Alumni participate in Read Across America

Also in this issue: Upcoming Events, Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame and much more...
My presidency came to an end this past June after five years in office. It has been an honor to serve for many reasons, but mostly because, over this time, both our Association and the University we support accomplished so much and gained such great momentum. Hopefully, in this column and in my actions as President, I have left the impression that I take great pride in our alma mater, and that I have been proud to represent you and the University in this capacity, especially over a period of such dramatic growth and change.

As I depart from the post, I have reflected on the many milestones which have recently been reached. For the Association, we completed a rigorous reorganization effort, established for the first time an alumni scholarship, upgraded and enhanced our communication with you (including the introduction of this magazine), and revamped a number of our programs and activities. For the University, its massive reconstruction promises a world-class campus; its expanding athletic successes breed infectious enthusiasm; and its growing academic reputation means a bright future. Hardly an organization or an institution standing still.

I wish to thank you for continuing to support the Association and the University, and for all the encouragement and support you have provided directly to me as I have served. A special thanks also goes out to my fellow volunteers who have joined me in giving of their time and talents to our valuable work. And to the staff of the University, in particular to those in the Development and Alumni Affairs Office, who give so much to advancing the mission of the University, I express my deepest gratitude.

In closing, I encourage all of you to stay involved and stay in touch. Let’s join together in taking what we have in common to new heights.

Brian Mattiello ’88

Central Connecticut State University Commencement Ceremonies

The 46th Graduate Commencement was held on May 22nd in Welte Auditorium and the 153rd Undergraduate Ceremony was held on May 24th at the Hartford Civic Center. CCSU awarded 704 graduate degrees and nearly 1,700 undergraduate degrees.

Stan Simpson ’84, an award-winning columnist for The Hartford Courant, was the speaker at the Graduate Commencement.

First District, United States Congressman John B. Larson ’72 delivered the Undergraduate Commencement address to a crowd of over 8,000 graduates and guests.

CCSU Trustee Richard J. Balducci ’65 and President Richard L. Judd ’59 congratulate Rabbi Henry Okolica as he is awarded an Honorary Degree in Public Service at the Graduate Commencement. Rabbi Okolica has been the spiritual leader of Congregation Tephetheth Israel in New Britain for over 40 years and has served the religious needs of CCSU students since 1962.

Photos by Robert Wessman ’70
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From Us to You
It’s been a wet year, but that hasn’t dampened the enthusiasm of those of us at Central who work daily to advance the mission of the University and strive to make it a better place for those we serve. In fact, the future at Central looks sunny in so many ways: renovation of the University’s “Center Mall,” located in the middle of the campus where Wells Street once lay, is nearing completion; a new parking facility opens this fall; our athletic teams promise to build upon last year’s successes; the student-run newspaper, The Recorder, received an honorable mention in the “Newspaper of the Year” category at last spring’s Associated Collegiate Press’ National College Newspaper Convention; and the Theatre Department’s production of Israel Horowitz’s Lebensraum won a regional competition sponsored by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. For more details on these and other exciting CCSU projects, visit our website at www.ccsu.edu.

This issue of Central Focus spotlights one of the most exciting trends among alumni: your collective commitment to and involvement in such initiatives as Read Across America, a national program that encourages reading among school-aged children. Within these pages, you’ll learn how alumni donated their time and talent to bring words alive for children in schools throughout the state, and how these efforts impacted the lives of so many. As always, we welcome your thoughts and comments. Our email address is alumnidept@ccsu.edu, so please take a few minutes to write!

—The Central Focus Editorial Staff

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Central Connecticut State University is an AA/EO institution and a campus of the Connecticut State University System.
The doors of the Central Connecticut State University Alumni Association Athletic Hall of Fame swung open May 9. Laura Hungerford ’79, MS ’81, Raymond J. Rondini ’56, and John Skubel ’62, walked in. A crowd of more than 150 celebrated the induction ceremonies in the Student Center’s Alumni Hall. The Hall of Fame will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2004. Scott Gray, WTIC-AM morning sports anchor, served as emcee. Following the introductions and plaque presentations, honorees offered their thanks and reminisced about their “glory days” at Central.

Laura Hungerford played four years of basketball and softball and also saw action with the field hockey and volleyball teams. She was honored with the Gail Rutz Award as the most outstanding senior female student-athlete in her last year as an undergraduate. Coach Hungerford will begin her third season at the helm of the Connecticut College women’s basketball program in the fall. Crediting her CCSU coach and mentor, the late Dr. Brenda A. Reilly, with inspiring her to join the coaching ranks, Hungerford made stops at Manchester Community College, Green Mountain College, UMaine-Farmington, The University of Chicago, and the Rochester Institute of Technology before taking over at Connecticut College.

Raymond J. Rondini, who was born and raised in New Britain, spent a year at Cheshire Academy before coming to Teachers College of Connecticut. Although his TCC career was interrupted in 1952 by service in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict, he returned to TCC to co-captain the undefeated 1954 football team under Coach Hank Majlinger, as well as the 1955 team. Rondini had a distinguished 33-year career in education, serving as a math teacher and guidance counselor in South Windsor. He was the assistant coach for the high school football team for six years; coached the junior high basketball team for 12 years; and coached the high school golf team for 17 years. He is a past recipient of the Kaiser Alumni Service Award for outstanding achievement.

John Skubel, a track-and-field record-holder at Central, won the Gladstone Award in 1962 and captained both the football and track teams. He worked in Stamford and Derby before returning to his high school alma mater, Woodrow Wilson High School, in Middletown. As the Wilson football coach, he amassed a 137-63-5 record and brought seven teams to state title games. He has coached in the Nutmeg Bowl; served on the CIAC football committee, which he also chaired; and was vice chair of the NHSACA football committee. A Middletown Sports Hall of Fame inductee, he was NHSACA Region I Coach of the Year and CHSCA Coach of the Year in 1986, when the National Football Foundation also honored him.

Joseph R. Murphy ’69, MS ’72, the Kaiser Alumni Service Award recipient, was a member of the Central football team, serving as co-captain during his senior year. After graduation, he began a teaching career at Weaver High School. In 1973, Murphy left teaching to start his own business. Center Enterprises, Inc., a manufacturer of instructional resource materials, artistic and educational curriculum rubber stamps, and stamp pads and accessories, is well known for quality products and outstanding customer service. It has been recognized as J.L. Hammet, Co. Vendor of the Year. Murphy spends his spare time volunteering with the Special Olympics, for which he is a Past Director of the Winter Speed Skating events.

Alumni Gather for Annual Golf Outing

The enthusiastic “thwack” of club on ball easily drowned out the soft sound of a light but persistent rain as the Annual Blue Devil Golf Outing went on as scheduled, May 8, at the Lyman Orchards Gary Player Course in historic Middlefield. Umbrellas were unfurled, “war stories” were exchanged, but in the end, the old adage, “it never rains on the golf course,” prevailed as golfers ignored the elements and had a great time. Proceeds from the annual event benefit CCSU Athletics.

Third place golf tournament finishers J C Hammond ’92 (left), and Brent Hammond (right) take a moment to pose for a photo with Steve Villanti MS ’87 (center).

Louise Compitello Schaetzle ’70, Sharon Szymaszek Ritacco ’69, Kaiser Award winner Joseph R. Murphy ’69, MS ’72, Kathleen Pacyna Murphy ’70, MS ’87 and granddaughter Madison Murphy at the Hall of Fame dinner.
AROUND CAMPUS

Upcoming Alumni Events

Thursday, September 18, 2003
Alumni Networking Social
4:30 pm – 7:00 pm
Wood ’n Tap
99 Sisson Avenue, Hartford CT
860-232-8277
www.woodntap.com

Friday, September 26 to Sunday, September 28, 2003
Class of 1953 50th Reunion

Saturday, October 11, 2003
Homecoming

Tuesday, March 2, 2004
Read Across America Day

Friday, May 14 to Sunday, May 16, 2004
Class of 1954 50th Reunion

Saturday, May 15, 2004
Alumni Day

Monday, June 14, 2004
Annual Meeting and Election of Directors

Please visit the alumni department website at www.CCSU.edu/alumni for details.
CSU alumni gathered on Saturday, May 10, 2003, in the Student Center Alumni Hall for a friend-filled day at the University. The classes of ’43, ’48, and ’58 celebrated their 60th, 55th, and 45th reunions, respectively, while other alumni came to renew old friendships and show their interest in the Alumni Association. Alumni Association President Brian Mattiello ’88 began the day by welcoming everyone and highlighting the reunion classes. In addition, three distinguished alumni were recognized with awards.

The Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award went to Rudolph J. Baigert ’67. A reading consultant at Benjamin Franklin Elementary School in Meriden, Baigert provides reading instruction to first and second graders. He recently developed and presented reading workshops for paraprofessionals and helped to implement an Academic Review Team to help teachers improve the teaching of reading comprehension. He has served on the Principal’s Advisory Committee, been a Head Teacher and Science Resource Teacher, and chaired the Professional Development Committee. Baigert initiated the Parents Excited About Reading (P.E.A.R.) program to get parents more involved with reading to their children, which later evolved into the Children Are Reading Everywhere (C.A.R.E.) reading incentive program. Baigert is involved in many community programs and has received the Meriden Probus Club Educator of the Year Award.

Janet Sinkiewicz Sola ’57 was presented the Distinguished Alumni Service Award. Sola has served the Alumni Association as secretary, vice president, and president, and was a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors for 27 consecutive years. She also served as chairperson of the 25th and 45th reunions for her class. Sola is a business education teacher at Hamden High School, where she has been honored as Teacher of the Year. At Hamden High, she also serves as the accountant for the activity fund, a BEST Mentor, and the supervisor of student teachers. Sola has been listed in Who’s Who Among American Teachers and was recognized as Outstanding Alumna by the Ruth Boyea Women’s Center. She is a member of Delta Pi Epsilon - Beta Mu Chapter, National Graduate Honorary Society in Professional Business Education.

Steven VanVoorhis ’87, this year’s Young Alumni Service Award recipient, is Marketing Director for DaCor Installation Service, Inc. in West Hartford, where he is responsible for sales, marketing, advertising, project management, and customer service. VanVoorhis has co-authored a children’s book series, titled “Roosevelt and the Magic Box.” While at Central, he was a three-year starter for the football team, leading the team in receptions in 1985 and 1986. He was tri-captain of the team, earned All New England honors (all divisions) in 1986, and served as an assistant football coach for the CCSU football team from 1987-1999.

Alumni Day Celebrated
American Savings Foundation Donates $1 Million to Establish Chair in Banking and Finance at CCSU

New Britain-based American Savings Foundation has donated $1 million to CCSU to establish an endowed chair in banking and finance. The grant links one of the community’s largest philanthropic resources with CCSU in a pioneering program designed to support the state’s banking and financial services industry, while creating valuable educational opportunities for CCSU students.

In announcing the grant, CCSU President Richard L. Judd exclaimed, “This exciting initiative will greatly benefit the state, the community, the Connecticut banking industry, and the students of CCSU.”

Robert Kenney, chairman and CEO of American Savings Bank and chairman of the American Savings Foundation, noted that the grant is “one more expression of the Foundation’s commitment to the people of Connecticut. Education is one of the Foundation’s key priority areas. We are pleased that the grant will enhance the world-class educational mission of Central Connecticut State University and continue the Foundation’s heritage of service to the community.”

CCSU’s School of Business will serve as the home of the American Savings Foundation Distinguished Professor of Banking and Finance, and will coordinate the activities of the Institute for Banking and Finance. Patricia Root, interim dean of the School of Business, explained that the Institute will offer an “extensive array of educational opportunities for CCSU faculty and students. Just as significant, the results of the research conducted at the Institute will produce information that can have an impact on the important decisions we all face: decisions, for example, about buying or selling a home, purchasing an automobile, or managing savings and retirement plans.”

“This grant is another step in helping CCSU to raise our sights to become the premier university of its type in New England,” Judd said.

Princeton Review Selects CCSU as One of the Best Northeastern Colleges

Princeton Review, the college guidebook publisher, will include CCSU in its new, forthcoming publication, The Best Northeastern Colleges. Profiling 131 colleges and universities in the region, the guidebook is based on student opinion surveys, analysis of institutional data, and advice from the Review’s educational consultants. Each profile offers student opinion—and editorial commentary—about the institution’s academics, life on campus, and student characteristics. CCSU will be featured along with nine other Connecticut institutions, including Yale, Wesleyan, Trinity, the University of Connecticut, Connecticut College, Fairfield, Quinnipiac, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and St. Joseph College.

The profile of CCSU opens with, “Students at Central Connecticut State University commend the ‘innovative education’ they receive,” and then cites such glowing comments as: “there are great professors at Central that are willing to help out every step of the way,” “online registration... has been a great experience for all,” and “students boast about the ‘personal’ feel of their classes.” Also singled out for praise are the University’s many student clubs that “give support to every possible group you can think of—black students, international exchange students, Jewish students, Christian students, gay/lesbian students, etc.”

Princeton Review’s selection of CCSU is yet another national recognition of the University. In 2001, the Association of American Colleges & Universities selected CCSU as one of 16 national “leadership institutions;” and in 2002, the college guidebook Great Colleges for the Real World included the University among its “best 201 colleges” in the nation.

This exciting initiative will greatly benefit the state, the community, the Connecticut banking industry, and the students of CCSU.
Do you like green eggs and ham? Chances are the answer is ‘no.’ But, apparently, this culinary curiosity is the meal of choice among five-year-olds. That’s what Wendell Davis ‘89 discovered recently when he read Dr. Seuss’s classic story to a group of kindergartners at Holmes Elementary School in New Britain.

Davis, a private attorney and the new CCSU Alumni Association President, was one of 248 alumni from around the state who took time to read to school children on Monday, March 3, as part of Read Across America, an annual, nationwide program designed to encourage reading among school-aged children. The date for the celebration coincided with the birthday of the beloved children’s author, Dr. Seuss, a day earlier.

“I love reading Dr. Seuss books because the rhymes and the cleverness of the words allow me to be imaginative. I can act silly and act like a boy again,” says Davis. “Honestly,” he admits, “I had as much fun as the kids. The children listen to every word you say. You can see the excitement in their eyes, and experiencing [that] is extremely rewarding.”

CCSU alumni scattered throughout the school read to other classes while Davis read to the youngest students. “Almost every teacher here has had some kind of connection to Central,” observes Principal Craig Johnson ‘72, MS ‘79, “so virtually every student in the school was read to by a CCSU alumnus.” Johnson himself read one of his favorite stories, Jumanji, by Chris Van Allsburg, to a group of fourth- and fifth-grade special education students. “I just have a blast with it, and I think it helps them to see me in a different light—to see that I’m not just an administrator, that books really do mean something to me.”

While Davis and the others were busy at Holmes, CCSU President Richard L. Judd ’59 read to preschoolers at the University’s Early Learning Program, and Judge Carmen Espinosa ’71 captivated a group of third graders at nearby Chamberlain Elementary School with her recital of two books, Skeleton Woman, by Alberto Villoldo, and Officer Buckle and Gloria, by Peggy Rathmann. It is clear that Judge Espinosa is a bit of a celebrity at the school. When Principal Sharon Cicio introduced her, she asked the students why Espinosa had chosen to come there. Several hands shot up immediately. “Because she attended Chamberlain when she was our age,” one eager girl volunteered.

Later, when the reading was over, Cicio underscored the significance of having community leaders come into the schools. “It’s wonderful for the children to see an adult who has gone on to school—especially to college—and be successful, then come back and read to them,” she says. A visit like this, she emphasizes, helps students “make connections about the importance of books in their lives. It helps them realize that they [should] read not only because they have to for school, but for pleasure, as well. We hope it fosters a lifelong love of reading.”

That is exactly what the National Education Association had in mind when they conceived of Read Across America back in 1997. They wanted to create an event that would focus attention on the importance of motivating children to read since, for years, studies have shown that reading plays an important part in overall academic success. In fact, a recent survey conducted by the National Council for Education Statistics found that young children who are read to frequently are also more likely to count higher than those who are not read to (60% vs. 44%); more likely to write their own names (54% vs. 40%); and more likely to read or pretend to read themselves (77% vs. 57%). Nevertheless, data indicate that only 53 percent of children are read to daily by a family member.

That is one statistic not lost on Wendell Davis. He was surprised and saddened when, at the end of his visit, one little girl told him she had no books at home. “Teachers can only do so much,” he says, “so I would be remiss in not taking advantage of this opportunity [to help out].”

Elsewhere across the state, CCSU alumni observed the day in all kinds of creative ways. Dale Bernardoni, principal at Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School in Hamden, helped his primary grade teachers organize a “read-in” in the school hallway. With roughly 200 students participating, it was a tremendous success.
At Stepney Elementary School in Monroe, Special Education Teacher Donald M. Casey ’86 impersonated Dr. Seuss’s The Cat in the Hat. During the day, students dropped by the library to meet the Cat, read Dr. Seuss books, play a game of Dr. Seuss Trivia, sing songs, and make green slime (based on Dr. Seuss’s Bartholomew Cubbins and the Oobleck).

Meanwhile, the festivities at Squadron Line School in Simsbury encompassed the entire week. Organized by three CCSU alumnae—Peggy Bruno 6th Yr ’02, Tami Toussignant MS ’96, and Claudia Rousseau MS ’79—all of whom are language arts consultants, each day focused on something different. Students wore funky socks for Fox in Socks Day on Monday. Tuesday was The Cat in the Hat Day. Wednesday celebrated Oh, The Places You’ll Go, when everyone wore clothes that broadcast a place you can go. Thursday was Grinch Green Day. And on Friday, everyone wore red and white to celebrate Dr. Seuss. Each day, a passage was read from one of the books during morning announcements. On Friday, a school staff member or a community leader read to each of the school’s 42 classes, K through sixth. The list of readers included NBC TV-30 weatherman Bob Maxon, Senator Thomas Herlihy, Representative Rob Heagney, and local firefighter J im Baldis. Three local school board members, as well as the superintendent and assistant superintendent of schools, also read. Even some of the building “stars”—Principal Kevin Case, Assistant Principal Anne-Marie Sladewski, secretaries, cafeteria ladies, and custodians—participated.

Says Bruno, “As a language arts consultant, I know that the value children place on reading should be fostered daily. Being read to at school and at home, regardless of how old you are, can make such a huge impact on a child. Children are never too old to be read to. Our sixth graders enjoyed their readers as much as our first graders did.”

All in all, more than 35,000 children in 73 schools throughout Connecticut were read to by a CCSU alumnus during the 2003 Read Across America celebration. Each one of those children also brought home a CCSU/Read Across America bookmark to remind them of the special experience.

Brain Mattiello ’88, recent past president of the CCSU Alumni Association, is pleased that the event was such a success. “There is no better gift to a child than to engage him or her in the love of reading,” he maintains. “The response to our appeal [for CCSU alumni to participate] was just terrific. We are proud of the many alumni who became involved and made it happen, and we’re hoping that next year even more will join us.”

There is little doubt that Wendell Davis will be back. Maybe next year he’ll read about something more appetizing than green eggs and ham. Or maybe not. Either way, he is sure to have those five-year-olds eating out of his hand.

If you would like to learn how to become involved with Read Across America, contact the CCSU Alumni Office at 1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06050-4010 or email: alumnidept@ccsu.edu or visit the NEA website at www.nea.org.

“Thank you for the attractive bookmarks. What a great way to encourage our students to read! I have always been proud to be a CCSU graduate. However, a gift such as this for children reminds me why. Thank you again for thinking of our students.”

— Jamie Y. Newman ’68, MS ’72, 6th Yr ’88, Principal, Sedgwick Middle School, West Hartford

“Thank you for the Read Across America bookmarks for our school. They were an instant hit and added to the message of the day. As a language arts consultant I encourage reading every day, and this was a wonderful way to reinforce this all-important message.”

— Lois Blakeburn Hobby ’65, Gallup Hill School, Ledyard

“The children who received the bookmarks were thrilled! Each one left school with a smile on their face and a Dr. Seuss bookmark in hand. Our CCSU alumni teachers were proud to see the effort you had put into supporting reading in our schools.”

— Susan Mattingly ’70, MS ’74, Teacher, and Margaret Rick, Principal, Israel Putnam School, Meriden
When Bill Driscoll, the former chairman of the Department of Mathematical Sciences, prepared to retire in 2000, he and his wife, Linda Ober, wanted to do something special to mark the occasion. Instead of planning a party or taking a cruise, they decided on something much bigger. They established a scholarship fund to help future students at CCSU.

“Central is everything,” says Bill effusively. “It gave me a 31-year career, and I am just ever so grateful for that.”

Linda feels a similar gratitude.

“Bill and I both came from working class families and probably would not have been able to go to college if it weren’t for the state university system,” she says. “We have done very well in life, and we feel an obligation to give back some of the good things that we derived from our state university educations.”

Bill and Linda both grew up in blue-collar Thomaston, Connecticut. Their families were of modest means, and their parents did not actively encourage the idea of higher education.

“My parents, like many at the time, didn’t place a priority on higher education,” observes Linda. “Although I had done very well academically in high school, no one was there to say, ’Linda, you can become a lawyer or a doctor or a scientist.’ Even though some money was set aside for school, I knew I would have to work my way through college.”

And that is exactly what she did. Linda attended Central on “the ten-year plan,” at times taking on three jobs to earn money and stay in school. It was physically and psychologically difficult to stay focused on finishing the degree, but her hard work paid off. After graduating in business, she taught for four years before embarking on a 25-year career in private industry. Now, Linda is a successful realtor in Avon.

Bill also worked his way through college, enrolling at Danbury State College (now Western Connecticut State University), where he started on a two-year program and then went on to complete a four-year degree. From there, he earned master’s degrees from Wesleyan University and the University of Connecticut before finishing his Ph.D. at UConn.

“If I had written down in high school that I wanted to be a college professor, I never would have done it and probably nobody in town would have expected it. But it happened, and it was a great experience. I started teaching at Central when I was 26 years old. Not only did I end up as chairman of the Math Department, but also as an author and consultant for some really big math programs. And it all started because I went to Danbury State College.”

If it isn’t obvious, Bill and Linda are proud not only of Central, but of the entire state university system. “The system—Central, Southern, Eastern, and Western, as well as UConn and the community colleges—does so much for students in Connecticut who, for a variety of reasons, are limited in their choice of colleges. Many of these students excel and become great people who do wonderful things, just because the system is there.”

While the scholarship fund has yet to make its first award, Bill and Linda are thinking big. Since they have no children, they hope to make a major contribution to the fund over time. Already they try to make at least one gift a year, often to honor friends and relatives. Although the formal criteria for awards are still being considered, Bill and Linda know exactly the type of student they want to help. First, the student must demonstrate a financial need. And second, he or she must have a record of academic success.

“As chairman of the Math Department, I got to know a lot of students who were very bright, and they were going to Central for the same reasons we went through public college—because of finances. We would like to lighten their load so they don’t have to work as we did when we were in school,” says Bill.

The idea for the scholarship fund came from a graduate of the Math Department who set up a similar fund. Likewise, Bill and Linda hope their example will inspire others.

“You can’t help every student; we know that,” Bill admits. “But we’d like to help a few. And that’s the message we want to send to alumni: You don’t have to come up with $10 million to help someone. Everything helps. If you contribute to the regular scholarship fund, that is fine. That’s a great thing. Because Central is a great place and there are great students who go here.”
Another Sign of Success

Following the 2001-2002 athletics season at Central, the highway sign on Route 9 listed three Northeast Conference Championships and three trips to the NCAA Tournament. Director of Athletics Charles Jones ’69, MS ’72, has said that one of the goals every season for the Blue Devils is to post at least three NEC titles and make three trips to the NCAA Tournament.

Entering the spring sports season, one team (women’s soccer) had won an NEC title and advanced to the NCAA Tournament. But a successful spring, and the defense of two NEC titles, helped the Blue Devils reach their goal for the second straight season.

The Blue Devil men’s golf and baseball teams made it back-to-back NEC titles in 2003, and did so in impressive fashion. The men’s golf team shot a 9-over-par, 293 on the second day of the NEC Tournament to erase a two-stroke deficit and win its second straight title. The Blue Devils entered the final round of play trailing Robert Morris University, but the Colonials posted a 297 on the second day of action at the par-71, 6,719-yard Architects Golf Club in Lopatcong, NJ, to finish two strokes behind the Blue Devils.

The baseball team finished another impressive season under head coach Charlie Hickey and finished the year with a 31-17-2 overall record. For the third straight season and the first time in school history, the Blue Devils posted 30 or more wins in a season. In winning their second straight NEC Tournament Title, and the first regular season title in school history, the Blue Devils won three straight tournament games en route to advancing to the second NCAA Division I Tournament in program history. They now have won six straight tournament games in winning the two titles. Pitcher Barry Hertzler and catcher Tim D’Aquila were named the NEC Pitcher and Player of the Year, and Hickey won his second Coach of the Year Award.

Hertzler was named a Louisville Slugger All-American, and D’Aquila was named an American Baseball Coaches Association All-American following the season. Hertzler was drafted in the 11th round by the Boston Red Sox and, after signing with the team, was assigned to the Class A Lowell Spinners.

The spring also was highlighted by strong performances from many members of the women’s track team at the NEC and New England Championships. The NEC champion 4x100 meter relay team (Erica Goodwine, Jessica Kelley, Nicole Dumpson, and Nicola Larmond) won the New England Championship with a time of 47.61.

Kelley ran 11.82 in winning the 100-meters at the New Englands and set a new meet record.

Dumpson won the 400-meter hurdles at the NEC Championship. The foursome of Kelley, Larmond, Cathy Gombotz, and Dumpson won the 4x400 meter relay at the New England Championships. The 4x100 meter relay team and Dumpson earned berths to the NCAA Regionals.

Basketball recruits also highlighted the spring season and a combined 12 new players will be in uniform next season for the men’s and women’s teams. The men’s team signed five incoming freshmen and, when added to redshirt freshman Antonio McMillion, will have six new faces on next year’s team. The women’s team has seven incoming freshmen in what is the largest recruiting class in recent memory. The men’s team will welcome guards T-Ron Christy (Stratford, CT) and DeMario Anderson (Ft. Washington, MD), as well as forwards Jean Phillippe Morin (Aylmer, Quebec), Obie Nwadike (Jersey City, NJ) and Jemino Sobers (Scarborough, Ontario) to the team next season. The women’s team adds Denee Burgess (G, Mississauga, Ontario), Britney Dixon (G/F, Lathrup Village, MI), Gabriella Guegbelet (F/C, South Africa/ Laurinburg Institute/NC). Krystal Coke (C, Brooklyn, NY), as well as Katherine Kelsey (F, Hartford, CT), Maria Babaeva (F, Moscow, Russia) and April Jackson (G, Norwalk, CT).

The fall sports season will begin in late August as most teams begin play during the last weekend of the month. For all current schedules and to follow all of the happenings of Central Connecticut athletics, log on to www.CCSUBlueDevils.com.
**30s**

**Esther T. (Holman) Anderson ’37** is retired after an almost 43-year career of teaching elementary school. She remains active with the North Haven, CT, retired teachers group.

**40s**

**Donald Linner ’61**

Finance and Personnel, for the Hampton Roads Planning degree from the George Washington University in 1980 and a master’s in (1959-1980) and Vietnam veteran, received a master’s in Business Administration at Union College in 1967, an independent film producer, in reference to his father’s earlier career as an elementary and middle school principal in Connecticut, Bob drew on his experience as a military veteran with top-secret security clearance while serving as secretary to two generals during the Korean Conflict.

**Mary Ann (D’Angelo) Landino ’65** retired from the position of Guidance Counselor at Southington High School in June 2001.

**Susanne (Brochu) Lewis ’66** hosted a Central Reunion at her summer home in New Jersey. Among the guests were Nancy Finch ’65, Ann (Panciera) Estwick ’66, Lee S. (Roberts) French ’67, Marlene A. (Hermonat) Skonieczny ’66, and Marian (Busk) Watson ’66.

**Christine J. (Ozieros) Rosadino ’66, MS ’70** retired after teaching first grade for 35 years in the Meriden Public School system.

**Sheila L. Spellacy ’66** has retired from East Hartford Public Schools after 36 years of teaching Social Studies and History, and is currently a Connecticut Geographic Alliance Professional Development Coordinator.

**JAMES D. CHERRY ’67, MS ’71** will retire at the end of the current school year after 35 years as a science teacher, 33 of them at Enrico Fermi High School in Enfield, CT. Beginning in September 2003, he will be in Washington, DC as an Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator—one of 12 Einstein fellows from around the country and the first from Connecticut—providing practical insight and increased understanding among the legislative and executive branches of government and the science, math and technology education community. James and his wife, Linda A. (Smith) Cherry ’67, MS ’72, who is principal of East Haddam Elementary School, live in Marlborough, CT.

**Alan M. DeBisschop ’67**, principal of Urb T. Kelley Elementary School, retired on July 1, 2002 after 35 years of serving the educational needs of Southington Public Schools.


**Charles M. Adamick ’68, MS ’73** retired from teaching at John Wallace Middle School in Newington, CT, in June 2002.

**JACK DUNN ’68, MS ’71, 6th Yr ’86** retired in June from Southington, CT Public Schools after 34 years as teacher, counselor, and Guidance Department chairperson.

**Edward W. Larkin, Jr. ’68, MS ’70** retired after 34 years at Barnard Brown School in Hartford, CT.

**Lois R. (Pierce) Tuthery MS ’68** is a textbook author and a new resident of Shell Point Village in Fort Myers, FL.

**Curtis P. Ames ’70, MS ’73**, an associate professor and the chair of the Mathematics Department at Argosy University in Sarasota, FL, was named “Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year.”

**Candace C. Hall ’71** was recently elected to the Representative Assembly of the Administrative & Residual (Labor) Union.

**LINDA A. (GEOHART) HEATHERLY ’71** has taught math for 30 years at Lyman Memorial High School in Lebanon, CT. She has been named Lebanon’s Teacher of the Year (2002-2003). She is currently chair of the Mathematics Department.

**ALLEN J. LATHAM ’71** is an admissions representative for the New England School of Photography in Boston, MA. He operates a studio in Acton, MA, specializing in portrait and fine art photography.

**Carol A. Paszkiewicz, MS ’71**, a mathematics teacher at Wethersfield High School whose classes include algebra and advanced placement calculus, was selected to receive a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

**Roy L. Doigas ’72** has been appointed Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the State of Illinois. Roy is a decorated veteran of the Vietnam conflict and is involved with numerous veterans’ groups and serves on the Chicago Commission on Human Relations’ Advisory Council on Veterans’ Affairs. Roy and his wife, Anne, reside in Chicago.

**Roger J. Geronimo ’73** has retired from CCSU and is now residing in Florida. Roger continues to perform, employing his operatic tenor talents at fundraising concerts for the National Marfan Foundation and the Michael J. Fox Parkinson’s Research Foundation, as well as others.

**Denise M. (Bergeron) Wood ’73** and William D. Wood ’74 have been married for 28 years, residing in Lafayette, CA. They have one son, Scott, who is 23. Denise is passionate about her work as a dissemination coordinator for the Developmental Studies Center in Oakland, CA.

**Mark L. Berman ’75** is currently Associate Director of the Earth Island Institute, Free Willy Keiko Foundation, in San Francisco, CA. He was married to Yaoowadee Thupthimthong on July 23, 2002, and has a stepson, Nat.

**Julia A. (O’Neil) Duvall ’77** retired from teaching (after 25 years) in Hartford Public Schools in July 2002. She and her husband and their two children now reside in Iowa, and Julia is actively involved in volunteer work at local schools.

**Margaret A. Weber, MS ’79**, a special education teacher for the Town of Wethersfield, CT, is the recipient of the Connecticut Treasures Award in honor of her work to promote the independence of her students along with their participation in the community. She is a member of the Connecticut Down Syndrome Commission, a volunteer for Special Olympics, and has, for more than 13 years, been involved in fundraising efforts to enable students, with and without disabilities, to participate in Buddy Weekends at Camp Hemlocks.

**80s**

**Mary Elizabeth (Baker) Gallo ’80, MS ’84, 6th Yr ’88** has been teaching on the elementary level for 23 years, and is a trained mentor and a cooperating teacher. She was nominated for Teacher of the Year in 2001.
Harry G. Bellucci ’81 was recently named Pool Director and Varsity Golf Coach at Hartford Public High School. He is an organizer of the CFM and Tubucy j ones Football Camp that raises money for scholarships for inner city athletes.

Karyn M. (Schatz) Lempa ’81 has a new job as a director at Travelers Life & Annuity, Finance Department.

Marie T. (Farrell) Bonafonte ’82 is one of four winners of the Westchester Business Institute’s 2002 Employee of the Year Award. She is Vice President of Student Financial Services, Chief Compliance Officer and, as a member of the President’s Cabinet, plays a key role in the financial stability of the college, compliance, and ensuring that students’ financial needs are met.


Paula A. (Domkowski) Sogan ’82 received her Executive MBA degree at the University of New Haven in 2002.

T. Garth Connelly ’83 has published his third book, German Schnellboote in Action.

Thomas H. Dougherty, Esq. ’83 runs his own law practice in North Palm Beach, FL. His home is in Palm Beach Gardens, where he resides with Liz, his wife of 18 years, and their three children, Quincy, Casey and Gracie.

J anine E. (Smith) Dubois ’83 and husband Michael J. Dubois ’80 reside in Mastic Beach, NY. J anine is self-employed as a software engineering consultant.

Mary E. (Johnson) MacLean ’83 is an administrative coordinator for the law firm of Zeisler & Zeisler PC in Bridgeport, CT.

Joseph A. Aronne ’84 earned RJ S Associates & Contract Staffing’s 2002 Scientific Consultant of the Year, as well as a client development award, for his outstanding performance as a senior scientific department recruiter. His volunteer activities include coaching basketball and football for local recreation programs.

Jonathan G. Daigle ’85 relocated to Potomac, MD and is a vice president at McShea and Company, Inc., a regional company in Gaithersburg, MD that manages pension fund investments. He would like to hear from classmates and/or former WFCF colleagues.

Stacey H. Hannon ’85 is living in Port Charles, FL and working for Hertz Corporation.

Lisa M. (Pagni) Antonio ’86 has relocated back to Connecticut after living in Chicago for 15 years. She is a strategic account manager for Momstart.

The students of Donald M. Casey, Jr. ’86 at Steppen Elementary School in Monroe, CT have been awarded an educational grant from the Teaching Tolerance Committee, a project of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, AL. The funds will promote an educational service learning curriculum, entitled “The Giving Tree.” The students have been learning about homelessness and providing assistance to homeless families in the community.

J effrey L. Conticello ’86 and wife, Karen, announce the birth of Emma Adele, who joins older sister, Amanda, and older brother, Anthony. The Conticello family resides in Warwick, RI. Jeff is currently a territory sales manager for Heritage Bag Company located in Dallas, TX.

David A. Rose ’86 and wife, Beth, announce the birth of twin sons, Benjamin and J oshua, on August 24, 2002. Dave and family live in Glastonbury, CT.

Brian J. Coyne ’87 received a Master of Public Administration degree at Seton Hall University in 2002. He previously had completed a Master of Arts degree in History at Montclair State University.

Elaine S. (Marinko) Hoeflein ’88 teaches Spanish to grades 2-5 in the Mansfield, CT school system.

Deborah A. (Ireland) Longley ’89 and husband, Mitch, announce the birth of twin daughters, Skylar and Mackenzie, on March 8, 2002. They join older sister, Madison. Deborah and family reside in Meriden, CT.

Joyce A. Hansom ’90 has recently published a book with the University of Missouri Press, entitled Mary McLeod Bethune and Black Women’s Political Activism. J oyce is an assistant professor of history at California State University in San Bernardino.

Daniel E. Ashlock, J r., MS ’91 is director of Towson University’s Office of Student Involvement and Transitions. He is beginning the second year of a two-year appointment to the National Association for Campus Activities Board of Directors, from which he has received numerous honors and awards.

Carolyn G. (Wood) Barnes ’91 and Robert C. Barnes ’93 announce the birth of a son, Daniel Luke Barnes, on December 27, 2002. They live in Enfield, CT.

Carolyn H. Carpenter ’93 is an inventory analyst at Georgia Pacific Corporation. Carolyn moved to Atlanta, GA two years ago and would like to hear from alumni in the area.

Richard A. Cascio ’91 and wife, Susan, announce the birth of their son, Richard J acob, on July 12, 2002; he joins brother, J on David and sisters, Abigail and Madison. Richard and family reside in Northford, CT.

Michael J. Coppola ’91 has relocated to Hong Kong and is working in Product Development with the Timex Corporation.

Suzanne (Leo) Feldman ’91 and Garry L. Feldman ’90 announce the birth of their son, Benjamin, on April 10, 2002, who joins older sister, Caroline. 4, Garry is the owner of US Computer Connection in Stamford and was recently elected Chairman of the Stamford Chamber of Commerce.

Sarah G. (LaGuardia) Treglia ’91 and husband, Frank, announce the birth of their son, Salvatore Michael, on January 29, 2002. Sarah and her family reside in Wilton, CT.

Denise L. Dickinson ’92 has been working as a nurse’s aide (CNA) for seven years at the South Windsor Nursing Home and has her own business, Denise’s Home Care.

Cherie Rae (Maranda) Kelley ’92 and husband Edward J., Kelley III announce the birth of their daughter, Mara, on July 6, 2002.

Robert H. Woltz ’92 and wife, Christine, announce the birth of a son, David Robert, on September 25, 2002. Robert and Christine are both employed by Partners Healthcare, Robert in Information Systems Management and Christine in Technology Sales. They live in Wilmington, MA.

Gregg M. Angelillo ’93 won the 2002 Nassau Invitational at Nassau Country Club in Glen Cove, NY. The Nassau Invitational is the oldest amateur golf event in the USA. Gregg lives in Hoboken, NJ.

Charles D. DeVito ’93 married Karolyn Maloney on November 30, 2002. Both work at Mohonasen High School in Schenectady, NY—Chuck as the head athletic trainer and coach of Health and Physical Education— and Karolyn as a teacher of physical education. They live in Stillwater, NY.

Pamela O. Erasmus, MS ’93 has been named Elementary Teacher of the Year by the Connecticut Association of Schools. Selected from a pool of 80 nominees, this marks the first time a parochial school teacher has received the statewide honor. Pamela is a first grade teacher at St. Joseph School in Meriden.

David P. Generali ’93 and Kristin Atwood, who were married on July 11, 1998, announce the birth of their son, Trey Whiting Generali, on April 21, 2002. The Generali family resides in Naugatuck, CT.

Laurie L. (Wegiel) Pare ’93 and David A. Pare ’94 welcomed Andrew David, who joins big brother, Stephen, on October 27, 2002. David was recently promoted to assistant vice president at Citigroup Asset Management. Laurie, David and their sons live in Norwich, CT.

Beth E. (Shropshire) Shaw ’93 and husband, Scott Shaw, announce the birth of a son, Ryan Kenneth Shaw, on September 19, 2002. Beth and her family live in Ellington, CT.

Scott H. Sunbury ’93 is a supervisor of forensic accounting at Haggett, Longobardi & Company, LLC and is living in East Hartford, CT.

Jeffrey J. York ’93 and wife, Laurel, announce the birth of their son, Benjamin J ames, on December 7, 2002. J eff is Creative Services Director at FOX 44 in Burlington, VT, and has been elected to FOX Broadcasting’s Promotions/Advisory Committee and to the Champlain Valley Crimestoppers’ Board of Directors. J effrey and his family reside in South Burlington, VT.

Carmela (Gargano) Avery ’94 and husband, Brandon, announce the birth of a daughter, Lauren Elizabeth, on September 14, 2002. Carmela is a training consultant for Mass Mutual Financial Group in Hartford, CT.

Michelle M. (Dixon) Powers ’94 married David M. Powers on December 7, 2002; they reside in Coventry, CT. Michelle teaches third grade at J. P. Vincent School in Bloomfield, CT.

Scott F. Suplita ’94 lives in Norwich, CT and is a fire fighter with the Norwich Fire Department.

Kimberly E. Brown ’95 has relocated to Doraville, GA and is a medical technologist for clinical support services in Atlanta, GA.

Katrina M. (Putnam) Conley ’95 married Matt Conley on June 8, 2002, and they live in Danbury, CT. Katrina is a credit analyst for Citigroup in Harrison, NY.

Tara M. (McElhill) Saranich ’95 and Kenneth D. Saranich ’95 announce the birth of a son, Liam Charles, on October 10, 2002. Kenneth has a new position as assistant principal of Harborside Middle School in Milford, CT. The Saranich family resides in Stratford, CT.

Rebecca L. (Springsteen) Cheezic ’96 married Brett A. Cheezic on August 9, 2002. They live in Prospect, CT. Rebecca received a master’s degree in Education at the University of Bridgeport in 2000 and is a third grade teacher at Mitchell School in Woodbury, CT.
Tyrone V. Banks '97 has published a book of poetry/haiiku/prose, entitled Under the Melting Pot, with Publish America. Tyrone and wife Nydian C. (Cruz) Banks '97 have two children: Caitlyn Marie, born March 9, 1998, and Justin Vincent, born April 6, 2002. They live in West Hartford, CT. Tyrone has been employed by SBC SNET for six years.

William R. Peterson '97 is the assistant director of athletic communications at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT.

Jeffrey F. Post '97 is a financial representative with Northwestern Mutual Financial Network in Fairfield, CT.

Christian M. Quatrone, MS '97 is executive director of the Agawam Housing Authority in Agawam, MA and an adjunct history professor at Holyoke Community College in Holyoke, MA. Chris lives in Feeding Hills, MA.

Heather K. (Odlum) Carrier '98 married Jason Carrier on October 14, 2000 and is working as a coordinator of the respite program at Klingberg Family Centers in Hartford, CT.

David B. Chatzky '98 is nearing completion of a master's degree in Counseling and Student Development in Higher Education at CCSU, and is working this semester as an academic-career advisor/counselor in the CCSU Academic Advising Center. He is also an assistant coach for the Brevard Blue Ducks of the USBL, a professional basketball league in Melbourne, FL.

Christopher S. Figat '99 has been promoted to art director at Alliance Graphics of Newington, CT.

Robert C. Wilson '99, a Marine Corps Reserve Sergeant assigned to inspector-instructor, 4th Marine Division in Plainville, CT, was called to active duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

00s

Jenna A. DeLuca '00 completed a master's degree at Sacred Heart University and is teaching fifth grade at Royal Elementary School in Darien, CT.

Marc N. Lindstrom '00 assumed the role of assistant athletic director/physical education teacher at Ridgefield Academy in 2001 and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Educational Leadership at CCSU.

Linda R. (Purcell) Wrobel '00 married John A. Wrobel, a current student at CCSU, on July 20, 2002. Linda is a first grade teacher in Southington, CT.

James P. Roy '01 has been married to Lisa for eight years and has two daughters. James has been a full-time paramedic for 13 years and is an operations supervisor at the Campion Ambulance Service, Inc. He is applying to physician assistant programs at Quinnipiac and Yale.

What's New In Your Life?

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Email Phone Class of
Signature (required for publication) Date

Is this a new address? ☐ Yes ☐ No

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Please only share news about events that have already taken place (within the last year), and not anticipated events. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit all content.

If your address changes, please let us know!
In Memoriam

Dr. Rowland Baughman, professor of management and organization, emeritus, died on November 29, 2002 in Pompano Beach, FL. Appointed to the newly created position of Associate Dean in the School of Business in 1983, Baughman oversaw one of the fastest growing undergraduate schools at Central during the 1980s. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Western Maryland College and the Ph.D. in business administration from George Washington University. Baughman co-authored Women in Management.

Dr. Kansas L. Beal, former president of the Connecticut State University System, died December 29, 2002. He was 76. Beal spent more than four decades working in higher education, serving as president of the State University of New York at Fredonia for 12 years before coming to CSU in 1985. After retiring from CSU in 1994, he worked briefly again as interim president of SUNY-Fredonia in 1996. Beal, a World War II Navy veteran, taught in public schools in Ohio before working at SUNY-New Paltz and the City University of New York at Queens College. In recent years, he led the New York State Public Higher Education Conference Board.

Dr. Harold Cullen Chapin ’49, assistant professor of marketing, emeritus, died on November 3, 2002. An expert in consumer marketing, sales, and marketing management, Chapin taught at CCSU for 11 years before his retirement in 1987. Prior to teaching at the University, he earned his bachelor's degree at Central and was a veteran of WWII, serving with the Army Air Corps.

Roger A. Cote, retired evening administrator in the continuing education department, died on January 22, 2003 at the age of 71. He was hired in January 1967 and retired in April 2001. He was also retired from United Tool & Die Co. in West Hartford. Cote was a United States Navy veteran, having served in the Korean Conflict.

Lawrence H. Kellum ’54, retired assistant professor of education, died December 4, 2002 at the age of 73. He earned the B.S degree in education from TCC in 1954 and his master's from the University of Hartford in 1956, where he also received a certificate of advanced graduate study. Kellum spent his career in education. Prior to teaching at Central, he taught in the Wethersfield School District and was principal and assistant superintendent at the Pomfret Community School, Pomfret, CT. Kellum also went on to serve as principal of the Gildersleeve School in Portland. He was a veteran of the Korean War, serving with the United States Army.

James Arthur Knight ’76, MS ’86, who for some 30 years served as assistant director for the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), and was the founder and director of the Ebony Choral Ensemble, died on February 13, 2003 at the age of 55. Having completed his undergraduate degree at Central in 1976, Knight earned his MS in teacher education in music in 1986. Knight worked numerous nights and weekends in the EOP residency program, a five-week, overnight summer program that introduces potential students to college-level courses as well as campus and dorm life. He served as director of the Ebony Choral Ensemble, a gospel singing group made up of CCSU students. Knight was employed as a music teacher at Slade Middle School in New Britain for more than 26 years. A new scholarship bearing Knight's name is named in his honor at a men's basketball game.

Kaiser Hall would be named Frank Marietta Drive. A tireless supporter of CCSU teams and student-athletes, Marietta also earned innumerable off-campus awards as a result of a lifetime of community service. The Connecticut Sports Writers' Alliance, the New Britain Sports Hall of Fame and the Central Connecticut Board of Approved Basketball Officials are among the organizations that honored him. CCSU's general athletic scholarship fund also bears his name.

Lillian Padula, administrative assistant, emeritus, died on February 17, 2003 at the age of 83. Since 1961, she served in various offices on campus. In May 1968, Padula was appointed personal secretary to President Herbert D. Welte and maintained her position under President F. Don James and President John Shumaker. She was employed at Central for 27 years, until her retirement in 1988. Padula was a member of the Business and Professional Women's Club of New Britain and the Connecticut State Employee Association.

Memorial donations may be made to The CCSU Foundation, Inc.

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