History Rising
The story of a Central Alumnus uncovering a hidden Connecticut past

Faculty Spotlight
You thought you knew...

Our New Look
The Alumnus gets a makeover and a new name
A message from the Alumni Association President

Our alma mater, by all measures, is growing by leaps and bounds. Its campus is experiencing a renaissance of sorts -- academic programming is expanding and strengthening, enrollment is on the rise, and students have more choices and opportunities now, both on and off campus, than ever before.

The Alumni Association is growing too, and in a variety of ways. Two recent accomplishments support this notion: the initial production of this magazine and the establishment of a first-time ever alumni scholarship at CCSU. Both accomplishments not only give silent testimony to the strength of our Association today but also give key insights into the vision and promise of the organization for its future.

With the publication of this new magazine, we will go beyond just providing timely and newsworthy information to you. This unique publication represents our new commitment to communications - more in-depth coverage, improved presentation, and greater opportunity for alums to participate. Your Board of Directors is proud of this, and we hope you are too.

The Alumni Association made history over the last few months in a series of actions that led to the gifting of $120,000 of Association assets to the CCSU Foundation in support of the introduction of an Alumni Scholarship. Designed to benefit students of alumni choosing CCSU, this scholarship effectively channels the generosity of donations made to the Association by fulfilling our mission in directly supporting the university, its alumni, and its students. We continue to make appeals to supplement this principle, and as we look forward to the issuance of scholarships in the coming year, we hope that you can join us with a personal gift to the Foundation to support this and many other critical services to the university it provides.

These milestones represent organizational progress, speak volumes about our capacity and interest, and signal that there is more to come. Please call upon me and your Board of Directors with your thoughts, comments and suggestions. And remember, as the Association and the University continue to grow, your support and participation become even more important. Peace to all of you and keep in touch.
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Our New Look

The Alumnus now has a new look and a new name. We’re changing, growing and improving, just like the Central campus itself. With the publication of this new Alumni magazine that will replace The Alumnus, we hope to reflect the spirit of Central and its Alumni and friends. The purpose of this publication is to keep you updated on all the good things happening at Central, and to help you keep in touch with the Central community. This magazine is put together with help from many of you, is made especially for you, and is about you and the Central community. The editorial staff would like to welcome your comments and suggestions, as well as your ideas for noteworthy stories about you, the Central Alumni. Enjoy! Please Email us with suggestions, comments, and story ideas at alumnidept@ccsu.edu - The Central Focus Editorial Staff

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Front Cover: CCSU Instructor Gerald Sawyer, on far right, teaches a field study class in Salem, MA. From left to right, students Janet Woodruff and Jennifer Maher learn how to conduct an archeological dig.

Back Cover: Cylinder Sculpture outside Vance Academic Center.

Front and Back Cover photos: Peter Kilduff
A Presidential Visit

President George W. Bush’s visit to Connecticut on April 18 concluded in Welte Auditorium, where he delivered a major education policy speech. Prior to his remarks, President Bush received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in a brief ceremony involving Governor John G. Rowland, CSU Board Chair Lawrence D. McHugh, and CCSU President Richard J. Judd. After the ceremony Bush remarked: “On the way in [Gov. Rowland] heard I was going to get an honorary degree in law and he said, ‘Does that make you a lawyer?’ I said, ‘Nope.’ But it’s an honor to receive such a degree. I want to thank [Chairman McHugh]; I want to thank Dick Judd; and I want to thank all the folks here at Central for working so hard to make our visit a great visit.”

President Bush spoke for approximately 40 minutes. Mindful of his presence at Connecticut’s oldest public institution of higher education, the president stressed the moral value of teaching. Welte Hall was filled to capacity with members of the public and national news media covering the first visit of a sitting U.S. president in CCSU history. Among the media was Washington Post Assistant Managing Editor Bob Woodward, who was on campus to deliver the Vance Distinguished Lecture that evening. He commented that Bush’s remarks at CCSU were “the best public speech I’ve heard him give so far [in his presidency].” President Judd reflected on the remarkable day: “A university is supposed to provide an exchange of ideas and increase the number of opportunities to exchange those ideas. The fact that three renowned individuals [President George W. Bush, New York Times staff correspondent Juan Gonzalez, and Bob Woodward] visited CCSU in one week is phenomenal. With these great occurrences enriching our lives, we are what a university should be.”

New Ed.D. on the books

Governor John G. Rowland authorized Central Connecticut State University and the three other universities of the Connecticut State University System to begin offering applied doctoral degrees in education (Ed.D.) in a bill signing ceremony on June 29 at CCSU. “With his signature, Governor Rowland helps us to advance our universities’ historic mission,” said Lawrence D. McHugh, chair of the board of trustees of the Connecticut State University system. “The Ed.D. program will enable us to prepare aspiring school principals and superintendents and thus create a pool of highly qualified educational leaders, which our state sorely needs.”

Under previous state law enacted 35 years ago, the University of Connecticut had exclusive responsibility for programs leading to doctorates. Prior to this new law, the four CSU universities -- Central, Eastern in Willimantic, Southern in New Haven, and Western in Danbury -- were accorded the “special responsibility for the preparation of personnel for the public schools of the state including master’s degree programs and other graduate study in education” but not doctoral degree programs.

Campus Voice, Past and Present

by Joe Arnone, Class of ’59

If you lived in Vestaburg, Pennsylvania, 50 years ago, your destiny was no secret. Upon high school graduation, you were expected to go into the coalmines, just as your fathers and brothers before you. I was no exception to the rule.

It didn’t take long for me to realize there must be a better way to live. I’m sure that the North Koreans had no idea when they invaded South Korea that their actions would have such a profound effect on my life. I left the mines and enlisted in the Marine Corps where I learned the discipline that would be needed later. I was one of the lucky ones who came back from Korea and, armed with the G.I. Bill, decided to see if I could get a college education. I wasn’t much of a student in high school, and I knew it wouldn’t be easy, but I had plenty of motivation. Circumstances led me to New Britain. Yogi Berra would say, “A lot of water has gone over the bridge” since then.

Teachers College of Connecticut, now Central Connecticut State University, and I have shared a love affair that has lasted for almost half a century. It was at Central that I completed the requirements that would allow me to pursue a rewarding career teaching and coaching children. First, I taught in Farmington, then Bloomfield, and later, West Hartford.

I was fortunate to meet some wonderful teachers at Central, coaches like Jim Kaiser, Hank Majlinger, Bill Moore, Bill Detrick and Ted Owen; academicians such as John Bulman and Frank Rio of the Physics Department; Al Clebowicz and Ken Fuller of the Mathematics Department... those were the two departments where I spent most of my time. And there were other fine teachers — Bill Winter, George Muirhead, Isabel Ruppert and many others.

I also made lasting friendships with many of my classmates. These men and women have been successful in every imaginable endeavor, including law, medicine, business and of course, education. I must mention one of my former classmates, He was my class president, and now, Richard L. Judd is President of Central Connecticut State University... the first alumnus in Central’s proud history to lead the institution. I think former President Herbert D. Welte would agree... CCSU has never been in better hands.

Central has been my refuge, my oracle, my provider, my benefactor and my source of inspiration. It took me in, nurtured and educated me, and gave me the credentials to become someone special — a teacher. I shall always be grateful to Central for having done that.

The mines back home have been closed for many years now. My childhood friends who didn’t leave the mines to seek a better life have never enjoyed the rewards and the standard of living I have been fortunate to experience. Most of them have died of “black lung” disease or are currently suffering from its effect. It is only through the grace of God’s hand and Central Connecticut State University that I am not numbered among them.

Joe Arnone is the voice of CCSU Basketball and is an active member of the CCSU Community.
Alumni Association Creates $100,000 Scholarship Fund

It began last November when the Central Connecticut State University Alumni Association’s Board of Directors authorized the donation of 20,000 dollars to the CCSU Foundation to establish an Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund. It skyrocketed from there. With the incentive of the State of Connecticut’s 50% matching gift program, the Board of Directors decided to act again and, in August, donated $100,000 more dollars to the Scholarship Fund.

The Board of Directors established this endowed scholarship as another way of fulfilling the Alumni Association’s ongoing mission to support the University. The Board was unanimous in its decision to establish the scholarship to benefit children of alumni, the first of its kind at the University. Additionally, generous contributions from the classes of 1961, 1966, 1967, 1970, 1971, 1974, 1975, 1978, 1980, 1984, 1986, 1987, and 1988 provided a boost to the fund by donating a combined $136,429.00 to the scholarship. “The establishment of this fund by the Alumni Association is history making. Never before in CCSU’s rich history have the Association and the classes been so generous,” remarked Cindy Cayer, Director of Development & Alumni Affairs.

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Noteworthy

David A. Ross ’66 BS, ’71 MS, retired after 33 years service to the University. David has served the University as director of the student center and most recently as Associate Vice President and Dean of Students.

Chuck Wallach ’69 BA, ’70 MS, CCSU Bursar, received CCSU’s prestigious Distinguished Service Award for 2001.

Joseph H. Harper ’78 BA, ’99 MS, has been appointed Executive Assistant to the President for local, state and regional affairs. Joe joins the University from the Office of the the State Treasurer where he served as the Assistant State Treasurer in charge of the Second Injury Fund.

Salvatore Cintorino ’87 BS, ’90 MS, was promoted to Senior Associate Athletic director at CCSU after serving as head football coach from 1992-2001. He will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Athletic Department, overseeing all athletic construction projects and managing the Athletics budget.

Upcoming Alumni Events

January 26, 2002
Florida East Coast area party for CCSU Florida Alumni and Friends
12 PM - Howard Johnson Plaza Resort, 2096 NE Second Street, Deerfield Beach, FL 33441
Call Alumni Office for Details at 860-832-1740

January 27, 2002
Florida West Coast Area party for CCSU Florida Alumni and Friends
12 PM - Waterside Room, 216 Sarasota Quay, Sarasota, FL 34236
Call Alumni Office for Details at 860-832-1740

February 21, 2002
Social Work Program Reunion
4:30 to 6:00 - Marcus White Living Room
FollowingPhi Alpha Honor Society Induction

May 1, 2002
5:30-6:30 PM - Accounting Awards Ceremony

May 11, 2002
Alumni Day - Watch for details!
Class reunions for classes of ’52,’57,’62,’67,’72 and ’77

May 18, 2002
Class of ’51 - Fifty first reunion - Watch for details!

June 11, 2002
CCSU Alumni Association Annual Meeting and Elections
The following individuals are running for the Alumni Board:

Carmen "Carm" Aloisi, ’56, is an incumbent member of the Board of Directors serving on the Finance and Travel committees. Carmen is a retired New Britain Public School System guidance counselor who currently resides in New Britain, where he is active in community affairs.

Tracey Obst Bonvicini is an ’89 graduate of the School of Business. She is an incumbent member of the Board of Directors serving as Chairperson of the Ways and Means Committee. Tracey is married to Fred Bonvicini, ’79, and they reside in Torrington, CT, with their three sons.

Ronald “Ron” Perry is a ’94 graduate with a major in Criminal Justice. Ron is currently a police officer with the New Haven Police Department. He serves on the Alumni Association Sports Committee and resides in Southington.

Richard “Rich” Sullivan, ’75, is a manager for Global Solutions Group, a subsidiary of Temple-Inland, Inc., Inland Paperboard and Packaging. Rich is currently a member of the Alumni Association Finance Committee. He resides in Newton, NJ, with his wife Shirly and two children.

Patricia “Pat” Keenan Welch ’54 is a retired East Hartford High School teacher. Pat is active in the class of 1954 Reunion Planning Committee. She resides in Glastonbury, CT, and is the mother of five children.

Nominations from the active membership shall be allowed for thirty days after the announcement of the committee’s choices. Any active or life member who wishes to seek election or to nominate an active or life member for election may submit in writing to the Nominating Bylaws and Volunteer Development committee a letter of interest. Active membership is held by those who are eligible for membership and who have contributed to the Annual Fund in the current fiscal year.
Update: School of Arts & Sciences

The School of Arts and Sciences is forging ahead into the 21st Century. It is making sure that its programs are still current, that its students can find a career path at Central, and that the facilities are equipped with the latest technology. The School focuses on academic excellence and a rigorous liberal arts education. Dean June Higgins calls Central "the best kept secret in Connecticut" because of its scholarly faculty and research opportunities for students. The school offers scores of little-known interdisciplinary programs, many of which involve study abroad. Most of these interdisciplinary programs provide an introductory core of courses and then draw upon courses in various disciplines such as Political Science, History, Modern Languages and Geography. Some examples of interdisciplinary programs currently offered are: African American Studies, Women's Studies, Urban Studies, Hospitality/Tourism and the list goes on. There is even an interdisciplinary M.A. in Computer Information Technology, which is run by Computer Science, MIS and Computer Electronics Departments.

The School of Arts and Sciences also offers an Honors Program, which consists of team-taught courses and a different General Education curriculum from the standard. Each year, between 50 and 60 students enter the program, which involves 8 credits per semester and an honors thesis within the student’s chosen major. In addition to the Honors Program, the School also offers the FYE or First Year Experience program to help freshman adjust to college life. As a part of this program, freshman attend small classes taught by specially trained faculty to allow them to develop better study, writing, and time management skills and to realize that professors are concerned with their success.

Through a range of programs, diversity of learning opportunities including research and study abroad, the School of Arts and Sciences offers a unique and challenging experience. One such learning opportunity is a summer study abroad course to the Lake District of England that involves students from the Biology and Art Departments. Students take advanced field study courses in their disciplines along with one introductory course in the other discipline. It is this type of experience that represents the unique learning opportunities available at Central.

The School is also involved in community outreach in many areas, such as theatre, dance and chemistry. Recently approved programs include an M.A. in Public History, an online M.A. in Data Mining and an M.A. in Information Design in the Department of Design.

Update: School of Technology

Connecticut industry has good news for graduates of the CCSU School of Technology. There are currently not enough graduates to fill positions in the field of Technology in Connecticut, and this need is projected to continue until at least 2008. There will be a 150% increase in the number of computer engineering positions alone. The School of Technology works hard to match the needs of industry in Connecticut and is continuously developing new programs that strive to meet these needs. For graduates of this school, there is no problem finding a job. In fact, most students start working before they even graduate! In other words, says School of Technology Dean Dr. Zdzislaw Kremens, “this education is a good investment.”

The strength of the CCSU School of Technology lies in Mechanical and Manufacturing Technology and Civil and Construction Engineering. A new strategic plan for the school focuses on developing a third area: Electrical Engineering, which will include programs in Electronics and Computer Engineering.

Last year, the school was reorganized when Industrial Technology was divided into two departments -- Manufacturing and Construction Management and Computer Electronics and Graphics Technology. Two new specializations under Industrial Technology that were approved in the Spring of 2001 are: Networking Technology and Technology Management. As part of these developments, the School created a new laboratory just for networking where students can hook up networks from scratch and test them. This is just one part of the hands-on approach that the school of technology provides for students.

A new Masters level program, an M.S. in Engineering Technology, the only one of its kind in Connecticut, was recently approved by the Board of Governors for Higher Education. In addition to this program, the school already offers a Masters in Technology Management and a Masters in Technology Education.

The school has introduced 5 new programs in the last 2 years, 3 are currently in place, and 2 are still under review. At this rate, the School hopes to double its enrollment in the next few years to continue to meet the needs of Connecticut’s industry leaders. The CCSU School of Technology is the only public School of Technology in the state of Connecticut.

Look for updates on the School of Business and the School of Education in the next issue!
Warren Perry

Warren Perry, Associate Professor of Anthropology at CCSU, was supposed to be at the World Trade Center at 10 a.m. on September 11 for a meeting about the African Burial Ground Project. He serves as Associate Director of Archaeology/Principal Archaeologist for the project, now a National Historic Landmark. The African Burial Ground is a Manhattan burial ground site where captive Africans, Native Americans and poor whites appear to have been buried during the 18th Century. It was first uncovered in 1991 during construction of a new office building in downtown Manhattan, just blocks away from City Hall. There, Perry and six Central students had been working on analyzing the newly discovered artifacts, trying to piece together and retell the story of New York City's history.

Perry's meeting was never confirmed, so he stayed home on the 11th. If either Perry or the artifacts had been there, there is a chance both could have been lost forever. By some twist of fate, neither he, nor the majority of the artifacts he was studying, was there when the attacks took place. The General Services Administration (GSA), a federal agency, had sent the artifacts to Washington to be reunited with slaves' skeletons that had been kept at Howard University for study there, which were to be sent back up to New York for reburial in new coffins hand-made in Ghana.

The artifacts were supposed to have been reburied on August 17, which gave Perry's team a precious few days to photograph and document all the materials they hadn't yet analyzed. But the National Park Service, which oversees the project, feared that the research was incomplete and postponed the reburial in order for Perry and his fellow archeologists to finish the work they had begun. Along with that, the coffins that had been ordered by the GSA from Ghana had been warped in their journey to Washington and had been deemed unusable. If the artifacts had been reburied, they would have been destroyed by the collapse of the Twin Towers. To Perry, it seemed that the artifacts were crying out to be studied, “Are the ancestors saying something to us? I think they’re saying ‘you’re going to finish this work.’”

Perry calls his elementary school education in New York City a “miseducation” because he was never taught that Africans had been a part of the building up of the city. He has found that the African Burial Ground tells a different story. Just a tiny section of it has been excavated because most of it lies under city streets and tall buildings. The archeological teams have found over 400 people buried in this section alone. The burial ground tells a story of a community of captive Africans, as well as native people and even poor whites who were present in New York City as early as 1700. This is just one example of what Perry calls “disjunctures,” or blank spots, in history. He explains that, as an Archeologist, his job is to “bounce historical documents off the ground” and look for discrepancies. Power, Perry says, lies in history and with the people who write history -- “The problem with history is that people write it, and there are biases. Historical documents tell lies, and they tell the story of those in power.” Perry says his job is to look for what's missing from history and to compare that to what he finds in the ground and, conversely, to look for what's a part of written history but is missing from the material record.

There are many cases of such “rewritings of history,” states Perry. Just one example is a historical document written about a rebellion in New York in the 1740s. When it was first written, the document was called “The Great Plot.” Twenty years later, it became known as “The Great Negro Plot,” even though there were Irish, Native American, and other peoples involved in this rebellion. Perry states that this was one example of a clear attempt to dichotomize the Europeans and Africans who often coexisted peacefully in the colonies.

Perry says that there are just a few prerequisites for students who choose to work with him on his projects: a commitment and a love for the ancestors, a willingness to tell the truth, and a desire for justice. Among the subjects Perry teaches at Central are: African archaeology, African American archaeology, archaeology of class formation and social inequality; and archaeology of the US and Southern Africa.
It all started with a midlife crisis. After working as a marine biologist in Norwalk for 15 years, Jerry Sawyer decided he would do two things: grow his hair long and go back to school. But not just any school, because his goal was clear. He wanted to study Archaeology, and he wanted to work with the best.

His research showed that only a couple of institutions in the state offered a program in Archaeology, and Central was clearly the best for a number of reasons. Central offers a strong minor in Archaeology in the department of Anthropology. It has a broad range of courses, and students can work one-on-one with an outstanding faculty. At Central, the people doing the research are also teaching the classes – there are no graduate assistants at the lectern. After doing his initial research, Sawyer came to the conclusion that Central has produced some of the best-known and most-respected Archaeologists in the world; and it's not finished yet.

Sawyer recalls having two interests as a kid, “walking on the beach, picking something up and being able to tell people what it was; and digging up old stuff.” Now he can do both. He earned his BA in Anthropology, Magna Cum Laude, from Central in 1997. He went on to earn a Master’s degree from Hunter College in New York, and now he’s working on his Ph.D. at City University of New York while teaching at both Central and at Brooklyn College. The main focus of his research is an African burial ground on the site of an old plantation in Salem, Massachusetts. He leads a summer field study class from Central to the site, which gives students the unique opportunity to study Archeology in the field. Through this experience, Sawyer hopes his students will become intrigued with Archaeology and begin to question the history they’ve been taught about Connecticut.

The Salem site was first discovered in 1995 by an amateur historian, Abraham Abdul Haqq. From his research and readings, Haqq suspected that New England’s plantations utilized slave labor during the 1700s. He contacted Warren Perry, a well-known authority on African-American archeology and an associate professor at Central. Haqq suspected that if this hypothesis were true, it would change our ideas of the history of the North as the “free North.” Perry got Sawyer involved, and they went to see the site. Perry is now serving as Sawyer’s outside advisor for his PhD on the Salem site, on which Perry remarked, “there’s enough here for several PhDs,” because of the sheer size of the site. Sawyer says, “when you first go to any site, you see the obvious - in this case, the old head stones and a small Christian-style burial ground.” With deeper research, Sawyer says the immense size of the site became clear. What started as an investigation of a small burial ground of enslaved Africans turned into the uncovering of evidence of a huge plantation where hundreds of captive Africans lived and worked. This discovery along with others in the Northeast indicates to Sawyer that there was massive enslavement in the North and that huge political and economic systems were reliant on that enslavement.

Sawyer believes Rhode Island was a key element of the “Triangle Trade” and the main port of entry for Africans who were brought to the colonies as captives in the 1700s. This “Triangle Trade” involved the trading of rum for Africans, who were brought to the West Indies and then to the Northeast. Sawyer speculates that 10% of all Africans carried on Rhode Island vessels as part of the “Triangle Trade” ended up in Rhode Island and were then dispersed into other Northern colonies. He is currently attempting to determine what became of these Africans who “disappeared from history” after they were brought to Rhode Island.

He has found African-style conglomerations of stone structures on the Salem site that could have served as simple housing. The sizes and numbers of these structures...
suggest that there could have been 30 to 100 Africans, Native Americans and poor whites living in a kind of egalitarian community on the outskirts of this one plantation in Salem. Sawyer's current hypothesis for the Salem site is that these people were living on the outskirts of the land, bartering for their work, and surviving on their own. According to Sawyer, the implications of these discoveries are that "the history we've been taught as children is wrong and we have to question why it's wrong. Was this a purposeful 'whitewashing' of our history? We have to ask the question, where did all those enslaved Africans go?"

The quest for this information could form the basis of Sawyer's life's work and the fulfillment of his desire to pursue a career in Archeology.

Sawyer estimates that there were 2,000 African captives in New London County alone in 1774. There were concentrations of Africans on the coast and along rivers in the industrialized towns in the state. In any one Northeastern colony, there may have been 10,000 or more captives during the mid 1700s, especially in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Sawyer states that by 1850 the history of the North had been "revised" to omit any mention of slavery, and the general perception was that it never existed here. Between 1800-1850 Sawyer believes that the history of the slaves in the North was quickly and purposefully erased. He cited a well-known scholar in this field, Joanne Pope Melish, the author of the book, Disowning Slavery to explain this erasing of history. Melish suggests that the economic powers in the North at the time saw a need to gain an economic edge over the South – and a moral edge. This meant a quick rewriting of history – literally going through books and taking out all mentions of slavery in the North. "The Truth is in the ground," Sawyer says. The material itself tells Archeologists what was really going on at any given time in history. The thing about the material Sawyer is uncovering in Salem is that it reveals a hidden New England past. "What we can hope is to give a voice to the invisible... the huge amount of Africans who built up the economy of the North."

Sawyer explains the satisfaction he derives from work on an Archeological dig, "It's an indescribable feeling, when you take something out of the ground that hasn't been touched for 100, 500, 1000 years – a feeling of incredible connection with the past. Beginning to unravel this hidden story (of the Salem site), bringing it to the public and getting a surprised reaction from them... and at the same time, a sense of appreciation that we are bringing this aspect of the past to light."

As Sawyer and his team dig deeper, they are tapping into the oral history of the town of Salem, a place where some residents can trace their history back 300 years. He says this old New England town is "a hard nut to crack," but some descendants of plantation owners are slowly opening up. Currently, he seeks to uncover the oral history of the African Americans who live in the Salem area. He says this group may have valuable information if they are in fact descendants of the original captives. He is focusing on beginning to uncover their oral history and to encourage their involvement in the excavation in order to incorporate what they want to know about their past and what they would like his team of researchers to pursue.

He and his students continue to unravel this story and to give a voice to those who have been, until now, a silent part of the history of New England.

Below, Jerry Sawyer, in white t-shirt and blue cap, directs students at the Salem site.
Rick Lantz '64 lands coveted Navy head coaching spot

At the end of the football season last year, Rick Lantz, '64, was basically out of a job. When George Welsh retired at Virginia and former New York Jets Coach Al Groh came in, naturally wanting to hire his own guys, Lantz and everybody else on Welch's staff found themselves on the outside looking in. The former Central Connecticut State University standout landed at the U.S. Naval Academy where he had served two previous tours of duty. When the 2001 season began, he was Navy's defensive coordinator. When it ended, in a hard-fought 26-17 Army victory, he walked off the field as the head coach of the Midshipmen.

Before the game began, Navy AD Chet Gladchuck seemed to indicate Lantz would remain at the Academy even if he were not named head coach. "Hopefully, he will have a long career with us in the years to come," Gladchuck told a Baltimore Sun reporter. Lantz was handed the reigns when Gladchuck had fired veteran coach Charlie Weatherbe after a Navy's 21-20 loss to Toledo on October 27. A member of the CCSU Alumni Association Hall of Fame Lantz has spent 35 years in college and pro coaching at some of the top programs in the country. CCSU president Dr. Richard L. Judd sent his congratulations immediately upon hearing the news of his interim appointment telling Lantz, who is an old friend, "CCSU is proud of you and the coaching tradition you embrace. Having men of your character and ideals is what sports is all about." He added, "Go get 'em Goats," a reference to the Navy mascot.

Lantz brought maturity, dignity and a rock-solid reputation to his position at Navy. For the last 15 years he's been defensive coordinator at Louisville and Virginia. CCSU Director of Athletics C.J. Jones called his appointment as Lantz's interim head coach "a further affirmation of our reputation for turning out some of the best coaching minds in the country."

Although this is Lantz's first stint as a head coach at the college level, he has been on several of the best collegiate staffs in the country. H is two previous stays at Navy were with Rick Forzano and Welsh. He also spent a year with the New England Patriots in 1981. Other stops have included Notre Dame, Georgia Tech, M Iami and Boston University.

Lantz remains a candidate for the head coaching position. However, the Sun indicated that recent speculation has centered on Boston College coach Tom O'Brien (a Navy grad) and former Navy assistant Paul Johnson, now the head coach at I-AA power Georgia Southern. Also cited by other media outlets have been Harvard's Tim Murphy, Mike Kruczek of Central Florida and Virginia Tech offensive coordinator Rick Bussell. The Sun also said Welsh, Lantz's old boss at the Academy and at Virginia, is a long-shot possibility.

Robert Skinner '55 attends University of Miami Inauguration

Alumnus Robert F. Skinner represented CCSU at the inauguration of Donna E. Shalala, former U.S. Secretary for Health and Human Services, as the fifth president of the University of M Iami on November second.

Skinner participated in the procession escorting Shalala to and from the ceremony, which was held in a huge tent of the University's Coral Gables campus. While attending CCSU, Skinner was a member of the 1954 undefeated football team and was named a Connecticut All-Star the same year. Now residing in Key Biscayne, he is one of Florida's leading environmentalists, serving as president of the M Iami Chapter of the Izaak Walton League and working actively with the Sierra Club, Friends of the Everglades and other conservation organizations.

Tong Zhou '96, a citizen of the world

Tong Zhou came from Beijing to New Britain in the summer of 1993 to study western-style business communications. In China she had worked as a translator and project coordinator for the State Planning Commission, where she met World Bank officials and University professors. Tong chose Central because she had worked with CCSU officials in Beijing, and she was impressed by their professionalism and insights.

At CCSU Tong earned a master's degree in Communication. She also worked at the International Development office. At that time, CCSU was doing a large management training project in Poland, and that provided her with an additional unique experience.

Since leaving CCSU, Tong has obtained her CPA, and now works in the tax department of PricewaterhouseCoopers in Louisville, Kentucky. She has discovered that this is a career in which she can combine accounting knowledge with her communication background. Tong's years of study at CCSU helped prepare her well for her career as an accountant in the United States.

Bryan Wood '83, Pentagon employee, seeks solace in his CCSU diploma in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks

On the morning of September 11th, a class I was teaching at a Naval Air Station in rural Maryland was interrupted when we were informed that planes had crashed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. We discovered that the plane had crashed into the Pentagon in the area where my office was located. Through the shock, my first thought was that my co-workers could not have survived, followed by a feeling of guilt that I was not there to help them. Miraculously, no one in my office was seriously injured, as the plane had entered the Pentagon directly below my office and passed through without the floor collapsing.

At first, we were told that our offices were a complete loss; either collapsed or consumed by the fire from the jet fuel. The Navy moved quickly to get us established in temporary offices nearby, and everyone grasped for some sense of normalcy. At a time when brave people have died around you, looking to replace your personal "stuff" seems somewhat meaningless. Although many of my personal effects were irreparable, one important one was not – my Central Connecticut undergraduate diploma. I was always proud to be the first college graduate in my family. It has and always will give me a comforting feeling to look up on my wall and know that were it not for CCSU I would not be a college graduate. I sent an e-mail to the CCSU Alumni Affairs office stating that my diploma had been destroyed as a result of the attacks and inquired about how to get a replacement. The response from the Central family was overwhelming. A replacement was ordered immediately and the Central staff refused to accept payment. Just before I received the replacement, military personnel located my original diploma in what remained of my Pentagon office space and returned it to me. Although it was a bit sooty and stained, I felt guilty about receiving a new one. Once again, the Central administration simply told me to keep them both and display them side-by-side. They are now so displayed. They will remind me of the events of September 11th and the kindness of the Central family in helping me return to normal.

- Bryan Wood, '83
It had finally happened. After years of saying, "We all have to get together," my Central friends and I decided to actually do it. My roommate, Patty Ascione, wound up in Boston, as had fellow Vance resident Donna Puleo. Mike Lombardi, with whom I had worked on the Recorder, had lived in both Connecticut and Los Angeles. Others had settled around Connecticut. I had been the most nomadic, starting out in New Britain, and then going to upstate New York - first Glens Falls and then Syracuse - before moving to Cleveland two years ago. Distance and other demands - like school, careers and families - had kept us from all getting together.

This summer, I came home a few times, staying with my folks out in Southbury. But even then, we couldn't all get together. So Patty, Mike and I got the idea to go to Homecoming, and get as many of our old friends together as we could. In August, I arranged for the time off at work to come to Homecoming. I'm a copy editor on the sports desk of The Plain Dealer in Cleveland, working nights and most weekends, and with the Browns' season starting and the Indians in the playoff hunt, I knew getting a Friday and Saturday off wouldn't be something I'd have to put in for well in advance. I got the time off, then set about getting a plane ticket. Cleveland to Connecticut is about a nine hour drive. For short trips like this, I have to fly. I could fly in on Friday, and have all day Saturday with everyone. But I had to be at work at 5 p.m. on Sunday. That's where I ran into my first snag. There were no flights into Cleveland that day that would get me into the airport before 6:30 p.m., which meant the earliest I'd be in the office would be 7. No good. So I took the advice of co-workers and booked my flight out of Pittsburgh.

Everything was set. Patty had gotten the word out via e-mail, and it looked like we were going to have a good crowd. Then came Sept. 11. The terror attacks threw everything into chaos, including my travel plans. My parents were not keen about my fly-trip, and it looked like we were going to have a good crowd. Then came Sept. 11. The terror attacks threw everything into chaos, including my travel plans. My parents were not keen about my fly-trip, and it looked like we were going to have a good crowd. Then came Sept. 11. The terror attacks threw everything into chaos, including my travel plans. My parents were not keen about my fly-trip, and it looked like we were going to have a good crowd. Then came Sept. 11. The terror attacks threw everything into chaos, including my travel plans. My parents were not keen about my fly-trip, and it looked like we were going to have a good crowd. Then came Sept. 11. The terror attacks threw everything into chaos, including my travel plans. My parents were not keen about my fly-trip, and it looked like we were going to have a good crowd. Then came Sept. 11. The terror attacks threw everything into chaos, including my travel plans. My parents were not keen about my fly-trip, and it looked like we were going to have a good crowd. Then came Sept. 11. The terror attacks threw everything into chaos, including my travel plans. My parents were not keen about my fly-trip, and it looked like we were going to have a good crowd. Then came Sept. 11. The terror attacks threw everything into chaos, including my travel plans. My parents were not keen about my fly-trip, and it looked like we were going to have a good crowd. Then came Sept. 11. The terror attacks threw everything into chaos, including my travel plans. My parents were not keen about my fly-trip, and it looked like we were going to have a good crowd. Then came Sept. 11. The terror attacks threw everything into chaos, including my travel plans. My parents were not keen about my fly-trip, and it looked like we were going to have a good crowd. Then came Sept. 11. The terror attacks threw everything into chaos, including my travel plans. My parents were not keen about my fly-trip, and it looked like we were going to have a good crowd.

The changes were apparent from the moment I approached the airport. The parking areas nearest to the terminal were shut down, and everywhere I turned, I could see a policeman. The line to check in was about 100 people long, but the airline had lots of people behind the counter, so it took me less than a half-hour to check in. At the entrance to the gates, my purse was emptied and all the contents were closely examined. The atmosphere was muted. Since one of the new rules was that only ticketed passengers could go to the gates, the area past the security checkpoint was quieter. But everything went smoothly - my flight was on-time, and I was at Bradley early in the afternoon.

Saturday turned out to be wonderful. Mike and I met up first, outside Memorial Hall for the alumni brunch. I had been back around campus since I had graduated, but never for an official event. Eventually, everyone trickled into the brunch - Patty, Donna, Darren Lyons, Eric Grisier, Jim Lacey, Pat O'Brien, Andy Perlman and Alex Matolcsy joined Mike and me. After brunch, we all hit the bookstore and spent some money. We walked around, commenting on the changes. Seeing the Student Center gutted brought back memories of all the days and nights I spent there working at the Recorder and on WFCS. We eventually made our way to the game. After the game, we went back into Vance. Patty and I found our old room - 415 - but the girl who lived there now wasn't in, so we settled for a photo outside the door. That was a change that surprised us - single rooms! I'm not sure how I feel about that. I can understand it, but, if it hadn't have been for roommates, Patty and I never would have had the times we did together. We might not have even met.

Going back to Elmer's for the after-game party was another great time. The pizza and beer were just like we remembered. And I ran into other alumni from my time, including Bruce Biel, who had written for me when I was sports editor of the Recorder. The next day, e-mails began circulating among us, saying what a good time we had had. One idea came out - making it an annual date. I hope we can do it and even more people show up.
**CLASS NOTES**

40s

Frank “Scotty” Carter ’41, a teacher, coach and elementary school principal in the Bristol, CT School System for 37 years, currently resides in Cape Cod, MA. He holds several world and American track and field records in the seventy-year-old age group and teaches water exercise to senior citizens.

Shirley M. (Pickett) Sheridan ’42 is enjoying retirement in California and has cruised Europe and the Panama Canal.

Arthur H. Kueorkian ’47 was inducted into the New Britain Sports Hall of Fame on March 8, 2001.

Mary M. Meyerjack ’48 is enjoying retirement in Connecticut.

Martha M. (Martinez) Jurczyk ’49 is enjoying retirement in Connecticut.

Class of 1954 — 50th reunion to be held May 14-16, 2004 at The Hawthorne Inn in Berlin, CT — mark your calendars!

50s

A Leadership Committee for the Class of 1954 Scholarship Fund is in place, and will begin contacting members of the class in 2002.

Pasquale P. Corso ’50 became a grandfather for the third time with the birth of Isabella Claire on July 26, 2000.

Jerome F. Storm ’52 is enjoying retirement in M aine.

James W. Hinsley ’53 is enjoying retirement in Connecticut.

June B. (Bell) Bardi ’55 retired from teaching first grade in the Hartford, CT School System.

Francis G. (Grochmal) O’Brien ’55 is enjoying retirement in Oregon.

William R. Papallo ’55 is serving as interim superintendent in the Fairfield, CT School System.

Edward F. VanDuzer ’56 retired in 2000 from SUNY Brockport as Professor Emeritus in Geography & Marketing.

Richard M. Glinkenberg ’59 was recently awarded the Chartered Financial Consultant designation. He is semi-retired from ING-Aetna Financial Services. He is in his second year as a chorus member with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra and resides in Palo Alto, CA.

Mary Lou (Coffee) Holbrook ’60 and Charles P. Holbrook ’50 are enjoying retirement in Florida.

Alice N. (Niklinskas) D’Iauro ’60 & ’65 is enjoying retirement in Florida and is substitute teaching in the Punta Gorda, FL School System.

Helen P. (Petrie) Bryan ’62 retired in June 2001 from the Fair Lawn, NJ School System where she taught preschool through fourth grade. She will now sell antiques with her husband.

Eric P. Svenson ’62 retired in June 2000 after 30 years as Professor and Associate Chairperson in the Department of Sociology at the College of M unct Saint Vincent and Manhattan College in Riverdale, NY.

Louis J. Baccio ’63 has been named manager of the Microgravity Research Program Office in the Science Directorate at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, AL. He is married to Judith A. (England) Baccio M.S. ’82.

Arthur T. Bouchard ’65 is a Portfolio Manager & Banister.

Joseph B. Geraci ’65 retired in June 2000 from the New Britain CT School System where he was an administrator. He currently is an adjunct faculty member at Three Rivers Community College in Norwich, CT.

Esther P. (Peterson) Harris ’65 retired from the Stafford, CT School System after 32 years as a first grade teacher.

Bradley E. Barritreau ’66 had a 28 year career as a Marine Corps officer serving in the Vietnam and Persian Gulf Wars. He is currently working for a defense contractor looking at critical U S infrastructure supporting military missions.

Michael J. Makarwicz ’66 was recently selected for the sixth edition of Who’s Who Among Americans Teachers.

Patricia M. (Phep) Widlitz ’67 was elected to a fourth term as state representative of the 98th district (Guilford/Brantford, CT) and serves as the deputy majority leader of the Connecticut House of Representatives. She serves on the Education, Environment, and Workforce Development Committee.

Robert J. Ryan ’67, M.S ’71 retired in June 2001 after teaching 34 years in the Bristol, CT School System. He spent the last eight years teaching mathematics at Chippens Hill Middle School.

Elsa M. (Polouz) Galetas ’68 retired from public education where she served as a guidance counselor.

Wayne R. Simarand ’68 is a teacher at King Philip Regional High School in Franklin, MA and serves as a youth baseball coach, chairman of the Franklin Recreation Advisory Board, Franklin School Committee member and many other community leadership positions.

Robert J. Smith ’68 has retired from a thirty-two year teaching career at the Woodstock Academy in CT as professor emeritus. The schools arts scholarships were named in his honor. He was recently appointed Director of the new Carol Autorino Center for the Arts and Humanities at St. Joseph College in West Hartford, CT. He and his wife, Janet reside in Pomfret Center, CT.

Bruce E. Douglas ’69 has been appointed executive director of the Capitol Region Education Council in Hartford, CT.

Martin Lambert ’69 is a certified financial planner and a CPA. His wife Linda S. (Niklin) Lambert ’69 is with DeWolfe Real Estate.

Patricia Clark Smith ’69, M.S ’84, 6th Year ’96 is a Portfolio Manager & Banister.

Gale Brown, Jr., ’74 has a private rehabilitation medicine practice in Portsmouth, NH, is a medical director at the Rockingham VNA and was inducted into the Volleyball Hall of Fame.

60s

Members of the Class of 1961 gathered for an Awards Banquet.

Elizabeth A. (Story) Stochmal ’71 is working as an ABA Therapist for pre-school autistic children in Windsor, CT where she lives with her two Children, Sara and Mark.

Mariani (Biliczka) Aialskaus MS ’73 retired in June 2001 after teaching 31 years in the Terryville, CT School System. She and her husband recently celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary and plan to visit Alaska.

Barbara S. (Weigen) Bergren, ’74 was recently appointed Senior M anager at Blum Shapiro in West Hartford.

Gary J. Blanchette ’72 MS ’75 is in his eighth year as vice chair of the Ellington, CT Board of Education. He is also a member of the Ellington Permanent Building Committee.

Craig Johnson ’72 MS ’79, awarded the Arts Educator of the Year in New Britain.

Louis P. Rossi ’72 was appointed as an instructor in the Department of Accounting at Central Connecticut State University in the Fall 2000 semester.

John N. Nowobiski ’73 was chosen by Golf Digest as one of the top five golf instructors in Connecticut and by Golf Magazine as one of the top five instructors in New England.

Dale Lacava ‘74 is regional director of sales for J. P. Express Service Incorporated in Deer Park, N.Y.

Denis M. Medeiros ‘74 was appointed head of the Department of Human Nutrition at Kansas State University after most recently serving as Interim Dean of Human Ecology at the Ohio State University.

Michele Bock ’75 has joined the full-time faculty of Bay Path College as an assistant professor of Information Technology.

Francis L. (Pentz) Mainella MS ’75 was recently appointed by President Bush to head the National Park Service.

William N. Mangini ’75, MA ’77 was named corporate director of financial aid at Goodwin College in East Hartford, CT.

Donna M. (Garofalo) Sacco ’76, MA ’77 is enjoying retirement in Connecticut.

Robert J. Smith ’78 was named a Portfolio Manager & Banister.

Richard T. Warlop, Carol (Misencik) Kharry, Cynthia Cipriano, Carol Krul, Linda Carlson, Marzi, Sue (Wolf) Schroeder, Jeanne (Duncan) Herring, Mary (McNamara) Wardrip, Carol (Morsink) Khany, Cynthia Cipriano, Carol Krul, Linda Carlson, Marilyn (Miguel) Messina and Robin (Ayl) Dematino.

Class of 1961 reunion on Homecoming weekend, from left to right, Maureen (Montesette) Whitehead, Roger Newbury, Louise (Magnarson) Wills, Dave Skonieczny, Marlene (Stokes) Shea and Don Liner.

Central Focus Winter 2002
Michelle E. Ruffini MS ‘80 has recently started her own safety and industrial hygiene consulting business and is a secretary/treasurer for the Florida local section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association.

Gail A. Dahling-Hench ‘81, MS ‘97, 6th Year ‘99 was recently awarded the Miken Award for excellence in teaching. She won the prestigious award for her work with second and third graders at the Cherry Brook Primary School in Canton, CT.

Joanne (Guarnierii) Edmunds ‘81 has received her paralegal certificate and is working for REMAX International in Greenwood Village, CO. She is married and has two sons.

Joseph A. Fabrizi ‘81 is with JAF Investment Counselors, received his paralegal certificate from the University of Connecticut and is a UCONN Law School candidate. He is also a CBA member.

Kathryn Josephow ‘82 received a master of science degree in physical therapist assistant studies from Arizona School of Health Sciences Phoenix Arizona.

Shirley A. (Buddie) King ‘84 received her MA degree from the University of Hartford in January 2000 and her Florida CPA license in August 2000.

Ann R. (Mulligan) Rousseau ‘84 was recently promoted to supervisor at Blum Shapiro in West Hartford, CT. She joined the firm in 1991 as a member of the tax department.

Robert C. Luckwan, Jr. ’85 was recently appointed chair of the State Taxation Committee by the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants for the organization’s 2001-2002 activity year.

Donna (Roy) McKenty ’85 became the assistant director of fiscal affairs at Eastern Connecticut State University in December 2000.

Ruth M. (Dwyer) Beames ’86 and her husband Andrew are delighted to announce the birth of their second daughter Catherine, on February 15, 2001. Ruth is currently an Art Teacher at Brevoort Elementary School Regional School District 13 in Durham, CT.

Robert J. Martineck, Jr. ’90 MS ’00 received his master’s degree in technical management. He is a graphics communications instructor at Eli Whitney Technical School.

Robert J. Santore ’90 is a recruiting manager at Robert Half International.

Todd J. Atkinson ’91 and Sarah P. (Pandera) Atkinson ’91 are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Giana on June 11, 2000 who joins 2 1/2 year old sister Candy. Sarah currently works for the Department of Design at Central Connecticut State University. Todd works as a commercial photographer.

Todd W. Borkowski ’91 and his wife Betty are delighted to announce the birth of their son Zachary John on February 17, 2001.

Michael J. DiCioccio ’91 and Enza (DiToma) DiCioccio ’92 are delighted to announce the birth of their second child, son Joseph.

William F. Gale ’91 and Angela (Velesio) Gale ’92 are delighted to announce the birth of their son William Paul on December 24, 2000 who joins big sister Alexandra.

Robyn S. (More) Perkins ’91 is manager of compensation for Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL. She recently married DW Phineas Perkins and has a daughter, Analis.

John P. Roche ’91 is the assistant director of the Initiative for Vector and Insect Science at Boston College in Boston, MA. He also directs a DIOflagellate Working Group studying symbiotic algae in corals.

Cheryl Wood ’91 joins CSU as Internal Auditor for CSU and ECSU Universities.

Angela M. Beebe ’92 was recently named director of accounting services for the Greater Hartford Association for Retarded Citizens, Inc.

Pamela K. (Hyman) Campo ’92 is vice president for alternative investments at the Beatempered Trust Company in New York, N.Y.


From left to right, William B. Rogers, Senior VP, Industry Affairs, Air Jamaica, Dr. Phyllis MacPherson-Russell, Marveet Couboure (scholarship recipient), Daphne C. Yap, Nurse, Secretary CSU University Association (Jamaica), and Professor George B. Miller, Director Caribbean Mathematics/Science Institute celebrate the first awarding of the Phyllis MacPherson-Russell scholarship for graduate study in math education.

Cherie R. (Maranda) Kelley ’92 and her husband Edward are delighted to announce the birth of their son Patrick Michael on October 22, 2000.

Jeffrey Cyr ’93 is currently serving aboard the USS Constellation on a six month tour in the Persian Gulf.

Jane A. (Liro) Fisher ’93 works for an environmental consulting company.

Andrea L. Hartman ’93 is a webmaster at ACES.

Edward J. Zak ’93 and Andra L. Zak ’00 are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Haley Ann on November 20, 2000.

Michael L. Camarco ’94 is an accountant for Delta Upsilon International Fraternity Headquarters in Indianapolis, IN. She is also a Girl Scout troop leader and a mentor with Big Sisters.

Christina L. Lainkas ’94 received her MSW from the University of Connecticut in May 2000 and is a geriatric care manager for the Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging.

Lisa R. (Grimaldi) Lucente ’94, MS ’01 received her master’s degree in special education.

Marina (deCarvalho) Henninger ’95 married Brian Henninger on July 22, 2000 in Stratford, CT.

Kenneth Saranich ’95 and Tara (McElhill) Saranich ’95 are delighted to announce the birth of their son Daniel John on November 24, 2000.

Edward J. Witkovic ’95 is a business application systems developer with Northeast Utilities. His wife Renee (Rondeau) Witkovic ‘95 is a registered nurse at Ridgeview Healthcare Center.
Jan (Fitzgerald) Briscoe MS ’96 was named Youth Service Worker of the Year 2000 by the Connecticut Association of Youth and Family Services.

Wendy M. (Blason) Kring ’96 married David Kring on August 12, 2000, in Dusseldorf, Germany.

Klit L. Moya ’96 and Holly L. (Niedbala) Moya ’92 are delighted to announce the birth of their son Logan Alberto on June 15, 2000.

Radio station get together at the Chowder Pot, Hartford, on August 20, 2001; from left to right, Fernando Rosa ’75, Art Passaro ’72, Paul Koscak ’73, Ray Shinder ’74, Bob Rapice ’74, John Alfredson ’74, Tony Auger ’73, and Richard Wisniewski ’73.

Susan E. Gurecki ’97 was engaged on January 1, 2001, and is planning a July 2002 wedding. She has been working at Citifinancial as a senior CSR for 3 years.

Anthony M. Napoliello ’97 was promoted to national sales supervisor at DSL.net in New Haven, CT.

Sona Noor ’97 recently became an H.R. consultant for the Hospital for Special Care. She is also an independent consultant and teaches professional management at Manchester Community Technical College in Manchester, CT. Her husband Israr A. Qureshi ’01 is IT director for the Burlington, CT School District.

Paul J. Suter ’97 MS ’99 was promoted to associate director of the student center at Rice University in Houston, TX.

Jeff K. Toler ’97 has been named tourism & sports marketing manager for the Coastal Fairfield County Convention & Visitor Bureau in Norwalk, CT.

Jennifer A. (Wiley) Willey-Cordova ’96 and her husband Peter are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Bethany on March 1, 2001. Jennifer is human protections administrator of the Institutional Review Board at the Education Development Center in Newton, MA.

Suchana Chavanich ’97 is a lecturer at the D.partment of Marine Science at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand.

Michelle L. (Sweeney) Curtis ’97 and her husband Glen are delighted to announce the birth of their son Matthew James on November 21, 2000. Michelle is a Spanish/bilingual teacher in the Waterbury, CT Public School System.

Sudesh Harbaran ’97 is a lecturer at the Department of Marine Science at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand.

Michelle A. (Griswold) Desjardins ’97 was married on June 17, 2000 in Bristol, CT.

Michelle L. (Sweeney) Curtis ’97 and her husband Glen are delighted to announce the birth of their son Matthew James on November 21, 2000. Michelle is a Spanish/bilingual teacher in the Waterbury, CT Public School System.

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Joe Bohdan

In Memoriam

Dr. Pauline M. Alt, Professor of Education Emeritus at Central Connecticut State University, died on January 4, 2001. Born in North Tonawanda, N.Y., she graduated from D’Youville College in Buffalo, N.Y., which voted her the School’s Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1987. She earned her Master’s degree from the University of Buffalo and her Doctorate at the University of Chicago. In 1949, she joined the faculty at Central Connecticut State University in 1949 and taught for 23 years. She was a charter member and organizer of the American Association of University Women. She retired in 1972, remaining active. She collected books, over 7,000 total, painted in watercolor and played the piano and violin. She extensively traveled the world visiting countries such as China, England, Australia, France, Italy, Greece, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Norway and her favorite, Sweden. She was the last person to interview Albert Schweitzer, traveling in a dugout canoe to the west coast of Africa, conducting the interview over an elegant lunch.

Dr. Stanislaus A. Blejwas, Connecticut State University Professor of History and holder of the Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish-American Studies at Central Connecticut State University, died on September 23, at the age of 59. He developed the Polish Heritage Collection in CCSU’s Elhu Burritt Library, and he was instrumental in organizing many activities for the Polish-American community.

He was Co-Chair of the National Polish American-Jewish American Council, and was twice appointed by President Clinton to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. In 1994, he joined a special committee of Eastern European experts to advise President Clinton for his visit to Eastern Europe. In 1995, Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski appointed Blejwas the Office’s Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland for his contributions to the Polish-American community and for developing CCSU’s Polish Studies Program.

Assistant Instructor of Education Mary Beaulieu Boloin died on March 15, 2001 at the age of 98. Appointed to the faculty in 1925, she was a supervising teacher at the Vance and Stanley schools for 29 years. Boloin graduated from New Britain Normal School in 1923 and received her B.S. from CCSU in 1967. She was an active member of the Alumni Association and was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Service Award in 1977.

Peter A. Durham, longtime director of public affairs at Central Connecticut State University, died on January 6, 2001 at the age of 67. A native of West Hartford and resident of Simsbury for the past 41 years, Durham served as the Director of Public Affairs and Assistant to the President for CCSU from his appointment in 1967 until his retirement in 1991. During his tenure, he played a prominent role in the institution’s transition from college to university and the expansion of its international programs. After his retirement from CCSU, he began hosting the “Morning Watch” program at WJMJ-FM, a Bloomfield radio station owned by the Dr. Marcus White as principal of the State Normal School.

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She was the widow of the late Dr. Herbert D. Welte. Dr. Welte served as principal of the State Normal School, the only president of Central Connecticut State College, retiring in 1968. Born in Logan Center, ND, Aletha Boulden was a student at Mayville State Teachers College in North Dakota, where she met Dr. Welte. Married on November 26, 1927, they moved to Iowa City, where her husband received his doctorate in education from the State University of Iowa. They moved to New Britain in 1943. Dr. Welte died on July 7, 1970.

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Dr. Pauline M. Alt, Professor of Education Emeritus at Central Connecticut State University, died on January 4, 2001. Born in North Tonawanda, N.Y., she graduated from D’Youville College in Buffalo, N.Y., which voted her the School’s Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1987. She earned her Master’s degree from the University of Buffalo and her Doctorate at the University of Chicago. In 1949, she joined the faculty at Central Connecticut State University in 1949 and taught for 23 years. She was a charter member and organizer of the American Association of University Women. She retired in 1972, remaining active. She collected books, over 7,000 total, painted in watercolor and played the piano and violin. She extensively traveled the world visiting countries such as China, England, Australia, France, Italy, Greece, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Norway and her favorite, Sweden. She was the last person to interview Albert Schweitzer, traveling in a dugout canoe to the west coast of Africa, conducting the interview over an elegant lunch.

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