Also in this issue: The School of Graduate Studies, Profile of Alumnus Ken Melley, Honor Roll of Donors, Class of ’54 Scholarship, and more....
The CSU Board of Trustees has appointed John W. Miller as the 12th president of Central Connecticut State University.

Since 1999, Dr. Miller has been chancellor and a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, an institution similar to CCSU in size and mission. Recognized as an expert in literacy education, he has written more than 55 papers and 42 articles for national and international publications, as well as 10 book chapters and three major monographs disseminated by international associations.

Additionally, Dr. Miller is the founding president of the Wisconsin Campus Project, part of a national coalition of college and university presidents committed to civic purpose. He serves as the chair of the Board of Governors of The Renaissance Group, an affiliation of 35 universities that educates one in every nine teachers in the U.S. He also served as chair of the Chancellors Committee for the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Committee from 2002 to 2004. In 2003, Dr. Miller was the recipient of the National Pacesetter Award, presented annually by the National Academic Advising Association to higher education CEOs who exemplify a commitment to academic advising among advisers and students.

Dr. Miller was selected from a national pool of 120 candidates. He and his wife, Barbara, who graduated from Torrington High School, are the parents of three grown children. He assumes office on July 1, 2005.
FROM US TO YOU

It seems fitting that the arrival of a new year brings with it the announcement of a new president for CCSU. The campus looks forward to Dr. Miller's arrival on July 1, and on behalf of all of the alumni, we extend to him a warm welcome and wishes for great success.

Amid the excitement and anticipation of the search process, we have not lost sight of our primary mission here at Central, which is education. In this issue, we hope to engage you with several stories that illustrate the breadth and depth of programs at CCSU, from the little-known but highly-respected Honors Program to the School of Graduate Studies, which prepares students from all walks of life for further professional success. Likewise, we are pleased to profile one of our illustrious alumni, Kenneth Melley ’57, MS ’65, whose life demonstrates that one person can make an enormous difference. It also gives us great pleasure to present the Honor Roll of Donors, which acknowledges the many individuals, corporations, foundations, and other organizations who support our goal to provide the very best public higher education possible for the citizens of Connecticut.

As always, we invite you to send us your thoughts and comments. Our email address is alumnidept@ccsu.edu, so please take a few minutes to write!

—The Central Focus Editorial Staff
More than Great Books, a Great Choice

By Martha Perry

When it came time to decide where to go to college, Taylor Loomis didn't have much trouble making up his mind. Although the Litchfield High School student graduated near the top of his class and could have gone on to Dartmouth, he chose CCSU instead.

“I wanted to come to Central because I knew it was a very good teaching school,” says Loomis, a member of the Class of '06. “But,” he continues, “if there were any second thoughts, the Honors Program was enough to dissuade me from choosing any other school.”

Not many people know about the Honors Program at Central. In fact, Loomis only learned about it at a pre-acceptance orientation before starting his freshman year. But the Honors Program actually dates back to the early 1980s, when it began as an addition to the general curriculum. At first, it was just a one-year program that consisted of students arriving early each morning to study the great books of Western civilization.

“It was kind of like, ‘If it’s Wednesday, it must be Dante,’” says Dr. Kristine Larsen '84, one of the program's early graduates, who now serves as its director.

Since that time, the program has evolved into a more comprehensive curriculum that serves as an alternative to the regular general education requirement. Now Honors students enroll in a three-year program: in the first and second years, they complete courses in four areas—writing and research, science and society, world culture, and Western culture—and in the third year they research and write a thesis. Beyond that, all of the classes are team-taught by professors from different disciplines who provide complementary perspectives on a given topic.

“The Honors Program has a lot of advantages over the regular core curriculum, where students can feel rushed because there is so much to cram into one little session,” says Loomis. “With the Honors Program, there is a lot more freedom on the part of the professors, so they can take one element and really develop it and connect it to other aspects of the curriculum. It gives you a different spin on how you see everything, a new point of view that you wouldn’t get otherwise.”

Larsen expands on this idea. “The bottom line of the program is critical thinking—analyzing, questioning, not just accepting something at face value. If a student wants to be challenged, if they want to learn about the interconnectedness of things—like science and society, religion and politics, culture and economics—this is the place they’re going to find it. They’re really going to see general education in its true definition, which is to make you a well-rounded person.”

But not just anyone can get into the Honors Program. The program is highly selective, admitting only about 50 students each year. Eligibility is limited to students who graduate in the top 20 percent of their class or score 1100+ (combined) or 600+ (verbal) on the SAT. Those who make the cut, however, are rewarded financially as well as academically. All Honors students are awarded a half scholarship upon entering the University. To keep the scholarship, they must maintain a 3.2 grade point average, both overall and in the Honors Program. At the end of their freshman year, if they have a 3.5 GPA, they are boosted to a full scholarship, and it stays that way as long as they keep up their grades.

As if the financial rewards aren’t enough, students also are attracted to the program because it sets them apart from other graduates when they enter the job market. Completing the Honors Program, says Larsen, “proves not only that you are intelligent, but that you have a good work ethic, which is something an employer is going to look at. Being able to think, to communicate, to write, to work well with others and do group projects…these are all skills that are very much in demand.”

While some Honors Program graduates go on to pursue Ph.D.s, others have become actuarial analysts, doctors, lawyers, teachers, musicians, and artists. “Since the program cuts across all majors, it embraces all of the disciplines,” explains Larsen.

But no matter where their professional pursuits take them, alumni of the program are effusive about it. Lucia Bryant '95, a fiction writer who has taken graduate courses at Wesleyan and UConn, says those other universities “pale in comparison” to CCSU.

“Central’s Honors Program was the most intense, rewarding academic experience I have ever known,” Bryant says. “Although it was a great deal of work, I wish I could do it all over again.”

It might be tempting to generalize about the students who choose the Honors Program, but in
fact, they come from all over—from different states and different countries. The one thing they have in common, however, is that they’re looking for a challenge.

“These are students who don’t like to be bored,” observes Larsen. “A lot of them are outgoing and talkative, but some are introspective. A number of them could be [described] as being individualistic in some way. They’re definitely creative, but beyond that, they’re all very different. They’re students who just excel academically. They like a challenge and like the opportunity we’ve given them.”

Regardless of their differences, because they spend so much time together, Honors Program students form a lasting bond with each other. “They definitely tend to gravitate toward one another and form their own little community,” Larsen says.

Loomis has found this to be another fringe benefit of the program, noting that he feels at home in his dormitory where he lives with a number of other Honors students.

“I really encourage anyone who is interested to check out the Honors Program and take advantage of what it has to offer, because there is no other program I have seen that offers what this one does. It is extraordinary,” he says.

When asked to name his favorite course, Loomis has a hard time narrowing it down. It could be the one that focused on science fiction from Victorian England and contemporary America. Or maybe the one that compared Russian and American emancipation. Or perhaps the one that explored Greek literature and philosophy. But there are two things about which Loomis is absolutely certain: choosing Central and choosing the Honors Program were both great decisions.
Graduate Programs Provide a Personal Touch

As one of just a handful of staff members in the Graduate Studies program at Central, Associate Director of Recruitment and Admissions Kevin Oliva has stood on the dais through his share of commencement exercises. Even so, he never ceases to be amazed by the exchanges that occur between students and professors when graduates come up on stage to receive their diplomas.

“We graduate a large number of students—between 600 and 800 each year—but when we’re standing on stage and lining up faculty at commencement, it’s pretty rare that a professor doesn’t know the names of the students as they come up,’ says Oliva. “It’s ‘Hey, Dave,’ and they give them a hug and say, ‘Good luck at …’ or ‘I heard you got promoted….’ The faculty are so involved. It’s just incredible to hear those conversations.”

Oliva believes those exchanges are a testament to the connections made in the classroom, to the collaborative effort that takes place when students pursue their graduate studies at CCSU. “Some students take three, four, five years to get through,” Oliva says, “and yet faculty members know the full story of what they’re up against, what they’re doing, what is going on in their lives.”

The Graduate Program at CCSU prides itself on taking a personal approach to dealing with students, something most people would not associate with a large, state university. “We really work hard to make the students feel welcome,” says Dr. Paulette Lemma, dean of the School of Graduate Studies. “We try to get them in touch with the right people, to steer them in the right direction. We are very hands-on.”

This hands-on approach extends to the classroom, where small student/faculty ratios are a hallmark of the graduate programs. Class sizes rarely exceed 25 students, and are more likely to range from 10 to 12 students. “One of the things I loved about the graduate program was the class sizes,” says Janet Sisson, a teacher from the Independent Day School in Middlefield who earned her M.S. in physical education last spring.

“My classes ranged from eight to about 25 students, so I never felt lost. That was especially important to me since I’d been out of school for 15 years.” But if students are pleasantly surprised by the small class sizes, Lemma believes they are equally caught off guard by the breadth and depth of graduate programs offered at CCSU.

“People know us for what we do in teacher education and teacher certification, but I don’t think they know us as well for the arts and sciences, business, and technology,” Lemma speculates. “How many people know that we offer a program in marriage and family therapy? Do they know us for student development in higher education? So there are probably some surprises.”

A Spring 2004 graduate of the CCSU School of Graduate Studies, Averl Otis earned her M.S. in Educational Leadership while holding down a full-time job as Coordinator of Multicultural Student Activities at the Unity Center at Eastern Connecticut State University. The degree helped her earn a new position as Director of Multicultural Affairs at SUNY Fredonia, where she is responsible for planning and implementing educational, cultural, social, and recreational presentations on diversity; facilitating cross-cultural dialogue on campus; and administering training programs in multicultural sensitivity for faculty, staff, and students. Says Otis, “I had an extremely rewarding experience at Central. The faculty and staff are eager to help students achieve their professional and educational goals.” And, she claims, her specific course of study has special benefits. “Most individuals with a degree in Educational Leadership pursue a career in the classroom, but this degree was versatile in that it allowed me to continue my work in a university environment. The knowledge and expertise that I gained from this program allowed me to apply the information to my work in student affairs.”
Graduate Programs…

continued from page 5

In total, CCSU offers more than 40 graduate programs that cut across all four schools of the University. Degrees run the gamut from data mining, which is offered totally online and attracts students from all over the world, to a master’s program in biomolecular science, which recently was approved by the Department of Higher Education, to a program in nurse anesthesia, which is one of only two or three available throughout the state.

“Some students take three, four, five years to get through,” Oliva says, “and yet faculty members know the full story of what they’re up against, what they’re doing, what is going on in their lives.”

Because of the diversity of offerings, the graduate programs also tend to attract a wide variety of students.

“It’s a mixed bag,” says Oliva, when describing the students who enroll in the graduate programs. “We attract a lot of people who are established in their careers and want to take that next step up the career ladder, as well as people who want to change jobs. We have more women now than ever before, and more non-traditional students. Whether it’s a master’s program, the 6th year degree, or the Ed.D., our programs bring a new opportunity for them,” he says.

Regardless of which degree a student chooses to pursue, or their reasons for pursuing it, Lemma believes the personalized approach is the key to success, both for the programs and for the students.

“In so many cases,” she says, “our success is tied to the faculty and what goes on here on campus and what our students are doing when they leave. Our programs really prepare students for that next step, whatever it might be.”

His Work Is Not Done

Ken Melley ’57, MS ’65, likes to travel abroad. But unlike most of us, he doesn’t go to bask in the sunshine of Bermuda or to explore the ruins of ancient Rome. Instead, Melley’s passport has been stamped in such countries as Cambodia, the Philippines, Nepal, Pakistan and South Korea.

Melley doesn’t travel to these places for rest and relaxation. Instead, as a charter board member of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, he works alongside such high-profile leaders as former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Geraldine Ferraro, and Walter Mondale to help spread democracy around the globe.

Like many CCSU alumni, Melley’s professional life began in the classroom, as a science teacher at Windsor Public High School. Although he loved teaching, he was discouraged by the low salaries and working conditions of teachers at the time. So he joined the local education association and became an advocate for teachers’ rights. By 1965, Melley’s efforts earned him a position with the Connecticut Education Association, where he helped pass one of the nation’s first statewide collective bargaining laws for teachers.

Three years later, Melley joined the staff of the National Education Association and, over the next 28 years, he was instrumental in helping it grow into one of the most prominent and influential unions in the country. Among other achievements, Melley pioneered Uniserv, a network of 1,500 staff members who represent NEA members on the local level.

Melley was serving as political affairs director at the NEA in 1984, when he was called upon to share his knowledge of elections with a newly-forming group of political leaders charged with fostering the growth of democracy in emerging nations. The rest, as they say, is history. The NDI was chartered by the U.S. Congress through the National Endowment for Democracy, and Melley continued his efforts on behalf of education in an expanded capacity.

Though it might not be obvious, democracy and education are inter-related. In emerging countries, Melley explains, “schools are non-existent except for the elite, and what schools do exist for the common people are really just there to help them develop some understanding of what it is to live in a community. There is no reading, no math.”

The Philippines, he says, is a good example. Melley was there in 1986 just after Corazon Aquino was elected. Up until that time, the government had been under the control of a corrupt president, Ferdinand Marcos. Aquino’s election was designed to free the society.

“I went back to the Philippines this past year on a pre-election mission,” says Melley, “and the country is booming economically. The difference in 18 years is enormous. But there are still major disparities between the elite class and everyone else. The elite still enjoy the benefits of democracy disproportionately. To succeed in the Philippines still means that you get your base education in country and then come to a western country for advanced education. But to go to school in the Philippines, stay there, and succeed, is very difficult for most of the population.”

Nonetheless, the Philippines is one of the more successful endeavors. Efforts in other countries, such as Pakistan, have not stood the test of time. Regardless, Melley maintains an optimistic attitude.

“There is no goal line in democracy-building,” he says. “I’ve been asked many times by people in foreign countries, ‘Why don’t you go observe your own election in Florida?’ The fact is, we are in transition, too; we haven’t perfected it, as many years as we’ve been at it. But we sure have a good system compared to so many others. I guess my bottom line hope is that any person would have an equal opportunity to succeed in life, and I think democratic governance allows that to happen.”

Maybe, someday, Ken Melley will return to the Phillipines to kick back and enjoy the sun. But for now, his work is not done.
Alumni party at Sine Irish Pub in Arlington, VA, l-r front: Jack Burriesci ’97, Cindy Kaufman ’75, Kim Timpany ’97, Lucinda Meehan ’69; l-r rear: Bryan Wood ’83, Mike Frazier ’79, Chris Mays ’97, Paul Koscak ’73

Interim President Dr. Robert N. Aebersold with Michael S. Knapp ’75 at football reunion on Homecoming Day

Future alumni scrimmage with the Blue Devil on Homecoming Day.


Adelma (Hodgkins) Tomkiel ’37 and Margaret (Bradshaw) Curtin ’37 at Alumni Day luncheon

Nancy (Roberds) Camp ’54, Dorothy McCord Gallagher ’54, Patricia (Keenan) Welch ’54 at dedication of room 102 in Vance Academic Center in honor of the Class of 1954 at their 50th Reunion

Undefeated football teams of ’39 and ’54 honored at halftime of Homecoming Day football game

Is your child, or grandchild, currently attending CCSU? He or she might be eligible for a CCSU Alumni Association scholarship!
• A matriculated undergraduate student with 54 hours of earned academic credit and a 3.0 cumulative grade point average
• Demonstrated qualities of leadership, service and academic achievement
For more information and application log onto http://www.ccsu.edu/instiadv/scholarships.
25th Anniversary Celebration of the CCSU Alumni Association Athletic Hall of Fame

With much fanfare, the newest class was inducted on Thursday, May 13, 2004 at a celebratory dinner in honor of the 25th anniversary of the CCSU Alumni Association Athletic Hall of Fame. Approximately 200 guests gathered to mark the occasion and to welcome this year’s inductees: James W. Gallagher ’57, Edward J. Kusek ’50, and John R. Webster ’60. John J. Nowobilski ’73 is the 2004 recipient of the Kaiser Alumni Service Award. Most of the members of the CCSU Alumni Association Athletic Hall of Fame were present to celebrate the anniversary and welcome the new members.

Upcoming Alumni Events
http://www.ccsu.edu/alumni/Events.htm

JANUARY
Saturday, Jan 22
*Women’s Basketball vs LIU 2:00 p.m.
Alumni Reception between games
*Men’s Basketball vs LIU 4:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY
Friday, Feb 11
*Men’s Basketball vs Sacred Heart 7:00 p.m.
Alumni Reception at halftime
Sunday, Feb 13
Florida Reunion
3:00-6:00 p.m. at Gatsby’s in Boca Raton
Monday, Feb 28
*Men’s Basketball vs Quinnipiac 7:00 p.m.
Alumni Reception at halftime

MARCH
Wednesday, Mar 2
Read Across America Day
E-mail registration: alumnidept@ccsu.edu

APRIL
TBA
Alumni Social in Fairfield County

MAY
Thursday, May 12
Alumni Association Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Banquet
Friday, May 13
Blue Devil Golf Tournament
Saturday, May 14
Alumni Day

JUNE
Monday, Jun 13
Annual Meeting & Election of Directors
5:00 p.m. Philbrick Room — Student Center

*Game tickets may be purchased in advance through CENTIX (860) 832-1989.

Notice Of Annual Meeting
The annual meeting of the CCSU Alumni Association will be Monday, June 13, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. in the Philbrick Room, Student Center, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT.

Calling all alumni readers!
(teachers, classroom volunteers, grandparents)

Read Across America
March 2, 2005
E-mail registration: alumnidept@ccsu.edu
You provide the students — we’ll provide the bookmarks!
CCSU Welcomes New Leaders

Three exemplary individuals were honored at the annual luncheon on Alumni Day, May 15, 2004.

Robert F. Skinner ’55 is the 2004 recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Service Award. Bob’s experience as the leading scorer and rusher on the undefeated 1954 Blue Devils’ football team established a pattern of excellence and achievement that has followed him his entire life. A life member of Midland National Life Insurance Company’s Million Dollar roundtable, he is devoting more time and energy of late to protecting Florida’s ecologically sensitive marine and wetland areas and creating more parkland. He has been a lobbyist (in the most positive sense of the term), a volunteer mediator, an advisor to members of the Florida legislature, and a tireless advocate for environmental responsibility.

The Outstanding Teacher Award was presented to Jane Callery ’92, M.S. ’97, 6th Yr ’01, a seventh grade science teacher and science curriculum facilitator at Two Rivers Magnet Middle School in East Hartford. Jane’s experience working with both professionals and educators includes participation as a member of a research team aboard a National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration ship assisting with chemical and biological research in Stellwagen Bank Marine Sanctuary. She has been a Sea Grant teacher intern at the Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk and a facilitator of a Marine Biology Club, where she had an opportunity to share and explore with students the marvels found in the ocean.

Kelley Hedley ’97 received the Young Alumni Service Award in recognition of her commitment to volunteerism. Kelley serves as the CCSU Key School Campus Chair, in which capacity she leads a team that is working to build a strong relationship between the University and St. Paul Travelers, where she is a senior telecom analyst and has served on numerous volunteer committees.

CCSU Welcomes New Leaders

CSU welcomes several new administrators to campus. Among the fresh faces are Dr. Margaret Tosten, vice president of student affairs; Dr. Colin Read, dean of the School of Business; and Dr. Susan Pease, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Margaret Tosten was Director of Minority Student Retention and Academic Enrichment at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and comes to Central from Maryville University of Saint Louis, Missouri, where she served as Senior Student Affairs Officer and as Dean of Student Life and Development. Dr. Tosten holds degrees from Grambling State University in Louisiana, Northeast Louisiana State University, and a Ph.D. in higher education leadership from the University of Mississippi, and is being certified in Enrollment Management by the University of Florida and Noel-Levitz.

As Dean of the School of Business, Dr. Colin Read oversees seven academic departments. Dr. Read brings a wealth of expertise to his new post, including extensive experience with AASCB accreditation, the “gold standard” of business school accreditation. He attended the London School of Economics at the Davies Laing & Dick College, was a research associate representing the Harvard Institute for International Development to the Ministry of Finance in Jakarta, Indonesia, and completed his Ph.D. in Economics at Queens University in Toronto. Dr. Read recently retired as professor of Economics from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Dr. Susan Pease, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, began her career at CCSU in 1989 as an associate professor in the Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice. Among other achievements, she oversaw the development of two degree programs, the University’s B.A. in Criminology and M.S. in Criminal Justice. As Dean of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Pease is responsible for 21 academic departments. She is an expert on drug crimes and on substance abuse treatment programs for prisoners. Dr. Pease holds a Ph.D. degree in Criminology from Florida State University.

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Contrary to the popular stereotype, athletic achievement and academic excellence often go hand-in-hand. Nowhere is that more evident than at Central.

First year head football coach Tom Masella guided the CCSU Blue Devils to an 8-2 overall record and a share of the Northeast Conference championship. The eight wins were the most for Central since 1973; the conference title is the first ever for the football Blue Devils. Masella was named NEC Coach of the Year.

In soccer, the CCSU women’s team overcame a rash of early season injuries to earn its third straight Northeast Conference Tournament championship and saw post-season NCAA tournament competition for the third consecutive year. She was the inaugural NEC Student-Athlete of the Year in 2002.

Senior quarterback Scott Dolch, who re-wrote CCSU’s passing record book, led the Blue Devils to an 8-2 record and a share of the NEC championship. A Dean’s List student, Dolch is a Marketing major.

Academic prowess isn’t limited to football and women’s soccer, either. Several entire CCSU teams, led by women’s soccer with its gaudy 3.12 GPA, are at or near Dean’s List levels. Also carrying cumulative GPAs above 3.0 are volleyball, women’s golf, softball and women’s basketball. Lacrosse and women’s track have posted GPAs of 2.99 and 2.98 respectively.

Among the individual academic “stars,” baseball’s Tom Pezzello, Brendon Ray of the men’s golf team, volleyball standouts Jen Cote and Shannon Verity, women’s basketball player Samantha Williams and men’s soccer player Peter Howe are also well into Dean’s List territory.

CCSU Director of Athletics C.J. Jones said he is “extremely proud of the academic record of our student-athletes.” Jones added, “people outside the University community tend to focus on the win-loss record. But if they could meet our students and understand how much they achieve in the classroom, I think they’d be even more impressed with how they perform on the field.”

Sabrina Mariani, the outstanding goalkeeper on CCSU’s women’s soccer team is a two-time Academic All-American, recently honored with her third straight Verizon Academic First Team All-District Award by the College Sports Information Directors of America. ESPN also named Mariani to its Academic All-America team.

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Senior Shannon Verity was volleyball coach Linda Sagnelli’s first recruit. She turned out to be exactly the kind of player that every team wants and, in fact, must have to be successful.

“Shannon is the kind of student-athlete we look to recruit,” said Sagnelli. “She is very responsible on and off the court.” The accounting major has been a Dean’s List student and was selected as a Connecticut Society of CPAs Educational Trust Scholar, recognizing her valuable contributions to accounting excellence at CCSU.

On the court, Verity has been named All-Conference three straight years.
Anna (Snow) Wilson, ’43, MS ’79, recently found herself in a heated tennis competition with Barbara R. Lukas (MS ’90) at a tournament in Fort Myers, FL. They discovered over lunch that they are both alumni of CCSU. Anna and husband, John Wilson, live in North Fort Myers, FL. Barbara, former associate director of admissions at CCSU, husband, Lowell Lukas, former golf coach at CCSU, and their daughter, Justine, live in Fort Myers, FL.

Margaret K. Wood graduated from New Britain Normal School in 1929, returned to earn a BSED in 1954, then taught for 37 years before retiring. She remains active on a volunteer basis with the local elementary school, teaching 4th graders about the history of their town. Margaret is the town historian of Goshen, CT, and considers it “…a great blessing to still be a teacher!”

Joan Inga (Schwartz) Boldi retired from the Los Angeles (CA) Unified School District in 1990 and is in private practice as a licensed marriage & family therapist.

Kenneth M. Shaw is retired after serving 24 years as superintendent of schools in North Stonington, CT. He and his wife, Margaret, are enjoying their family and retirement on the beaches of Rhode Island.

Richard W. White has published his fourth novel, A Child in Hameln, “…a fable for the disenchanted.” Dick teaches English at The Williams School in New London, CT.

Barbara (Ives) Couch and husband, Charlie, have retired to Cape Cod and would love to hear from classmates in the mid-Cape area.

Andrew J. Baylock is director for UCONN football/community affairs. Andy retired in 2003 after 40 years on the UCONN athletic coaching staff.

Barbara (Licari) Bernardi and husband, Joe, are retired and living full time at their beach house in Niantic, CT.

Justin Pagano received the Town of Farmington’s (CT) Banner Citizen award, in recognition of his enthusiastic, on-going contributions of time and energy for the benefit of the community. Albert C. Pelligreni and Carol (Carter) Pelligreni ’83 have a new home in Boca Raton, FL.

Nancy (Lyons) Burns retired in June, 2004 after 28 years in the Plainville, CT school system. Thelma (Shinn) Richard retired from Arizona State University at Tempe after almost 29 years as professor of English. She lives in Riverside, CA with husband, Jon.

Sandra Sorel-Leduc retired as north-west regional administrator for the State of CT Department of Social Services after 25 years. Elizabeth (Kaczynski) Phelan retired as mathematics coordinator for Bristol Eastern High School and plans to travel with friends Carroll (Cavanagh) Spencer retired from the Burlington Township (NJ) School District where she was vice principal of Young School for the past ten years.

Patricia (Riordan) Brown retired after 20 years teaching English, Reading, and Study Skills at East Catholic High School in Manchester, CT. Robert H. Teator retired from Dodd Middle School in Cheshire, CT. Mark D. Waxenberg was appointed director of government relations for the Connecticut Education Association. He has been a classroom teacher for 29 years, served as president of the CEA for 12 years and was policy director for Gov. Lowell Weicker for two years.

Evelyn (Remond) Beebe, MS ’77, completed two years as VT president of Alpha Delta Kappa, International Organization for Women Educators. Gloria Jean Berry (MS) is the author of Open The Door To Great Teacher-Student Rapport, based on her experience as a business education teacher in Hartford (CT) Public Schools. Elizabeth J. Goodson has coordinated Connecticutwide Read Across America program for Faquier Education Association in Virginia every year since the program began.

Barbara J. Startup ’MS ’77, received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. Barbara is athletic director at Glastonbury (CT) High School.

Brent T. Lemire completed a Master of Public Administration degree at the University of New Hampshire. He lives in Litchfield, NH with wife, Lisa, and son, Matthew.

Jack Ellovitch received the Outstanding Discussion Leader Award from the CT Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Elizabet (Hungerford) Hicks and family have a new home in Glastonbury, CT. Robert A. Kerzner, former head of the individual life division of The Hartford Financial Services Group, was named president and CEO of LIMRA International Board of Directors. He and his wife, Sandra (DellGobbo) Kerzner ’74, and their children live in Woodbridge, CT.

W. Frazier Brinley is a sales associate for USPS in Clinton, CT and very active in the American Legion, most recently as chairman for the CT High School Oratorical Contest.

Susan (Bollock) Gudaitis, MS ’89, is a 2004 graduate of the Meskwaka Tree Project sponsored by the U. S. Forest Service and the CT DEP for study in urban forestry.

Charles E. Urso retired after 26 years as an FBI special agent and accepted the position of Deputy Commissioner, CT Department of Transportation. He and wife, Jayne (Lemaire) Urso ’75, MS ’80, live in South Windsor, CT.

Robert T. Cadwallader, the CEO of White Oaks Cabins Resort and Corporate Teambuilding Challenge in Taswell, IN, was elected chairman of Crawford County Community Foundation’s five million dollar educational grant provided by Eli Lilly Company.

Beverly B. Alter (MS), is owner and president of Alter and Associates LLC, with offices in Connecticut and Florida.

Patricia A. Langer’s, 6th Yr ’89, 27-year career as a music teacher has taken her full circle; she’s been teaching for the past three years at Woodstock Elementary School, the same school she attended as a child. Karl H. Luntta has published a novel, Know It By Heart, about racial inequality in a small Connecticut town during the 1960s, and is the 2004 winner of the Marta Thomas Fiction Award. Susan E. McAuliffe-Curnias (MS) was honored as the Region-1 National Coach of the Year for Girls’ Cross Country. Susan coaches at Hall High School in West Hartford, CT. Michael B. Racz is manager of competition services for Stratton Mountain School in Stratton, VT where he has been a ski instructor and coach for over 20 years.

Karen (Comen) Zink was elected president, chief operating officer, and treasurer of the Berkshire Gas Company. Karen and husband, Richard A. Zink ’79 and their two children live in Pittsfield, MA.

Sylvia A. Vallee, MS ’90, retired from the State of CT Department of Labor and has been spending time with children and grandchildren on both east and west coasts.

Janis L. Neri was elected president of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation’s North Central Connecticut/Western Massachusetts chapter. She is a partner in the accounting firm of Filomeno & Co. in West Hartford, CT.

Colleen A. Richard is coordinator of human services and tenured assistant professor at Tunxis Community College. Farmington, CT, and is a doctoral candidate in the UCONN School of Family Studies.

Jeffrey M. Nelson was named sales executive at Rockey Hill-based ForeSite Technologies Inc.

John M. Csady is retired from Pratt & Whitney Aircraft after 38 years, during which time he was also an officer with the U. S. Air Force Reserve, retiring as a colonel after 26 years of service. He lives in Easton, MD. Amy (Hewitt) Cunningham and husband, Daniel, announce the birth of Thomas, who joins brother, Alan (4), and sister, Rose (2).

Barbara (Follo) Denehy, MS ’80, and husband, Tim, announce the birth of John Timothy. Jill (Barson) Garcia is a part-time meeting and event planner for several national companies. She and husband, Bert, and two children live in Windermere, FL.

Cathleen (Loffrredo) Hinsch and husband, Ken, announce the birth of Grace Gene Hinsch. Cathleen is a communications aide for CT Governor M. Jodi Rell. Richard W. Morin...
was appointed chairperson of the trust, estate and gift taxation committee for the CT Society of Certified Public Accountants. He is a manager for the CPA firm Blum, Shapiro & Co. PC in West Hartford, CT. Lillian Ortiz, dean of Institutional Development at Manchester (CT) Community College, received an official citation from the Connecticut General Assembly in recognition of her exceptional ability to secure private gifts and grants in support of MCC.

 Karl R. Wurst completed a Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Connecticut. He is associate professor of Computer Science at Worcester (MA) State College, and chair of the Computer Science Department.

Mia (Roth) Batz and husband, Robert, announce the birth of Elise Karrington Batz. Mia and family live in Raleigh, NC.

Brian J. Coyne was chosen to appear in the forthcoming edition of Marquis Who’s Who in Science and Engineering in recognition of his achievements in pharmaceutical research and development. Judith E. Saunders was elected to a two-year term as president of the West Hartford (CT) Chamber of Commerce. Judith is a vice president, partner, and head of the Retail Industry Group at Filomeno & Company, PC in West Hartford, CT. Thomas E. Ziniti has changed careers, from accounting to teaching 7th grade special education, while pursuing a graduate degree in special education at Fitchburg (MA) State College.

William C. Collins was appointed principal of Newington (CT) High School. He has returned, after twenty years and numerous teaching and administrative positions, to the school where he began his career as a permanent substitute teacher.

Lisa (D’Agostino) Davis announces the birth of daughter, Laura, who joins brothers Matthew and Mark. William F. Dougherty (MA) has published Poems: New & Used, his second selection of poetry.

Bridget-Ann (Kayser) Kingsbury and Steven Van Kingsbury announce the birth of Colton Pierce. Bridget-Ann is director of marketing for a advertising Specialty Company in Cheshire, CT, and Steven is northeast region consultant for financial services at Aetna in Middletown, CT.

Daniel M. Silbo and wife, Maura, announce the birth of Connor Peter, who joins big sister, Maggie. Daniel is program coordinator for the State of CT Department of Motor Vehicles in Wethersfield, CT. Kimberly (Ventres) Sadowsky is currently a stay-at-home mom to two children, ages ten and eight. As a volunteer at her children’s school she “publishes” the students’ stories.

Andrea (Veneziano) Trombath married Justin Trombath on June 5, 2004 on Martha’s Vineyard. She is director of finance at the Harvard Graduate School of Arts & Sciences in Cambridge, MA.


Troy J. McMullen is back in NY reporting for the Wall Street Journal, after living in Berlin, Germany for three years, where he reported for Wall Street Journal Europe. He and wife, Melanie, and daughter, Greta, live in New York City.

John Bairos is a manager at Comcast Communications in Berlin, CT. Luis A. Rodriguez (MSOM) is a personal vacation planner for Carnival Cruise Lines. He and wife, Beatriz, and son, Jose Luis, live in Miami, FL.

Rudy Virga is golf director, and general manager, at the Pine Barrens Golf Club in Jackson, NJ.

Richard A. Lantz ’64 was named NFL-Europe Coach of the Year after leading the Berlin Thunder to a 9-1 record and the World Bowl championship. The former Navy head coach was also an assistant with the New England Patriots and several major colleges and universities.

Daniel E. Ashlock, Jr. (MS) is director of student activities at Towson University in Maryland and has been elected to a two-year term as treasurer for the National Association for Campus Activities Board of Directors.

Michael J. Coppola has started a consulting practice, The Coppola Group, assisting small and midsize companies with product development and sourcing, particularly with manufacturers in Asia. Adam Dubner is executive vice president of programming, and of marketing, at World Business Review in Boca Raton, FL.

Tyler J. Hoxley, MS ’98, 6th Yr ’01, is East Hartford (CT) teacher of the year. He has been at East Hartford High School for 12 years where he teaches honors biology, anatomy and physiology. He lives in Plainville, CT with wife, Maura, and daughter, Olivia. Katherine (Waleski) Roland is married to William V Roland, Jr.; they live in East Haven, CT. Sarah (LaGuardia) Treglia and husband, Frank, announce the birth of a son, David Anthony. Renee (Rondeau) Witkovic and Edward J. Witkovic ’95 announce the birth of Emily Victoria who joins her two older brothers, they live in Colchester, CT. Ed has completed a master’s degree in computer information systems.

Michelle (Halloran) Gilman and Timothy Gilman announce the birth of Matthew John. Michelle is senior assistant to Senator Christopher Dodd. Patrick J. Kennedy graduated from UCONN Law School in May of 2004. Clifford A. Rankin is a manager with the CPA firm of Harper & Whitfield, PC in Farmington, CT. Patrick J. Richardson, BSED ’94, MS ’03, a history teacher at Touchstone School in Litchfield for six years, is the recipient of an award, and $1,000.00, from the University of Hartford’s Maurice Greenberg Center, for a curriculum proposal with Holocaust denial as its focus.

Margaret-Mary (Uliano) Speaker and Scott M. Speaker are married and have five young children. Scott is a vp – manager of emerging technology in the corporate information department at New York Life Insurance Company in Manhattan.

Theodore J. Stoneburner, who has earned ten commendations during his 11-year career with the West Hartford, CT Police Department and was named 2004 Police Officer of the Year, was promoted to sergeant. Ted was a running back for the Los Angeles Rams before joining the WHPD.

William S. Galainaitis (MA) is assistant professor of mathematics at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, IN. Pamela (Izzo) Giammatteo and husband, Dana Giammatteo announce the birth of Christian Peter. Pamela teaches at Fairfield Woods Middle School in Fairfield, CT. Erik R. Lassen and wife, Barbara, announce the birth of Delaney Rose. They live in Manorville, NY.

Scott R. Paeth, assistant professor of religion at DePaul University in Chicago, IL, completed a doctoral degree in theology and ethics at Princeton (NJ) Theological Seminary. Laurie (Wegiel) Pare and David A. Pare ’94 announce the birth of Madeleine Ann who joins proud big brothers, Stephen and Andrew. Laurie is IT project manager with General Electric, Consumer Finance Americas, and David is assistant vice president of North America server operations with Citigroup.

Michele Beaulieu Vaughan (MS) is Newington (CT) Teacher of the Year. She teaches 5th grade at John Wallace Middle School.

Erik M. Abrahamson was recruited by Stamford, CT Fire/Rescue and is officially headed for the “career of a lifetime” as a Stamford FF/EMT. Giussepe Perez and husband, Carlos Perez, are the new owners/operators of Re/Max Sound Realty in Norwalk, CT. Yvette (Perez) Ghanam, who works for the CT Department of Health in Greenwich, received training to become a North-Oak Street Police Substation (in New Britain, CT) volunteer where she donates two hours weekly. She also continues to pursue a master’s degree in cellular and molecular biology at CCSU. Kristin (Lodovico) Kopp and husband, Paul Kopp, announce the birth of son, Kellen. Kristin is a special education teacher in Sharon, MA. A. J. McGuire announces the birth of daughter, Lillian Katherine. A. J. is a detective with the Town of East Hampton, NY Police Department. Laurie L. O’Neil was selected as one of The Hartford Business Journal’s 2004 ‘40 Under Forty’ young business and professional leaders. She is owner and president of Innovative Financial Services LLC in Hartford, CT. Ronald W. Perry received the STAR award, from the Mayor of New Haven, CT, in recogni-
tion of his outstanding customer service as a detective with the New Haven Police Department. Tammy (Hansen) Valk and Chad E. Valk were married on May 28, 2004. Tammy is membership director for the New Britain-Berlin YMCA, and Chad is assistant director in the media department at CCSU.

Gerald D. Golden (MS) is a captain in the U.S. Navy; he lives in Arlington, VA. Jill (Finnegan) Gonski and husband, John Gonski, announce the birth of Jake Tyler. Jill is a special education teacher at Newtown (CT) High School. Carol E. Hutchins lives in Portland, ME and is a nursing unit secretary at the Maine Medical Center. She is using her marketing degree to promote the city of Portland. Patrick L. McGinley completed a masters degree at Salisbury University and is teaching 9th grade World History, as well as serving as head JV football coach, at Wicomico High School in Salisbury, MD. He and wife, Kimberly live in Salisbury. Victor M. Mendoza, Jr. is a TradeWatch Analyst for the NASAQ Stock Market, Inc. in Rockville, MD. Jason D. Newman was appointed chair of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants Employee Benefit Plans Committee. Jason is a manager for Kostin, Rullkess & Company LLC in Farmington, CT. He and wife, Christine (Kavanaugh) Newman ‘94 live in West Hartford, CT. Eva (Kozlowski) Robar and husband, Raymond Robar, announce the birth of Jason Matthew. Tara (McElhii) Saranich and Kenneth D. Saranich announce the birth of daughter, and third child, Aine Marie Saranich.

Heather (Davis) Hiebner and husband, James Hiebner, live in Apollo Beach, FL. Heather is a freelance graphic designer and James is with the Aviation Department of Hillsborough County. Sheila (Reilly) Howard, MS ‘04, and E.J. Howard are the parents of a son, Reilly Joseph. Sheila is a math teacher at Haddam-Killingworth (CT) High School. E.J. is major accounts district manager for Automatic Data Processing in Windsor, CT. Kent M. Hurlburt, MS ‘04, lives near the Las Vegas auditions for the Fox network show American Idol, having won the Fox 61 WTIC-TV state competition over a field of 250 performers. Jennifer A. DePerry is a full-time instructor of biological sciences at Naugatuck Valley (CT) Community College. Arthur J. Hocking III is a designer for the manufacturing and engineering group at Electric Boat in Groton, CT. He also teaches shipbuilding theory for the Electric Boat Apprenticeship, State of CT, and Maine Maritime Academy where he is an adjunct professor, and is a shiplifting instructor at Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, VA. Pasquale Csaszar, MS ‘04, of a daughter, Catherine Nicole. Pasquale completed his MBA at Fordham University and is head softball coach at Millville University and is a recruiter for Caesars Entertainment in Las Vegas, NV.

Helen M. Centeno completed her MS in Nursing at the University of Hartford. Helen is a nurse consultant with the State of CT Department of Public Health. Brandon J. Marinelli was selected as one of The Hartford Business Journal’s ‘04 Under Forty’ young business and professional leaders. He is founder, and current board president, of NorthStar Planning Group LLC, a financial services firm in Rocky Hill, CT.

Judith Buff (6th Yr) is the special education coordinator for Southington (CT) Public Schools. Scott P. Dunn, district Teacher of the Year for the Capitol Region Education Council, is supervisor of the World Language Department at Simsbury (CT) High School. Scott and wife, Stephanie have a son, Jack, and live in Harwinton, CT. Keryn (Walczewski) Felder and Andrew J. Felder celebrated their marriage on October 23, 2004 and live in Kensington, CT. Keryn is a systems developer at the State of CT Department of Education in Hartford, CT and pursuing an MBA at CCSU. Andy is a credit analyst for Dowling Risk Analysis in Farmington, CT. Stephen J. Leary is studying at the University at Buffalo (SUNY) Law School. Colleen (Egan) Stewart and John R. Stewart ‘01 are married and live in Hartford, CT. Colleen is ACIS applications manager at Trinity College in Hartford. Christy (Card) Toppa (MS) and husband, Peter, announce the birth of Danielle Marie. Christy is a school counselor at Ledyard (CT) High School.

Jason J. Castonguay made it as far as the Las Vegas auditions for the Fox network show American Idol, having won the Fox 61 WTIC-TV state competition over a field of 250 performers. Jennifer A. DePerry is pursuing an MA in Government at Johns Hopkins Graduate School of Arts & Sciences. She is a staff assistant with the white house liaison in the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services in Washington, D.C. Julie (Titus) Evon and Michael D. Evon were married on July 10, 2004 and live in Glastonbury, CT. Julie teaches 2nd grade in East Hartford (CT) Public Schools. Barbara Kaminski has completed an MA in Education at the University of New Haven, CT. Jennifer S. King (MS) is working at the U.S. Department of State as a Presidential Management Fellow. Molly (McHugh) Dailey married Jeremy P. Daily on July 24, 2004; they live in Marlborough, MA. Elizabeth A. Ortoleva was hired as an art teacher at Ridgefield (CT) High School. She lives in New Haven.

Sara E. Smith is the editor/coordinator of El Latino Expreso, the Spanish supplement to the New Britain Herald. Anitra D. Woodard (MS) is the recipient of a Milken National Educator Award and $25,000. Anitra is a 3rd grade teacher at Annie Fisher Elementary School in Hartford, CT.
In Memoriam

Dr. Helen Elaine Martin, professor of education, emerita, died on August 21, 2004, at age 90. She received a Distinguished Service Award in 1978 for her committed service as chair of the Elementary Education Department and coordinator of laboratory schools. Martin retired in 1979 after 14 years of service to Central.

George B. Miller, professor of mathematical science, emeritus, and chair of the mathematical sciences department at Central for 20 years, died on July 31, 2004, at the age of 65. Miller served on the Advisory Council to the Board of Trustees and as class advisor to the Class of 1971, director of the Caribbean Mathematics, Science Institute, member of the CCSU faculty senate, director of Caribbean Studies, and faculty advisor for the boxing club. In 1989 he received the President’s Affirmative Action Recognition Award for his dedicated service.


Dr. Anastasios Papathanasis, professor of economics, passed away on May 22, 2004, at the age of 71. In 1968 he joined the University in 1984. During his 20 years at Central he published many articles about economics in The New York Times and The Hartford Courant. The Economics Department faculty have set up the Dr. Anastasios Papathanasis Scholarship to honor him.

What’s New in Your Life?

Share your good news with us at http://www.ccsu.edu/alumni/keepusupdated.htm! Please limit to events that have already taken place within the previous year. Anticipated events will not be published. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit all content. Please let us know if your address has changed.

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Address

City | State | ZIP Code

Email | Phone

Signature (required for publication) | Date

Is this a new address? □ Yes □ No

Wedding Announcement

Spouse Name | Class of

City/State | Marriage Date

Birth/Adoption (circle one)

□ Son □ Daughter

Child Name | Date of Birth/Adoption

Spouse Name | Class of

News: Career notes, retirement updates, community service, awards, etc.

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When 277 freshmen arrived on campus in 1950, tuition was $21 a year, minimum wage was 75 cents an hour, and a first-class stamp cost three cents. Most of the students were education majors, and the class enrollment decreased as the young students enlisted in the service or were recalled to duty for the Korean Conflict. They frequented the College Spa and Belvedere Drug, and spent their spare time in Memorial Hall, playing cards and listening to Tony Bennett. Forty-seven years later, a small group of 1954 classmates found each other at the annual Alumni Day Luncheon and reminisced. Each had stories to tell—about his or her decision to attend Teachers College of Connecticut (TCC), about a lifelong friendship that began at TCC, about a positive career choice or a lifelong quest for knowledge that stemmed from a TCC education. The small group grew to include more classmates in anticipation of their 50th reunion, and they decided they wanted to do something for the University—something that they would not only be remembered for, but that would also have a lasting impact. They organized a Class of 1954 Reunion Giving Campaign, the goals of which were to contact every classmate to learn how TCC had changed their lives and to engage classmates in raising $25,000 in support of a Class of 1954 Scholarship. They proudly surpassed the campaign goal by 69%, raising $36,000 by reunion time. Even more significant was the 82% participation rate among classmates. This past May, on the occasion of their 50th Anniversary Reunion, the Class of 1954 proudly endowed a scholarship that will benefit students preparing to be classroom teachers. They also dedicated a classroom in the Vance Academic Center to the Class of 1954. Recognizing the value of their education and friendships, and just how much their years at TCC enhanced their lives, the class made a commitment to continue supporting the Class of 1954 Scholarship. Thank you to the Class of 1954.