worked at Boeing in Seattle, Washington.

“It was exceptionally important for me,” says Lillian Ortiz ’86, dean of institutional development at Manchester Community College. A Hartford High School graduate, she landed a work-study job in C. J. Jones’ office during her years at Central. “He was my mentor, advisor and trainer,” she says. “Without that great start I probably wouldn’t have made it through.”

“EOP gave me the discipline to succeed,” says David Busanet ’79. How much discipline? A resident of Meriden who had no car, Busanet walked to and from the campus, a distance of 10 miles each way.
The EOP Celebrates

“Initially I didn’t even think of going to college,” he says, “but the EOP showed me that I could. It was a big turn in my life.” Today, Busanet is procurement manager for the Connecticut Department of Public Works.

The camaraderie that grew out of the EOP summer program was evident at last summer’s 40th-anniversary event. There are upwards of 2,000 people – a far-flung diaspora – who share the fact that they came from disadvantage and succeeded thanks to a special hand-up called the EOP. That makes them something of a family.

“We built a community where we cared for each other,” says Meg Leake, director of Central’s Learning Center, who was associate director of the EOP from 1987 to 1999. She regularly hears from alumni of the program, people whose lives and contributions to the betterment of the world have been measurably greater thanks to the EOP. “It was an opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of these young people and it was, far and away, the most gratifying experience of my professional life.”

One Passionate Teacher Makes a Difference

In 1968, George Pattison III, who was then known as George Wyer, was a math professor who had joined the faculty of Central a year earlier. A young man with a passion for teaching and a desire to see his students succeed, he had quickly discovered, in his classes, “many minority students who were talented, but fell behind” for lack of effective preparation for the college experience.

“These were bright youngsters, but their high schools hadn’t given them the tools they needed to succeed in college,” he recalls. “They were poorly equipped.”

Determined to do something about it, he wrote a proposal for a summer experience to address the needs of those students. The program he envisioned would quickly introduce disadvantaged students to the overall college experience and resources that could help them succeed, and give them a taste of what kind of academic expectations they could anticipate.

Pattison, who had taught both junior and senior high school and at a junior college before coming to Central, was a big believer in rules. His plan was built around a set of standards to which all participating students would be required to adhere.

He soon found champions for his proposal in the University’s administration and launched it in the summer of 1969. Thirty-one students enrolled in the first session and their success rate was so striking that the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) quickly became an accepted thread in the CCSU fabric.

Pattison remained at Central for five years and then left to accept a position in the West Hartford public schools, where he remained for the balance of his career. He retired in 1998 and moved to Florida. The EOP, however, goes on, affirming its value year after year.
Ask them to tell you about their wedding and they blurt out two words, in unison – “We eloped!” It’s like a stand-up routine, comfortable material they’ve been honing for a long time, a story they never get tired of telling. Then they look at each other and smile sheepishly, remembering how things were, almost 35 years ago.

It was a balmy August evening in 1974, soft pastel shadows overspreading the CCSU campus, when Charles “C. J.” Jones ’69, MS ’72, a black man from Bayside, Queens, and Linda Coggshall ’70, MS ’80, 6th Yr ’86, a white woman who grew up in Hartford, entered the courtyard at Central. Both had come to Central for an education, but they had found so much more.

Attended only by close friends Howie Dickenman ’70, MS ’72, a black man from Bayside, Queens, and Linda Coggshall ’70, MS ’80, 6th Yr ’86, a white woman who grew up in Hartford, entered the courtyard at Central. Both had come to Central for an education, but they had found so much more.

Attended only by close friends Howie Dickenman ’70, MS ’75, C. J.’s basketball buddy, and Ellen Stewart ’71, MS ’77, Linda’s former roommate and a fellow teacher, they recited their simple vows before another friend, Justice of the Peace Bert Anderson. It was over in just a few minutes and everyone retired to the Marriott for celebratory drinks.

Photographer Jim Meyers recorded the little ceremony for posterity. There wasn’t much to record – just two folks, accompanied by their friends, tying the knot. That they were also committing an act of defiance against conventions of the time (only seven years had passed since the U. S. Supreme Court had ruled anti-miscegenation laws unconstitutional) is not apparent in Meyers’ photos and may be hard to imagine for many born in the ensuing three and a half decades.

But C. J. and Linda were aware of the significance of what they were doing. “We hadn’t even told our families,” Linda confesses. “We weren’t sure what kind of reaction we were going to get.” So, to forestall having to break the news for a little while longer, they took advantage of an Alumni Association trip to Hawaii.

A couple of things are apparent in Meyers’ photos. One is their love for each other, an abiding affection that has sustained them for more than four decades now. And the other is the setting they chose, at the heart of the University that brought them together, and to which they have remained as committed as they have to each other.

The Good Life

C. J. was still an undergraduate, a rangy kid who was lighting up the basketball court, when he and Linda met in 1966. He was hosting a party at his New Britain apartment and she came by to help him get the place ready. She was supposed to have a date for the party, a friend of C. J.’s who was scheduled to arrive later. But wires got crossed, the friend didn’t arrive, and eight years later C. J. and Linda were married.

By that time he was directing the University’s Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), a job he had taken the summer after he graduated, and she had just wrapped up her fourth year as a teacher in South Windsor’s public schools. When they returned from Hawaii she joined the New Britain public schools, where she remained – in many different teaching and administrative roles – for the next 30 years.

Together they invested themselves in the fabric of Central. C. J. put his distinctive stamp on the EOP for 25 years, and for 19 of those years he also coached Central basketball, first as assistant coach and then, starting in 1987, as head coach. In 1995, he was named athletic director.

Linda, who helped plan EOP trips, recreational events and fund-raising, soon earned the nickname “Mother of the Team.” On a lot in Terryville they built a home in 1976. They settled in and built a good life for themselves, enriched by the many young lives they touched.

Regular contributors to the CCSU scholarship fund, they created their own scholarships in the 1990s, with funds earmarked for the EOP and athletics and New Britain students embarking upon careers in teaching.

Last year, in an act of exceptional generosity, they unified those programs by bequeathing their entire estate to the University. “Central gave us what we’ve enjoyed,” says C. J. “We wouldn’t have met if we hadn’t come here. We owe a lot to the University.”

Involved in the Fabric of Central
Athletic Fields Upgrades
Enhance Facilities for Everyone

Thanks to a major effort that has been in planning and development since 2006, CCSU’s outdoor athletic fields – for lacrosse, football, soccer, baseball, and softball – and an adjacent recreational field are getting a major upgrade that will enhance their utility for all CCSU students.

Funding for this project comes from fees collected since 2002 and specified by the CSUS Board of Trustees for recreation and intercollegiate athletics, according to President Jack Miller.

Over the next three years, several of the outdoor fields will be retrofitted with new artificial turf that offers advantages over grass. Additionally, new grandstands will be added for the soccer field and, beneath it, a modern facility housing bathrooms and concession space. Finally, an NCAA track will be installed around the soccer field.

The improved turf phase of the project includes significant improvements to the nearby pavilion, including the addition of bathrooms. Those enhancements significantly increase the pavilion’s capacity to accommodate larger groups and functions. The baseball field will also benefit from new grandstands. Additional landscaping and lighting throughout the complex, including around the completely regraded recreation field north of the baseball diamond, are also planned.
“Not all of the improvements are visible to those using the facilities. Undergirding the whole complex is a remarkable subterranean drainage system the University is installing to meet Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requirements,” says Dan Moran ’73, MS ’88, associate chief administrative officer. “These fields generate run-off from precipitation. Our challenge was to engineer them in such a way that they permit zero run-off into this area’s drainage basin.” The University is working further with engineers and DEP to develop this same process throughout the campus as part of its sustainability program.

To achieve that goal, Macchi Engineers, the company working with Facilities on the plan for the upgrade, called upon Geller Sport Inc., a leading landscape architecture and civil engineering firm based in Boston. The fields will be re-graded, with sand bases supporting the new turf, draining into a sophisticated underground system utilizing a large cistern that will catch the water and prevent run-off to the nearby stream.

The football field has already been equipped with the turf, which, according to Sal Cintorino ’87, MS ’90, assistant chief administrative officer, provides several benefits to the University. “Nearly as soft and textured as natural grass, it’s easier for athletes to play on and results in far fewer injuries than earlier generations of artificial turf. Moreover, the new turf is much more durable. In the winter, snow can be cleaned off the fields with motorized equipment without damaging the turf, substantially reducing maintenance expenses,” says Cintorino.

Once the lighting is in place, Cintorino notes, “all of the fields will become accessible for the entire University community.” The upgrade will dramatically boost the recreational value of the fields for all students.

The recreational field and both the baseball and softball fields are expected to be completed by late next spring or early in the summer. The target date for resurfacing the soccer field is spring 2010. The new track will be installed last. Its completion will allow the University’s track team to practice and compete on campus for the first time in over a decade and the track will also be available for use by the CCSU community. The Department of Public Works is managing the grandstand and bathroom phase of the recreation athletic field enhancements. Moran and Cintorino are unable to say precisely when the track will be complete. They are working toward a target date of 2011.

Moran is quick to note, however, that many of the enhancements will be complete this spring. “These improvements make our outdoor facilities much more useful for the entire CCSU community,” he says.
Class of 1953 at 55th-reunion celebration.

Alumni who participated in an alumni and student leader panel discussion are (l-r) Atty. James Miron ’90, mayor of the Town of Stratford; Paula Chapla ’78, operations manager—aerostructures at Sikorsky Aircraft; Kelley Hedley ’97, project manager at The Travelers; Curtiss Wiggins ’93, assistant vice president at First Investors Corporation; Brian Cruess ’94, MS ’01, application architect at The Hartford Insurance Group; Dr. Kristine Larsen ’84, CCSU professor of physics and earth science, panel moderator; and, David Busanet ’78, director of procurement at the Connecticut Department of Public Works.

Class of 1958 at 50th-reunion celebration.

Class of 1953 at 55th-reunion celebration.

Steve Westerberg ’72 and Gina Riccardo ’01 at University Singers 15th-anniversary celebration.

(l-r) Randy Clark ’96, Jeffrey Mackniak ’95, MS ’01 and Lisa (Lamb) Mackniak ’95 at an alumni reception in Fairfield.
Thank You

In 2007-08, more than 4,000 donors contributed over $1.9 million to the University. This record-breaking year represents a 22 percent increase in new donors, an increase in all donors, and a new level of alumni giving. Your remarkable generosity supported our students with scholarships and other forms of financial aid, exciting academic enrichment programs, athletics, and a range of other initiatives designed to enhance the Central educational experience. Your contributions enabled CCSU to remain both excellent AND accessible.

Thanks to a bold new strategic plan, CCSU is poised for an exciting future. Already recognized as a Leadership Institution (Association of American Colleges & Universities), a “Best Northeastern College” and an “America’s Best Value College” (Princeton Review), Central aspires to be one of the finest public universities in the state and region. We hope you will join us by continuing to support our efforts with your generosity. A postage paid envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Your gifts do make a difference in the lives of our students and the life of the University. We deeply appreciate all that you do for CCSU.

Christopher J. Galligan
Vice President, Institutional Advancement

The University Community extends its gratitude to the individuals, corporations, and foundations who have made gifts or have planned for irrevocable deferred gifts in excess of $500,000.

American Savings Foundation
Anthony Bichun
CCSU Alumni Association
Coca-Cola Bottling Company
Anna L. Eckersey-Johnson ‘76
Chang-Jen Huang
Hyundai Precision & Industry
Josephine (Bertino) Tansey ’37
Richard C. Vance Foundation

HENRY BARNARD SOCIETY
$100,000 AND ABOVE
LIFETIME GIVING
Lisa Bottalico
Ricky F. Bottalico ’91
F. Dan James
Gerti E. James
Mary C. James
Catherine M. Rogers
William J. McCue
Melanie (Ihnat) McCue ’68
Patricia Knapp
Gerti H. James
Lisa Bottalico

ELIHU BURRITT SOCIETY GIVES
OF $1,000 AND ABOVE
Class of 1940
Mildred (Olsenschaw) Woodson
Class of 1947
William C. Lichtenfels
Class of 1948
Angela (Attard) Saxton
Class of 1950
Nancy (Anderson) Antonez
Barbara F. (Ferguson) Detric
William H. Bencick
Class of 1951
Eileen (Weiss) Harris
Class of 1953
Catherine (Chessa) O’Brien
Nancy A. Larson
Class of 1955
Norman F. Hausmann
Peter Toles
Patricia (Henri) Welch
Joyce (Chesuga) Wolk
Class of 1955
William R. Papalo

Class of 1953
Anne A. Alling
Zhiying An
Nancy A. Larson
Class of 1955
Peter Toles
Patricia (Henri) Welch
Joyce (Chesuga) Wolk
Class of 1955
William R. Papalo

Class of 1957
Josef J. Angiello
Alfred C. Bonvicini
Anne T. DeNuccio
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Edward H. Michalek
Daniel M. Siracusa
Class of 1980
John E. Pau
Class of 1994
Garrett A. Ratcliffe

Class of 1985
Kathryn (Benson) Heat
Paul B. Heat
Judith M. (Viera) Ratcliffe
Class of 1986
Anthony G. Small
Class of 1987
Michael H. Moss
Class of 1989
Robin (Demelo) Bourassa
Class of 1989
Charlene L. (Litwinczyk) Angelico
Tracey (Obst) Bonvicini

PRESIDENT’S CLUB $10,000 AND
ABOVE IN A TEN YEAR PERIOD
Carmine J. Abate ’77
Deborah A. Abate
Nancy (Anderson) Antonez ’50
Joe Amone ’59
Carmella (Matrazzo) Balducci ’62
Richard J. Balducci ’65
Karen C. Beyard
Jeffrey A. Borghesi ’73
Susan Loman Borghesi ’71
Henry Budney
Rita R. Card
Asunta Chia
George Y. Cha

*Deceased
Happenings

Images of Homecoming 2008
Nearly 22 percent of Connecticut veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder. Perhaps even more alarming, the veterans most in need of support are the least likely to seek it out. These and other troubling findings have come to light thanks to research conducted by Professor of Psychology Marc Goldstein and Professor of Counseling Emeritus Jim Malley. Working through the Center for Public Policy and Social Research (CPPSR) at CCSU, they developed a report commissioned by the Connecticut Office of Veterans’ Affairs, which was released at the end of January (available at: www.ccsu.edu/cppsr).

This is the latest in a series of initiatives at Central focused on the state’s veterans. Other notable programs include the ongoing CPPSR’s Veterans Oral History Project developed in partnership with the Library of Congress. To date, interviews of more than 144 vets have been videotaped and archived. These oral histories and related materials can be viewed online (www.ccsu.edu/vhp).

In 2007, CPPSR also coordinated its first-ever Veterans Summit. Aimed at learning more about veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan, the Summit provided a forum for veterans to voice their concerns and an opportunity to learn from national and regional experts on veterans’ issues.

Recently, thanks to the support of Joe Arnone ’59, Paul Gianaris ’70, Zachary Gianaris, Phil Kurze ’72 and Bob Cernock, Institutional Advancement launched an expanded fund-raising effort to provide scholarship support for the University’s annual Student Veteran Excellence Award. And, a Veterans Drop-In Center was opened at the end of 2008.

Forthcoming initiatives include the creation of a veterans monument near the Student Center. In fall 2009 Professor of Counseling and Family Therapy Jane Fried will offer a First Year Experience course for returning veterans, specifically designed as a “transition to civilian life” program. The course will draw on Fried’s experience teaching Vietnam era vets and will focus on the differences between learning in the military and learning in college. Fried aims to offer a comfortable and supportive environment for the veterans to explore a range of issues and develop diagnostic tools to enable them to negotiate the transition from soldier to civilian student.

The Office of Alumni & Development is reaching out to CCSU vets and inviting them to participate in these and other activities. Many have responded to the call, and the Office is asking for other vets to get in touch by calling 860-832-1740 or emailing alumnidept@ccsu.edu.

Memorial gifts may be made to the CCSU Foundation, P.O. Box 612, New Britain, CT 06050
When he thinks back on his childhood in Kennebunk, Maine, Dan Boothby '05 recalls that he was “a really skinny kid” who didn’t come into proportion until high school, when he played football and baseball. It was there that he came under the guidance of teacher and assistant principal David Mitchell. It was a relationship that changed his life.

“Mr. Mitchell was into conditioning and he encouraged me to train with him,” Boothby remembers. “I learned a lot about training and physiology, and I was able to see the results right away.”

But, in fact, he only saw some of the results — a leaner, stronger physique and a greater sense of self-confidence to go with it. Other results were still a few years in the future.

After high school, Boothby enrolled at the University of Maine for a year before transferring to Central, attracted by the University’s Exercise Science and Health Promotion Program. “I knew right away that I had found what I was looking for,” he says. “I want to be one of those people who love going to work, and I knew this was the work I wanted to do. The courses really reinforced my passion for this work.”

Boothby took full advantage of the Central experience, participating in varsity football while also earning the respect of his professors and coaches, building relationships that earned him a strength coach internship while he was still an undergraduate. “Strength and Conditioning Coach Mike Erickson saw me as a raw young man, interested in the field, and he went out of his way to help me,” Boothby says. “He was very demanding, but he gave me an opportunity, and I have worked very hard to deserve it.”

As graduation neared in 2005, and Boothby considered work options, Assistant Strength Coach Drew Haffey put in a word for him with Joel St. Cyr, the assistant strength coach at Northeastern University. That fall Boothby joined the athletic staff at Northeastern as assistant strength and conditioning coach. The following July he was also named director of player development of the Northeastern men’s and women’s hockey teams.

A National Strength and Conditioning Association certified strength and conditioning specialist, Boothby also conducts Dan Boothby Performance Training camps for high school, college, professional, and Olympic-caliber athletes. Among the athletes he has worked with is Northeastern alumna Zara Northover, who competed in the shot put in Beijing. Not bad for a former “skinny kid” from Maine.

Central’s women’s soccer team brought home glory last fall. Winning their fifth Northeast Conference Championship in seven seasons, they earned a berth in the 2008 NCAA Women’s Soccer College Cup.

Though they lost to Boston College, 3-0, in first-round action, they put the competition on notice that the Blue Devils are a perennial force to be reckoned with. Coach Mick D’Arcy’s first recruiting class arrived in New Britain in the fall of 2001. Since then, every student-athlete who has played four years for D’Arcy has left the program with two championship rings and, in turn, two trips to the NCAA Tournament.

The Blue Devils’ tradition of success began when they won their first Northeast Conference title in 1997 and appeared in the NCAA play-in round. They defended their crown in 1998 and played at Harvard in NCAA first round competition. In 2002, with their third league title, they launched a string of four straight championship seasons. Along the way they became the first CCSU sports team to win an NCAA Division I tournament game, defeating their old nemesis, Boston College, in first-round play during the 2003 Women’s Soccer College Cup.

“When we recruit, we talk about the history of the program,” D’Arcy said. “We also say that the past is no indicator of what is going to happen in the future. The new crop understands there is a tradition, but they have to write their own story.”
58 Barbara Ives Couch relocated to South Dennis, MA, and volunteers for the Cape Cod and Islands Chapter of the American Red Cross. She also enjoys membership in the Mid Cape Chorus.

59 Thomas J. Foran recently completed a volunteer stint at JAMI, a missionary training center, in Belo Horizonte, Brazil teaching Intensive English Language under the auspices of Volunteers in Global Mission, International Ministries, American Baptist Church.

60 Dr. Harold F. Laydon is serving as interim provost and vice president for academic affairs at Mansfield University of Pennsylvania while a search is conducted to fill the position. “Hal” is president emeritus at Lake Erie College in Painesville, OH, having retired after 12 years as president.

61 Kathryn (Hooper) Gaffney recently retired as director of therapeutic recreation at a Pennsylvania health care facility. She continues to volunteer as a support group facilitator for the Alzheimer’s Association. Kathleen (Balasa) Stefanowicz is an assistant to the interlibrary loan librarian at Wesleyan University.

62 John J. Termine MS ’73 recently celebrated his fortieth year of teaching history, religion and geography at St. Rose School in East Hartford, and is reportedly so happy about his life and work that even after 40 years he still does not think of retiring.

63 Patricia (Byett) Hatch retired after 32 years with the Montgomery County School System in Maryland. Robert M. Rifenburg has begun a new position as principal of East Rock’s Worthington Hooker School in New Haven. He was most recently principal of South Street School in Danbury. His 20-year career as an educational leader includes a two-year stint as principal of the Universal American School in Khalidiya, Kuwait.

64 Nicholas Dukas MS ’79 is a senior vice president with Morgan Stanley in Palm Harbor, FL. Along with being a financial advisor he is also an industry arbitrator for Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, and recently completed training to perform arbitration with the National Futures Association. Judith (Stickel) Peterson (MS) is principal of C. E. Williams Middle School in Charleston, SC.


66 Michael J. Cannamela has retired after 35 years of teaching in Waterford public schools. He and his wife, Joan, a Clark Lane Middle School history teacher who has also retired, plan to begin the next stage by driving the Maine coast in search of lobster rolls and ice cream. Self-described insatiable adventurer Philip G. Russell, who has climbed mountains, scuba dived and hitchhiked all over the world, while holding down full-time finance jobs for most of his life, is currently applying his no-holds barred attitude as deputy superintendent of operations for Milford Public Schools.

67 Fernando Flores has joined Raptor Networks Technology, Inc. in Santa Ana, CA, as senior vice president of new business development. Flores has more than 27 years experience in senior positions with General DataComm, Lucent and Ciena, and in establishing new technology companies in the fiber optic and ATM markets. Cheryl (Wingate) Kier retired after 33 years as a physical education/health and sex education teacher for Deptford Township (New Jersey). She taught every grade from kindergarten to 12th and, for 18 years, coached field hockey, softball and cheerleading at the secondary level. Thomas E. Liszewski is owner and president of Sport Escapes, Inc.’s Golf Vacations in Marlboro, MA.

68 Jacki (Kowalski) Peck retired as principal of South Street School in New Haven. He was most recently principal of South Street School in Danbury. His 20-year career as an educational leader includes a two-year stint as principal of the Universal American School in Khalidiya, Kuwait.

69 Nancy C. Motola has joined Rib-X Pharmaceuticals, Inc. in New Haven as senior vice president of regulatory affairs. Prior to joining Rib-X, Motola served as senior vice president of regulatory affairs and quality at Alexion Pharmaceuticals Inc., and has held regulatory affairs positions since 1983 with other organizations including Bayer and E. R. Squibb and Sons, Inc. Barbara (Kowalski) Peck (MS) retired as principal of Webster Hill Elementary School, culminating a long career in education in West Hartford. James A. Pitingoro is an industrial arts teacher for the Bethel School District in Spanaway, WA.

70 Kenneth J. Foran (MS) retired after 34 years teaching physical education and serving as athletic director and wrestling coach at East Meadow High School, East Meadow, NY. Dr. Stephen W. Hoag was selected as the national recipient of the Dr. C. Thomas Olivo Outstanding Service Award, the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute’s highest honor, awarded to individuals who have demonstrated leadership in occupational competency assessment. Dr. Denis M. Medeiros is associate dean for research and head of the department of human nutrition at Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS.

71 Nancy M. Eberhardt (MA), a retired American history teacher and vice president of the Plainville Historical Society for the past 10 years, is the society’s new president. Linda (Rivkind) Grossman is executive assistant to the vice president and general manager of Boston Market in Chelmsford, MA.

72 Sharon J. Gemza is program chairman at ITT Technical Institute in Tampa, FL. Sharon J. Gemza is a project manager at IBM in Southbury. Donald J. Thompson, Jr. is president and CEO of Stay-Well Health Center in Waterbury.

73 Charles A. Maglieri is an attorney specializing in bankruptcy law in Bloomfield.
Stephen T. Gallagan, northeast regional sales manager for Branson Ultrasound Corporation in Woburn, MA, received the company’s Region of the Year Award. Steve is also a member of the faculty of Northeastern University where he teaches marketing. Richard R. Longhini is owner and president of Longhini Sausage Company in New Haven. Thomas J. McCabe MS ’85, with 25 years of experience in the field of education and athletics, was selected as the new director of athletics and student activities at Rocky Hill High School. Robert A. VanSteenbergen MS ’82, owner of VP Animation LLC in Water-town, is the brains, and the brawn – for more than 20 years – behind the animated electronic characters that populate Stew Leonard’s chain of grocery stores. Other customers include FAO Schwarz in New York City, the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, and a Hare Krishna temple in Bangalore, India for which he created a lifelike guru. Robert also teaches computers and video production at Stratford High School.

Harry J. Lew is a marketing, communications, and training consultant and developer in Glastonbury. Ronald M. Macaluso was named chief financial officer of Our Piece of the Pie, Inc., a youth development agency in Hartford.

Susan (Bach) Walkama was appointed president and CEO of the Wheeler Clinic in Plainville. With the clinic for more than 25 years, she was most recently the acting executive director and has been, for more than 20 years, a leading trainer and consultant on youth suicide and its prevention. Tom Whiteley, who admits that he was challenged as a football player at CCSU because of his smaller stature, has served as football coach at several schools, and currently oversees the defensive line at East Side High School in Paterson, NJ while also serving as an elementary gym teacher. Weekends he performs standup comedy in his alternate career.

Gregory C. Roberts ’80, MS ’82 is president and CEO of the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, KY, a cultural attraction and international education center that provides innovative visitor experience, public and educational programming, and global initiatives that carry on Ali’s legacy and life work. Greg has more than 20 years of experience working with underserved youth and leading nonprofit organizations that serve them. Most recently he served as president and CEO of the DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation.

Joseph V. Fiore, Jr. accepted a position as coordinator of operational test and evaluation for future software/hardware systems at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Weather Service OPS 24 (test and evaluation branch) in Silver Spring, MD. Joe resides in Ashburn, VA with his wife, Melanie, and their three children. Thomas N. McAvoy, Jr. was promoted to senior vice president at Norwich-based Dime Bank. McAvoy also serves as president of Dime Investment Services, a wholly owned subsidiary of Dime Bank. He has been with the bank since 1995 and most recently was vice president of marketing and investments. Laurel (Ross) Radke was elected town clerk for the town of Bedford, NH, where she has lived for 10 years with her husband, Oliver, and their three children.

Daniel M. Bonaparte is a liaison engineer on the F-22 project at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Corporation in Fort Worth, TX. Carolyn A. Kennedy is a field specialist for Brother International. She resides in Frisco, TX. Joseph A. LaPorta is a physical education and health teacher at Shelton High School. Pelagia (Bors) Lynch, CPA, is the financial business manager at the Institute of Living/Hartford Hospital in Hartford.

Darrell W. Nelson is senior neuroscience territory business manager for Bristol Myers Squibb. He lives in Milford, NH.

Camillo E. Lupiani is a graphic arts teacher at North Springs (GA) Charter School of Arts & Sciences. John B. Toomey, Jr. is an associate research analyst with the Connecticut Department of Labor in Wethersfield. He also is a co-producer of antiques shows. Thomas E. True is vice president of client services at Cartus, human resources outsourcing relocation providers in Mission Viejo, CA.

Kristen (Olson) Blackburn is a notebooks cost manager for Hewlett Packard in Houston, TX. Dominic J. Cieri, Jr. is business manager секретary treasurer for the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, District Council 11 in Berlin, CT and Warwick, RI. John K. Glynn has joined Pepco Energy Services as regional energy manager to enhance Pepco’s expansion into the New England energy market. Mark A. Rocha is marketing manager at Pentron Ceramics, Inc. in Somerset, NJ.

Robert H. Skinner has been selected as Canton’s chief administrative officer. He previously was town administrator in Columbia and was elected as first selectman in Suffield, where he had served on the boards of finance and education and the planning and zoning commission. Tari-Lynn (Fearney) Joyce is an educator and guide at the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum in Wethersfield. David Occhialini is treasurer and chief financial officer at Reno Machine Co., Inc. in Newington.

A registered professional engineer in Connecticut and a nationally certified professional traffic operations engineer, Joseph C. Balskus has been promoted to associate at Tighé & Bond, Westfield, MA, one of the oldest continuously operating engineering firms in New England. Anne M. Burns was named chief financial officer at Community Mental Health Affiliates, Inc., in New Britain. Alan L. Davidson is director of sales for RP Design Web Services in Charlotte, NC. Artist Jon M. Eastman is an art preparator at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Hartford. Actor, writer, and Emmy-nominated director Michael T. Lombardi is founder and creative director of Big L Pictures. Stephen N. Luko, a statistician at Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford, as well as an adjunct professor in the department of mathematics at both the University of Hartford and Tunxis Community college in Farmington, is the new chairman of American Society
90 Elizabeth (Aziz) Mongillo is associate director of financial aid at Quinnipiac University in Hamden. Rudolph R. Virga, Jr. has been named director of operations for Empire Golf Management. He has had a 14-year career with the company, most recently as general manager of Pine Barrens Golf Club for the past 10 years. Rudy is also a nationally recognized amateur golfer. He earned membership in the PGA of America and holds a PGA A-9 classification.

91 David J. Molitano has been appointed to the new position of technology errors and omissions manager at XL Insurance based in Boston, MA. John P. Skerritt, a business teacher and chairman of Shelton High School’s business and technology department, has been appointed housemaster, a position similar to assistant principal. Suzanne Wargo (MS) was elected president of the Executive Board of the Central Massachusetts Regional Library System. She is director of media services at Millbury Memorial Junior Senior High School in Millbury, MA. Michael J. Whaley (MS) was named vice president of student affairs at Wesleyan University in Middletown. Previously he served as dean of student services.

92 Robert W. Buden is director of finance for the Town of Plainville. Previously he was finance director in the towns of Portland and Windham. Brian Cronin is a C#, .NET developer who builds business, medical and educational-related computer applications utilizing a variety of new media technologies through his virtual consulting business, Spotted Dingo, in South Salem, NY. Michele (Grossman) Cunningham is a victim assistance counselor at Chicago Hearing Society in Chicago, IL, where she resides with husband, P. J. Cunningham ’95, and their two children. Kelly (Moreshead) DeFeo (MS), a nurse anesthetist with a Ph.D. in Naturology, is owner and president of Dynamic Anesthesia, PLLC in Center Conway, NH. David J. Gleba MS ’01 is a school counselor at Southington High School. Debra M. Greenier (MS) was named vice president of student affairs at Wesleyan University in Middletown. Previously he served as dean of student services.

93 Scott S. Davis is a videographer for Time Warner Cable, Media Sales, in Charlotte, NC where he resides with his wife, Christine Jo (Reed) Davis ’95. Edward Del Santo is a manager in the Boston office of Accenture, a global management consulting, technology services and outsourcing company. Drew Loughlin was promoted to managing director at JPMorgan Chase. Christina (Rossini) Sablitz is employed as a family care concierge for D’Esopo Funeral Chapel in Wethersfield. Amy (Albee) Stepka is a transportation manager for Alstom Power, Inc.

94 Charlene (Curtiss) Corbett is a graduate student in the master of divinity program at Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, MA. Matthew R. DiNallo has joined Hansberger Global Investors, an affiliate of Natixis Global Asset Management headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, FL, as vice president of client services. Lynn (Jankowski) Graf was appointed regional sales manager for William Pitt Sotheby’s International Realty in Avon. James J. McNeil is a prin-

Bruce Noe ’83 has joined Simsbury Bank & Trust Company, a subsidiary of SBT Bancorp, Inc., as vice president and senior mortgage and consumer lending officer. Bruce’s more than 25 years of residential mortgage, consumer lending and secondary market experience includes service at American Savings Bank, Farmington Savings Bank, and The Milford Bank.

for Testing and Materials International Committee E11 on Quality and Statistics. Norman L. Ravagnani, Jr. was promoted to vice president, finance, at Best Cleaners in Middletown. Thomas E. Rubino is a manufacturing coordinator at Covidien, a producer of medical products and procedures in North Haven. Andrea (Veneziano) Trembath was chosen as the chief financial officer at Davidson Day School in Davidson, NC.

89 Ruth (Santa-Cruz) Espinoza serves as the business services officer for payroll for the Connecticut State University system office in Hartford. She is also the owner and director of Identidad Latina, a Connecticut biweekly Hispanic newspaper. Thomas C. Hutton is general manager of the engine center at Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford, responsible for strategic and tactical leadership in the development, validation, assembly and test of commercial and military aircraft engines. Jayme (Jamie Thompson) Parker is a reporter on NESN SportsDesk, New England’s sports news, information and highlights program. Parker serves as a sideline reporter for Boston College football radio broadcasts. Sharon Pisko Wolfe, CPA, is co-founder and partner in RWH Myers, a loss accounting firm specializing in complex business interruption and extra expense loss calculations for multinational corporate policyholders. Keith D. Zwart is a senior software engineer for Target in Minneapolis, MN. He and Cynthia (Atwood) Zwart ’78 and their three sons live in Elk River, MN.

A security industry veteran, Kevin O’Connor ’84 has joined Damballa, Inc. as vice president of sales. Damballa, headquartered in Atlanta, GA, is the only Internet security company focused exclusively on targeted threats such as BotArmies.
Marriage

Maryann Arancia & Michael J. Lonergan ’79 5/31/08
Dina A. DeNicola ’92, MSOM ’95 & David R. Bonola ’93 9/20/08
Christine Armitage ’98 & James Van Cott ’99 8/9/08
Erica L. Dickenman ’98 & Nick Agvent 9/20/08
Dianne M. Warner ’00 & Nicholas M. Grimaldi 6/28/08
Melissa J. Strong ’01 & Eric H. McCauley 12/19/08
Jodie L. Haftel MS ’06 & William E. Smith 2/29/08

Class Notes

95 Mark J. Beaupre is an account manager for Claffin Medical Equipment in Warwick, RI. Frank C. Gavay was promoted to senior manager at Marden, Harrison & Kreuter, a division of J. H. Cohn, an independent accounting and consulting firm located in Lawrenceville, NJ. Traci (Hellwig) Cioir is a talent acquisition manager for The Hartford in Simsbury.

Barbara (Ramirez) Kerecz is a human resource business partner for Aetna in Hartford.

Kelly (Shea) Maioli has been named dean of students at McGee Middle School in Berlin.

Tracey G. May is a senior benefit consultant with Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., Braintree, MA, an international sales and marketing company that plans and administers cost-effective, differentiated property/casualty and human resource risk management programs. Hired as an $8-an-hour office assistant at Grayling Associates, Inc. in June 1992 when he was a 23-year-old college graduate, Darren J. Varrano today is the company’s president and co-owner.

96 Steven R. Kolodziej (MS) is a construction law and commercial litigation attorney with Garcia & Milas in New Haven. Thomas E. Stickels is vice president of sales at SAS Safety Corporation in Long Beach, CA. Marcus J. Zendzian was named regional product manager for Comcat.

97 Brett L. Bermani MS ’06 is an engineering manager/CI champion at Hygrade Precision Technologies in Plainville. Paul J. Sutera MS ’99, Jennifer (Kaufman) Sutera ’98 and their son, Anthony, have relocated from Houston, TX. Paul has joined Quinnipiac University as associate vice president of development.

98 Christine (Armitage) Van Cott is a special education teacher at RHAM High School in Hebron. Christine and her husband, James Van Cott ’99, who works in finance at Sikorsky Aircraft, live in East Hampton. Tawana Muhamad works as an area manager in human resources for Valassis Direct Mail (formerly ADVO) in Newark, DE. She resides in Elkton, MD.

Robert Szczepanski MS ’99 is a planned program coordinator for the Connecticut State Department of Education.

99 Luis Abarca, Jr. has relocated to Dunwoody, GA and is working as a manager, community relations, for ING Americas in Atlanta, GA. Jami A. Cassarino is an attorney specializing in real estate and estate planning at Cassarino Law Offices, LLC in Bristol. Scrap metal processor and recycler Albert Bros., Inc. of Waterbury has hired Matthew W. Gardner, CPA, as comptroller. Solidea Pitruzzello has joined Rockville Bank as branch manager of the Big Y Supermarket Branch Office in Manchester. Pasquale J. Sacchetta is a wealth management advisor, consultant, financial services and insurance executive, and president of Westport-based Continental Five Insurance Group, Inc. Fred Trubucchi was appointed a project manager in the client support services division at Clough Harbour & Associates LLP in their Rocky Hill office.

00 Michael J. Ciunci is a talent acquisition staffing specialist for Valassis in Windsor. Tanya Bentley (MS) is an investment account at Yale University.

Joshua Casey is a senior mail accountant at Faneuil Hall Marketplace in Boston, MA. Gregory M. Coltey is a senior tax analyst at Textron, Inc. in Providence, RI. Jason Smith is a financial advisor for Smith Barney in Indianapolis, IN.

01 Daniel R. Sullivan is a graphic designer with Cashman & Katz Integrated Communications in Glastonbury. Michael A. Tortora (MS) has been hired as principal at Orchard Hill Elementary School in South Windsor.

Kathleen (Gilbert) Branch is a diversion investigator for the U. S. Drug Enforcement Administration in Tucson, AZ. Karen L. Heiligen is a fulfillment manager at Barker Specialty Co. in Cheshire.

Kimberly Johdos is an abuse/neglect investigator for the State of New Jersey Department of Human Services. Michael J. Krikonis is an academic technologist at Clark University in Worcester, MA. Pamela Lizzette-Valentin teaches a remedial reading program at Our Piece of the Pie, a non-profit agency located in Hartford.

03 Byung K. Lee is an assistant manager for Hyundai Motor Company in Seoul, South Korea. Christopher E. Pierce is a regional director at Eblens in Torrington.

Michael W. Gowdy is a music teacher at Plainfield High School.

04 Barbara Ladany is a customer care team supervisor at Hartford Insurance Group in Southington. Courtney E. Linder is a psychological associate at Associated Clinical Services in Herndon, VA. Carie Krajewski works at The Hartford in Simsbury as a marketing communications consultant. Nichole Coutant is a senior accountant at Pikaart Visconti & Associates in North Haven.

05 Meghan K. Fay serves as a project and events coordinator in University Relations at Wesleyan University in Middletown. Lori L. Rece works as a business and program manager for GKN Aerospace Services Structures in Cromwell. Vanessa West (MA) is a quality systems specialist for Advanced Behavioral Health in Middletown.

06 Taylor G. Allen is a paralegal with the law firm of Stark & Shimer, LLC in Andover, MA. Amy M. Burns (MS), a music teacher at Far Hills Country Day School. Joseph F. Krocheski, Jr. ’92 is a security analyst/portfolio manager at Turner Investment Partners’ Hartford office. In addition to his analytical role, Krocheski is the co-portfolio manager for Turner’s Mid Cap Core Equity portfolio.
School in Bernardsville, NJ, is a technology specialist in the area of elementary music. **Casey L. Carpenter** joined Lockton Companies of Connecticut in Farmington as a marketing consultant in its employee benefits group. **Fatima Monkush**, in partnership with her best friend, has designed a new clothing line, *Eva Khurshid*, featuring chic clothing that offers Muslim women a way to dress both modestly and fashionably. **Eric D. Rowland** is a design engineer at General Electric.

**07** **Eric M. Abrahamson** works as a software programmer for S SIMED, LLC, a medical software solution provider in Bloomfield. **Jacob D. Gawendo** has joined O, R & L Construction in Branford as a project engineer. **Peyton S. Milner** is a medical case manager at AIDS Project Hartford. **Ben Roberts** has joined Response, LLC, a New Haven marketing firm, as art director. He is also the owner of Ransom Skateboards & Apparel.

**08** **Nicole J. Lancione** has joined Northwestern Mutual Financial Network in Wakefield, MA, as an associate financial representative. **Audrey Letizia** (MS) is coordinator of annual giving at Manchester Community College. **Erin M. Raymond** is a senior business analyst and compliance liaison at The Hartford Group in Simsbury.

**P. Faith McMahon** MS ’68, member of the CCSU Alumni Association Board of Directors, died on January 27, 2009. She taught in the Windsor Public Schools for 35 years. On the Bloomfield Town Council from 1987 and a state representative for the 15th district since 2002, she was elected Bloomfield’s first female mayor in 1993.

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**CLASS NOTES**

**In Memoriam**

- **1928** Eileen Felth Case 8/20/08
- **1929** Ida Birnbaum Shapiro 3/16/08
- **1930** Mabel Benedict Gordon 11/23/07
- **1931** Carolyn Blowen Jackson 6/15/08
- **1932** Honora Mulryan Farrell 3/28/08
- **1933** Ida Davidson Greenspon 4/27/08
- **1936** Ruth Devaul Allen 6/28/08
- **1937** Doris Andrews Abbatello 8/12/08
- **1938** Beatrice Kovner Cramer 4/26/08
- **1939** Mario Conroy Valentine 3/18/05
- **1941** Grace Nelson Ferguson 1/13/05
- **1943** Harriet Hart Prescher 12/7/07
- **1944** Helen Weintraub Velenchik 10/26/06
- **1945** Sally Conlin Douglas 3/18/08
- **1946** Elizabeth Schulz Grant 8/20/08
- **1948** Doris Dayton Carney 3/16/07
- **1949** Joan Wessels Jahn 11/1/07
- **1950** Betty Ann Rusti Squires 8/14/08
- **1952** Charlotte Dyson Crockett 10/21/07
- **1953** Russell T. Harrington 7/16/08
- **1954** Walter F. Skurupski 4/14/08
- **1955** Anthony A. Calabro 8/18/08
- **1956** Elizabeth Hycz Sadkowski 7/8/08
- **1957** Jean Mize True 4/24/08
- **1958** Marilyn Brookes McRoy 3/11/08
- **1959** Joseph L. Slattery 5/19/08
- **1960** Donald L. Ahlberg 8/30/08
- **1961** H. Claire Phelan Murphy 7/1/08
- **1962** Elizabeth Kafka Souza 3/2/08
- **1963** Yvette Boudreau Hepburn 6/10/08
- **1964** Donald R. Flis 7/2/08
- **1965** Laura Emmerson French 8/20/05
- **1966** Richard F. Stornberg 4/25/07
- **1967** Myra Manzo Oliver 7/9/08
- **1968** Mary Rubera Mansigian 3/24/08
- **1969** Bonnie J. Olson 9/26/07
- **1970** Gail Logozzo Kirwan 2/18/08
- **1971** Kathryn Arnold Loyd 11/19/07
- **1972** Rose Dombkowski Bernhardt 3/21/08
- **1973** Donald H. Smith 5/3/08
- **1974** Charles W. Brown, Sr. 1/31/08
- **1975** Robert G. Doyle 6/24/08
- **1976** P. Faith McMahon 2/27/09
- **1977** Blanche Cooper Nelson 12/9/07
- **1978** Theodore M. Pryor 4/6/08
- **1979** Donald R. Welter 4/7/00
- **1980** Curtis L. Wilson 1/18/08
- **1981** Marilyn Luko Bertrand 1/23/08
- **1982** Jerry D. Joseph 8/19/08
- **1983** Marian Cody Garber 1/18/08
- **1984** Roxanne Pucci Esposti 2/16/08
- **1985** Frank J. LaPorte III 4/1/08
- **1986** Frances E. Librera 12/6/06
- **1987** John A. Marin 12/4/07
- **1988** Paul J. Carroll 3/14/08
- **1989** Catherine Gueth Gregory 6/25/08
- **1990** Ellen Martineau-Tobin 2/25/08
- **1991** Reginald J. Chenard 8/8/08
- **1992** Anthony L. Giannattasio 10/28/07
- **1993** James S. Reagan 3/6/08
- **1994** Anthony W. Melillo 12/28/07
- **1995** Gracie F. Simao Rosa 2/23/08
- **1996** Joseph S. Cirillo 7/18/05
- **1997** Deborah Crosier Loranger 4/8/08
- **1998** Timothy C. Sheehan III 2/16/08
- **1999** Robert D. Setzer 3/9/08
- **2000** Kimberly Lesieur Lomnicky 7/13/08
- **2001** James S. Belanger 8/1/08
- **2002** Donna D’Ambrose Festa 2/2/08
- **2003** Patricia Carmemolla Platosz 6/5/08
- **2004** Vlasta N. Enders 7/15/08
- **2005** Mary Elliott Tiano 1/22/08
- **2006** Paul M. Riutta 5/2/08
- **2007** Terry S. Weichand 11/4/07
- **2008** Millie Pantano Rocco 11/25/07
- **2009** Kathy M. Acosta 11/21/07
- **2010** James W. Riote 2/17/08
- **2011** Robert C. Royle 6/18/08
- **2012** Cynthia Giedraitis Heidari 5/18/08
- **2013** Kelly Camezon Parker 1/27/08
- **2014** Karen J. Sullivan 8/26/08
- **2015** Joseph T. Zunic 1/4/08
- **2016** Arkadiusz Tadla 7/26/08
- **2017** F. Jacques von Schnedden 10/27/07
- **2018** Salvatore A. Cantillo 5/18/08
- **2019** Shannon M. Bebee 9/5/08
- **2020** Michael D. McDonald 11/18/08
- **2021** Sheila Chery 6/21/08

Memorial gifts may be made to the CCSU Foundation
P.O. Box 612, New Britain, CT 06050
Scholarship Established in Memory of Fran Librera

Carol Ammon ’73 has organized and helped establish a scholarship in memory of fellow alumna and roommate Frances E. Librera ’73. The scholarship will benefit full-time, matriculated undergraduate students in the School of Education and Professional Studies who are majoring in physical education and human performance.

The scholarship was established to honor Librera’s memory, her contagious laugh, and beautiful smile that touched all who met her. As a student, Frances excelled at tennis, volleyball, and swimming, and was a familiar face in Kaiser Hall. A member of the Blue Dolphin Synchronized Swimming team and a majorette, she also helped organize a large “Home Run Derby,” which she won several years in a row. Frances earned a bachelor of science degree in 1973 and enjoyed a successful career as a business analyst for ING and Aetna in Hartford, CT.

Until her death in 2006, she remained life-long friends with her college roommates, Ammon, Paula Phenix Allan ’73, and Coleen Meyer DiSilvestro ’73. Scholarship organizer Ammon received a bachelor’s degree in biology from Central, and is founder and former CEO and chairman of the board of Endo Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a specialty pharmaceutical company with market leadership in pain management. She was named the CEO of the Year in 2004 by the Eastern Technology Council, and in March 2006, she was selected by Central Pennsylvania’s “Best 50 Women in Business.”

A room in Kaiser Hall has been dedicated in Frances Librera’s memory.

Left to right: Coleen (Meyer) DiSilvestro ’73, Carol Ammon ’73, and Paula (Phenix) Allan ’73 at the ceremony dedicating a room in Kaiser Hall in memory of their friend and former roommate Frances E. Librera ’73.

Sikorsky Alumni Employees Reception
Thursday, May 7, 2009
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Downtown Danny O’s
441 Howe Avenue, Shelton, CT

Blue Devil Golf Classic
Friday, May 8, 2009
Stanley Golf Course, New Britain, CT

50th Reunion
Class of 1959
Saturday, May 16, 2009
3:00 pm
Memorial Hall, CCSU Campus

Undergraduate Commencement
Saturday, May 23, 2009
10:30 am
XL Center, Hartford, CT

Graduate Commencement
Wednesday, May 27, 2009
7:30 pm
Welte Auditorium, CCSU Campus

55th Reunion
Class of 1954
Saturday, May 30, 2009
3:00 pm
Memorial Hall, CCSU Campus

Fairfield Area Networking Happy Hour
Thursday, June 18, 2009
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Place TBD

Official Notice of CCSU Alumni Association Annual Meeting and Election
Monday, June 22, 2009
5:30 pm
Memorial Hall, CCSU Campus

Homecoming 2009
Saturday, October 3, 2009
CCSU Campus

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

Join the CCSU Alumni Group on the LinkedIn professional online network at: www.linkedin.com
You will need a free LinkedIn account to join.
“At certain times,” says Mike Cohen ’70, “I would just stop, and someone would appear and give me important information. Or someone would take me in. Things worked out. People were being helpful. It’s a very spiritual existence.”

He’s talking about the remarkable journey he completed in the summer of 2007. But he might be talking about the bigger journey upon which he embarked when he came to Central. After all, the two are inextricably intertwined.

Cohen, who grew up in New London, found his way into Central in 1966, via the EOP. It “gave me a chance to get in the door,” and he’s quick to assert that his education opened the doors to the rest of his life. “Learning how to write is one of the two most important things you can learn in college,” he says. “The other is to learn how to learn. There’s no way I could have prepared for the job I have today, other than by being willing to continually learn new things.”

Along the way he also learned what it takes to be a survivor. After graduating, he tried his hand at what he calls “several survival jobs” before enlisting in the US Air Force in 1977 and enrolling in officer’s training. Over the next five and a half years he attended computer school, acquired a trade, and eventually rose to the rank of captain.

After military service, Cohen settled in Massachusetts and embarked upon a career as a computer consultant and web developer that included a stint with the State.

After surviving cancer, in 1992, he felt a need to tackle a new challenge. An avid biker, he flew to Seattle, assembled his bicycle at Sea-Tac Airport and, without hesitation, headed east. It took five weeks to pedal his way back home.

When he repeated the journey, in 2007, he was testing the boundaries of middle age. It would be his last cross-country bike trip, and though there were times when he felt like throwing in the towel he never seriously entertained the idea. Instead, he used the long days to reacquaint himself with America at ground level and ruminate on all that life had taught him about survival.

He didn’t forget those life lessons when he got home. Last year, as Central prepared to celebrate the EOP’s 40th anniversary, he contacted Director Awilda Reasco and made a generous donation – bookstore funds for each EOP student, plus additional money to help the program.

“The EOP made an incalculable difference in my life,” he says. “It got me into college and gave me the tools to succeed. Multiply that by 40 years and the stories of all the other students. I think the EOP has probably repaid Connecticut a thousand times over.”