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
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
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.

continued on page 6
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 ’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.”
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.
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 1953 at 55th-reunion celebration.

Class of 1958 at 50th-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.
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 supports our students with scholarships and other forms of financial aid, enriches academic and athletic programs and equipment, and enhances the quality of the University community.

The University Community
The University extends its gratitude to the individuals, corporations, and foundations who made gifts or have planned for irrevocable deferred gifts in excess of $50,000.

The University Community

These pages recognize gifts made to the CCSU Foundation, Inc., between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008.

The University Community

Christopher J. Galligan
Vice President, Institutional Advancement
Gabriella (Pellegrino) Garrity
Arthur H. Kowkotian
Elizabeth (Wennermak) Talbot
Class of 1948
Marion (Dooday) Bradley
Br Regina (Buikner) Mary (Buikner) Olha
Edward A. Vazinels
Elizabeth T. Zaharak
Class of 1949
Eva (Norton) Bowden
Martha (Martin) Jurczik
Sergio N. Neri
Irma Smith
Class of 1950
Rose (Capen) Berlina
Elizabeth (Adams) Clereb
Baruch B. Daik
James B. Fortuna
Richard E. Gannon
Robert T. MacBain
Tina (Vasquez) MacBain
Lorraine (Wendt) Laydon
Herbert Kreitner
Edward Karoll
Elizabeth (Scriminger) Adams
John H. Wojick
Eleanor (Pfersick) Wojick
Barbara Roche
Nancy (Vanzandt) Miller
William D. Massa
Lillian (Airo) Kuchalla
Lorraine (Piarz) Hancock
Lillian (Coady) Smith
Lorraine (Grody) Pinsky
James Mariconda
Class of 1951
Mary (Buzas) Olha
Edward G. Vater
Thomas F. Reardon
Tina (Vasile) MacBain
Richard E. Gannon
James B. Fortuna
Elizabeth (Adams) Careb
Irene Smith
Eva (Norton) Bowden
Class of 1949
Mary (Buzas) Olha
Edward G. Vater
Thomas F. Reardon
Tina (Vasile) MacBain
Richard E. Gannon
James B. Fortuna
Elizabeth (Adams) Careb
Irene Smith
Eva (Norton) Bowden
Class of 1949
Mary (Buzas) Olha
Edward G. Vater
Thomas F. Reardon
Tina (Vasile) MacBain
Richard E. Gannon
James B. Fortuna
Elizabeth (Adams) Careb
Irene Smith
Eva (Norton) Bowden
Class of 1949
Mary (Buzas) Olha
Edward G. Vater
Thomas F. Reardon
Tina (Vasile) MacBain
Richard E. Gannon
James B. Fortuna
Elizabeth (Adams) Careb
Irene Smith
Eva (Norton) Bowden
2008 Honor Roll of Donors

American International Group
American Savings Foundation
American Society of Mechanical Engineers - Hartford Section
Amodia Moving, Inc.
Angelica’s Café
Another Bookstore, LLC
Arch Chemicals, Inc.
Ashish LLC
AT & T Foundation
AT&T United Way
Bank of America
Banle Printers, LLC
Bartholomew Contract Interiors
Bayer Pharmaceuticals Corporation
Beauty Barn
Bel Alliance Apartments, LLC
Bel Alliance Communities, LLC
Bel Apartment Properties
Bel Communities Properties Trust
Bel Multifamily Property Trust
Bel Residential Trust
Belair Real Estate Corporation
BelBrook Realty Corporation
Beltar Realty Corporation
Beltone Realty Corporation
Beltrax Realty Corporation
Beltway Realty Corporation
Better Bedding Shops, Inc.
Billings Billiards & Sports, Inc.
Bishop Brudy High School
Blimpube & Subs
Bobcat Soccer
Body Armor Outlet
The Boeing Company
Boston Mutual Life Insurance Company
Brazos Property Trust
Brennan J. Kennedy & Associates
Bristol Chamber of Commerce
Bristol-Meyers Squibb Foundation, Inc.
Brook Enterprises, Inc.
Brown Larkin & Company LLC
Budweiser Overhaul & Repair, Ltd.
Burlington Securities Corporation
C & C Janitorial Services
CAL Business Solutions, Inc.
Call Before You Dig, Inc.
Capitol Cleaning Contractors, Inc.
Carraro, Inc.
Carraro Construction Companies, Inc.
Cascio Property Trust, LLC
CCSU-AAUP
CCSU Alumni Association
CCSU S.O.A.F-ASCMC
Center Congregational Church
CFC Wolves, LLC
Chase C. Ham Seed Co.
Chessex Real Estate Investment Trust
Chevrolet Motor Division
Choice
Chubb & Son Federal Insurance Company
CiGNA Foundation
Cimmaron Property Trust
City Bank
City of New Britain
Clearwater Industries, Inc.
Clearwood Realty Corporation
Cloudland Paintworks, Inc.
Club 48 AC Inc.
Coach Men’s Football Academy
Coca-Cola Bottling Company
Cotage-Palmolive Property Corporation
College Club of New Britain
Commercial Concrete NE, LLC
Community Foundation of Greater New Britain
The Connecticut Economic Resource Center, Inc.
Connecticut Science Center, Inc.
Cornerstone Financial Services of Woodbury, LLC
Corporate Partners, LLP
Courtney Fink & Forbes, LLP
Courtyard by Marriott
Coviden
Creative Office Interiors, LLC
Creech Monarch Inc.
CT State Building Trade Tournament
CT Yankee Union 42 Waves National
Dacon Installation Service, Inc.
Dana Corporation Foundation
Dance Speck
Dangcy Yours
Data-Mail, Inc.
Deerfield Property Trust
Document Dynamics, LLC
Dominion Nuclear
Connecticut, Inc.
Doyle, D’Amore, and Balducci
Dr Pepper/Seven Up, Inc.
& E & Associates, Inc.
East Side Car Clinic Corporation
Edmond G. Oyes Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain
Educational Management Associates
The Edward J. Kapita Foundation
Elkhorn Property Trust
The Ellis Fund
Elmer’s Place
Emerson
Engel – Ladder 34 Fire Hose
Equipe & Cirone, LLP
Family Reading Program
Farmington Savings Bank
Farmington Savings Bank Foundation, Inc.
Fashjian & Facio, P.C.
Fenn Technologies
Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.
Ferguson Waterworks
Federal Pitch LLC
Fidelity Mortgage Services, Inc.
First Company Governor’s School
First Investors Corporation
First Lutheran Church Of The Reformation
FiServ Investment Support Services
Florian J. Lombardi Foundation, Inc.
Flowers Landscape Development, Inc.
Floyd Home Improvement
The Foundation for the Jewish Community
4 Sharp Corners
Friends of CCSU Alumni Baseball
Friends of CCSU Alumni Track
Friends of David Rybczyk
Frontline Recruiters, LLC
G. A. McQuillan Sales, Inc.
GE Foundation
Geico Insurance
General Atlantic Science Company, LLC
General Re Corporation
The Gillette Company
Glastonbury Driving School
Global Strategy Group, LLC
GM, John, and Scouting LLC
Goodspeed’s Station
Grande Properties of N.E. PA
Grasshopper Lawns, Inns.
Greater Hartford Convention & Visitors Bureau
Greater Kansas City Community Foundation
The Hartford
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care
HB Communications
The Herald
Hire Aspirations
Hitchcock Printing & Distribution
Hometown Buffet
Howie Dickenman Basketball School
American International Group
IBIB Foundation, Inc.
Ikon Office Solutions Foundation
Imaginew Technology Center
Ingersoll-Rand Company
Institute of Packaging Professionals, Connecticut Chapter
International Foundation for the Exoneration of Marcus Mosiah Garvey
Irish History Round Table, Inc.
Italian American Legislative Caucus
J & J Financial Associates, LLC
J. W. Green Company, Inc.
JANR TEK LLC
JC Special, T. LLC
John Boyle Company, Inc.
John Hancock Financial Services, Inc.
Jones, Raphael & Tulundzen, Inc.
Joulin Family Charitable Fund
Just4Kale
Kathadin Property Trust, LLC
KC Carpets Assoc., Inc.
Kalehser Associates, LLC
KPMG Foundation
KPMG, LLP
Karlofor Congress
Law Office of Thomas A. Santora, LLC
Law Offices of Thomas J. Mullins
Lawrenceville LLC
Leo Systems, Inc.
The Limited Consulting Group
Lynn, Massachusetts, MA
LPL Financial Services
LTC Construction Company, Inc.
M.E. Smith, & Associates, Inc.
Maffe Financial Group, Inc.
Martin Laverio Contractor Inc.
MassMutual Financial Companies
Medtronic Foundation
Merk Partnership for Giving
MetLife Foundation
The Michael S. and Patricia F. Knapp Foundation
Microtest Properties, LLC
Micron Company
Modell’s, Inc., LLC
Mom’s, LLC
Monadnock Property Trust, LLC
Montebello Realty Corporation
Montebello Seattle Corporation 2002
Mott Corporation
Mr. O. Restaurants
Nancy A. Larson Foundation, Inc.
Napoletono Studio & Gallery
National Association
New Britain Emergency Medical Services
New Britain Networking Group
New England Communications Systems, Inc.
New Fairfield Auto Body, Inc.
NewHiscare Foundation
NewMarket Corporation
Newreview Advisors, LLC
NGM Charitable Foundation
Northeast Scoreboards LLC
Norwood Invincibull
NU Transmission
Oakwood Soccer Club
Okay, Industries, Inc.
Palmer Management, Inc.
People’s United Bank
Pequot Capital Foundation
Pfizer Foundation
Pfizer United Way Campaign
Pitney Bowes
Plainville High School Athletic Association
Polish American Congress
Polish American Congress - Illinois Division
Polish Army Veterans Association
Polish Falcons of America
District 2
Polish National Home of Hartford, Inc.
Polish Women’s Civic Club, Inc.
Precision Sports 1 LLC
Pronza Agency, LLC
Prudential Foundation
The R & C Electric LLC
Riel & Riege Foundation
Reliable Roofing Contractor, LLC
Robert C. Vance Foundation
Segers Rogers Corporation
Rose Family Scholarship Fund
RSD Real Estate Inc.
Salmon Manufacturing, Inc.
Sandy’s Balon Sushi
The Scholarship Foundation
Spiry Speedy Printing Center
Sicuraus Moving & Storage Company
Skinner & Associates, Inc.
Sodaroah United, LLC
South Central Louisiana Chapter of CFMA
South Congregational First Baptist Church
South Green Memorial Home, Inc.
Spectrum Consulting Services, LLC
SS. Cyril and Methodius Church
The Stanley Works
St. Joseph’s Polish Society
St. Paul Companies, Inc.
St. Paul Foundation
Steele Machine Company, Inc.
Streamline Printing, Inc.
Sunrise Resort
Swiss Real Estate Associates, Inc.
Tie Lines...Optional, LLP
TD Banknorth Connecticut
Temple Beth Hillel
Temple-Infoland Foundation
The 3rd District State Senatorial PAC
Ticon Connecticut Inc.
Tobacco, A., Inc.
Tomasso Brothers, Inc.
Tom’s Pizza
Tony's Mobil
Total Playground Consulting Service
Town of Newton
Trash Master, LLC
Travelers Foundation
The Travelers Foundation
Travelers Foundation
TYCO International
UBS Financial Services, Inc.
The United Parcel Service Foundation
The United Polish Societies of Hartford
United States Steel Corporation
United Technologies Corporation
University Of The Capital Area, Inc.
USA Performing Arts Company
Corporation
VantisLife Insurance Company
Verizon Foundation
Vashaw Coat Foundation
Whitehall Foundation
The Walt Disney Company Foundation
Waste Management, Inc.
Weber & Carried, LLP
WellPoint Foundation
West Haven High School
West State Insurance
Whittier Publications, Inc.
Wilbur Staffy, LLC
William T. Soper Trust
W. Lee Osborne Associates, LLC
Women’s Sports Foundation, Inc.
Xerox Corporation
XDL Global Services, Inc.
Yale Global Services, Inc.

CORPORATE SPONSORS
Accel Network, LLC
Achieve Financial Credit Union
Angelica’s Café
The Barn Yard & Great Country Garages
Capital Cleaning Contractors, Inc.
Connecticut Lighting Centers
Court Yard by Marrot – Cromwell
Court Yard by Marrot – Hartford
Farmington
Emer’s Place
Hitchcock Printing & Distribution
Imperial Trophy Center
New Britain Rock Cats Baseball Club
New Britain Rock Cats Baseball Club
New England Communications Systems, Inc.
Sign Pro
Sicuraus Moving & Storage Company
Sodexo Warehouse, LLC
TD Banknorth Connecticut
The Herald
Ticon Connecticut Inc.
TLM Limousine Service
Tom’s Pizza at the Bar
Victor Advertising Service, LLC
Whelen Engineering Company, Inc.
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.

Dr. Abbott S. Baker III, associate professor of history, emeritus, who specialized in American history, particularly the American Civil War, died on December 30, 2008. After his retirement in 2000, he embarked upon a second career, earning a master’s degree in marriage and family therapy, and was developing a private practice as an independent practitioner.

Dr. Earl W. Bihlmeyer, professor of psychology, emeritus, died July 22, 2008. A member of the CCSU faculty since 1962, he served as chair of the department. Following his retirement from the University in 1981 Dr. Bihlmeyer joined the editorial staff of the New Britain Herald where he worked as a food writer and columnist.

Dr. Joseph W. Duffy, dean, emeritus, of what is now the School of Engineering & Technology, died July 30, 2008. Dr. Duffy joined the faculty of CCSU in 1965 as an instructor of industrial education. In 1976 he was named the first dean of the School of Technology and served in that position until his retirement in 1989.

Dr. Albert Lindia, professor of education, emeritus, died November 3, 2008. While a professor at the University he also acted as the affirmative action officer. Prior to his career at CCSU, he served as special assistant for the Department of Education in Washington, D.C.

Mary Jane (Zaleski) Hogan Nolan ’80, MS ’81, who served the CCSU community for nearly 20 years and retired in 1995 as assistant director of student center operations, died November 2, 2008.


Dr. Brian M. O’Connell, professor of computer science and philosophy, died May 21, 2008. Prior to teaching at CCSU, he practiced law in the Hartford area. At CCSU he also served as assistant director of the Honors Program.

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.”
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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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 Khaldiya, Kuwait.

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.


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.

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

A veteran financial officer with more than 20 years experience in higher education, Stephen J. Taksar ’78, has been named vice president for finance and administration at Plymouth State University in Plymouth, NH. His previous experience includes positions as chief operations officer at Babson College’s School of Executive Education in Wellesley, MA, assistant vice president of finance and operations at Curry College in Milton, MA, and business manager at Wheaton College, Norton, MA.

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.

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. Pittinger is an industrial arts teacher for the Bethel School District in Spanaway, WA.

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. Pittinger is an industrial arts teacher for the Bethel School District in Spanaway, WA.

Kenneth C. Frost 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.

Charles A. Maglieri is an attorney specializing in bankruptcy law in Bloomfield.
78 Stephen T. Gallagan, northeast regional sales manager for Branson Ultrasonics Corporation in Woburn, MA, received the corporation’s Region of the Year Award. Steve is also a member of the faculty of Northeastern University where he teaches marketing. Richard R. Longhini, 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.

79 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.

81 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.

82 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.

83 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.

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

85 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.

86 Kristen (Olson) Blackburn is a notebooks cost manager for Hewlett Packard in Houston, TX. Dominick J. Cieri, Jr. is business manager/secretary treasurer for the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, District Council 11 in Berlin, CT and Warwick, RI. John K. Glynn has joined Pepeo 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.

87 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 Occhiolini is treasurer and chief financial officer at Reno Machine Co., Inc. in Newington.

88 A registered professional engineer in Connecticut and a nationally certified professional traffic operations engineer, Joseph C. Balskus has been promoted to associate at Tighe & 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. Acton, 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
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.

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.

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 house-master, 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.

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 elected to the new position of technology coordinator at 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.
principal of Hamilton Investment Management in New York City. Walter L. Signora (MS) has been appointed guidance department supervisor at Darien High School. Jeffrey J. York was named vice president of creative services at TugTeam Business Partners, a full service marketing firm and video production company located in Rocky Hill.

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) Ciore 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) Maiho 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 Comcast.

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 Quinipiac University as associate vice president of development.

98 Christine (Amritage) 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 Pitruzello 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 Trabucchi was appointed a project manager in the client support services division at Clough Harbour & Associates LLP in their Rocky Hill office.

00 Michael J. Ciucci is a talent acquisition staffing specialist for Valassis in Windsor. Tanya Bentley (MS) is an investment accountant 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 Textrom, 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.

02 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 Lizzotte-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 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. Lancia** 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 ’08**, 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.

---

**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 Penn Business Journal as one of 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.

Upcoming Events

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

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

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.”