Central focus

winter 2006

the magazine for alumni & friends of central connecticut state university

CASE CLOSED:
CCSU Grads Serve the Public
Letter from the President of the Alumni Association

In this edition of Central Focus, we continue to highlight the long list of distinguished alumni who are making a difference in our world. This time, we concentrate on law enforcement and the judiciary. These pages include only a small sampling of alumni who are working at the local, state and federal level to help protect our communities and our country. Take time to read their stories and enjoy the success of your fellow alumni.

Your alumni association continues its outreach to discover alumni who exemplify the Blue Devil spirit and who have experienced success in their lives, communities and workplace. Please contact us if you feel you know someone we should consider featuring on these pages. Also, please consider donating to your university. Central has achieved new levels of success, both academically and athletically, in recent years. The University is poised to take the next step with your help. Your support, at any level, not only impacts scholarship opportunities and university projects but also is used as a barometer of success by national ranking institutions. Furthermore, it sends a message to the Connecticut legislature, reminding them that you are part of an alumni base, more than 50,000 strong, that wants continued state support for CCSU.

Wendell G. Davis, Jr. ’89

Carter Named CSU Chancellor

David G. Carter, president of Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) for the past 17 years, has been named chancellor of the Connecticut State University system. Carter takes over from Dr. William J. Cibes, Jr., who retired Feb. 1, 2006 after serving eleven years as chancellor.

Chosen after an exhaustive nationwide search, assisted by a national search firm and committees composed of trustees, faculty, staff and students, Carter becomes the fourth chancellor of Connecticut's largest public university system.

“David is an individual of great integrity, as well as an outstanding scholar and administrator,” said Lawrence D. McHugh, chair of the CSU Board of Trustees. “We believe his years of experience and commitment to higher education will greatly benefit CSU, and we believe the new energy and perspective he will bring to the position will help the four CSU universities secure their positions among the best public universities in the nation.”

Prior to his move to ECSU, Carter was a professor and member of the graduate faculty in the Department of Educational Administration at the University of Connecticut, and a professor at Pennsylvania State University.

Carter earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education at Central State University in Ohio. He received the M.Ed. in curriculum and supervision at Miami (Ohio) University and the Ph.D. in educational development and educational administration from Ohio State University.
Central Focus

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F r o m U s t o Y o u  It is hard to turn on the television these days without coming across yet another new show that depicts the lives of police officers, lawyers, or judges. These dramas, while often compelling, do not reveal much about the people who choose to pursue such careers. In this edition of Central Focus, we profile several alumni who have dedicated their lives and careers to making our world a safer place. We hope you find their personal stories interesting and inspiring.

This issue chronicles other significant news, too. We invite you to read about the historic moment last December when the University graduated the first candidates from its only doctoral program, the Ed.D. in Educational Leadership. Look for the announcement about the single largest endowment Central has ever received, a $3 million gift from the Hyundai Company. Note the recent achievements of Blue Devil athletes, past and present, as reported on the Sports page.

The alumni association wants your feedback, not only about this magazine, but about what is happening at your alma mater. Please call, write or email us with your opinions. We want you to stay in touch—with us and with each other.

The Central Focus Editorial Staff
Carmen Espinosa has forged an amazing career path. Her professional journey, which began with teaching, has included law school, an appointment as a special agent with the FBI, and several high-level posts in the legal and judicial systems.

The first Hispanic woman appointed to the bench in Connecticut, Espinosa currently serves as a Superior Court judge in Hartford, where she presides over the most serious felony cases, including murder, sexual assault, and other criminal offenses. But long before she held a gavel, Espinosa was positioned for success.

Born in Puerto Rico, Espinosa moved to Connecticut with her family when she was three years old. "My family moved here in 1951, and we were one of the first Puerto Rican families in New Britain," she recalls. "My father worked as a laborer and my mother worked in a factory." The youngest of three children, Espinosa and her siblings attended public schools. "My parents valued education and instilled in us a strong work ethic. We lived on Franklin Square, which is interesting, because years later when I was assigned to New Britain as a judge, I could see the area where our house used to stand from the window of my chambers."

Espinosa majored in French and Spanish while working on her teaching degree at Central. Graduating with honors, she was awarded a fellowship to Brown University, where she earned her master’s degree.

"A lot of the things that happened to me were fortuitous. I was at the right place at the right time," says Espinosa. "For instance, I was the first child in my family to graduate from college. As the youngest, I reaped the benefits of my older siblings’ experience. Once I got into college, I liked to learn and had good professors. And, of course, I got the fellowship to Brown."

After finishing her master’s program, Espinosa returned to Connecticut and a teaching position in Southington. But she soon discovered that, although she enjoyed working with students, she didn’t care for the routine and repetition of language instruction. A chance encounter with a former classmate planted the seed for her next important career move. "I was in New Britain after returning from Brown, and I ran into a fellow I knew from Central. He told me that he was going to law school, and that’s really what started thinking about it."

Espinosa attended the George Washington University Law School, just a few subway stops away from the most powerful governmental agencies in the nation, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"The FBI thing was kind of unexpected, too," she says. "I was getting ready to graduate, and the placement office had a series of folders where you could file your resume, so I printed up a bunch of resumes and put them in the folders. I didn’t even know one of them was for the FBI. Then one day a recruiter called me and said, ‘This is so-and-so from the FBI, and we’re interested in you.’ And it took off from there."

"Being an FBI agent was very difficult," Espinosa continues. "I think I was the 68th woman ever hired by the FBI. They used to assign you a number because the agency was just starting to open up to women after FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover died and Clarence Kelley came in."

In 1980, Espinosa came back to Connecticut and was hired as an assistant U.S. attorney by Richard Blumenthal, the U.S. Attorney for Connecticut at the time. "I thought that was the best job in the world, which it was," she recalls. Espinosa remained in the job for twelve years, until she was appointed to the bench in 1992.
“I consider Central to be the linchpin of my professional career. It was at Central that I learned that I could succeed at whatever academic pursuit I undertook. My preparation at Central placed me on par with students at an Ivy League school and at a national law school. That is testament to the quality of the education I received at Central.” — Carmen Espinosa

Countless CCSU graduates pursue careers in law enforcement and the legal system. Each one is helping to make our communities safe. Here is what a few alumni are doing:

Now fully retired, Francis M. “Bud” Mullen had a lifelong career in law enforcement, first with the FBI and then with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Mullen, who attended CCSU during the day while working as a New London police officer at night, joined the FBI shortly after finishing his undergraduate degree. Over the next two decades, he worked his way up the ranks at the bureau’s offices in Los Angeles, Denver, Tampa, and New Orleans.

“My original plan was to teach, but I really enjoyed the law enforcement work I was doing in New London,” Mullen recalls. “When I finished college, I applied for the Connecticut State Police and for the FBI, and I also signed a teaching contract in Waterford, CT. But when the FBI came through, I accepted that appointment, and I always felt I made the right choice.”

Among other positions at the FBI, Mullen served as inspector and deputy assistant director, Organized Crime and White Collar Crime; assistant director, Criminal Investigations Division, and executive assistant director, Investigations. In 1981, he was appointed DEA administrator by President Ronald Reagan, serving in an acting capacity until his Senate confirmation in 1983. After leaving the DEA, Mullen returned to Connecticut as director of the Mohegan Tribal Gaming Commission in Uncasville.

Mullen was married with two children when he enrolled at CCSU. Having already served in the military, he used the G.I. bill to go to college. “I was serious about my education,” he says. “I felt I had outstanding professors at CCSU, and I learned a lot from them.”

Mullen has passed on his love of law enforcement. Several of his children have jobs in related fields, and his granddaughter currently is pursuing a degree in criminal justice at CCSU. Though retired, Mullen remains active in an association of former narcotic agents as well as a society of former FBI agents. “I’m not as knowledgeable as I once was,” he admits, “but I am still interested.”

It was then, when Lowell Weicker became governor, that Espinosa’s full potential was recognized and realized. “Governor Weicker’s chief of staff was Stanley Twardy, who was my boss, the U.S. Attorney at the time. Then Judge Michael Hartmere was appointed, which got us all thinking. Once again, another great opportunity arose, and I was there.”

Being selected for the bench was a great honor, recounts Espinosa. “My appointment had a big impact on the Hispanic community, because one of its members was elevated to a high position. Personally, having progressed through the ranks, it was the culmination of my legal career. It was a big achievement for me and a source of pride for my family.”

What she enjoys most about her job, Espinosa says, is “the intellectual challenge and the interaction with people of all walks of life.” Conversely, the toughest part is sentencing defendants after conviction. “Sentencing is the most difficult part of the job, because the decision affects a lot of people’s lives—not just the defendant’s, but the victim’s and the victim’s family. You have to balance all of the considerations and factors that go into a sentence, and it’s not an easy thing.”

Despite such demands, Espinosa is happy with her career. Though not quick to admit it, she has worked hard to get where she is today. She has made the most of the opportunities that have come her way. And she has benefited from good timing, as well. “I was fortunate to come up at a time when opportunities were opening up for women and for minorities,” she says. “The fact that I was a woman and a Puerto Rican, I’m sure, helped me in my career path. Really, when you think about it, I haven’t had many jobs in my life. I was a teacher, an FBI agent, a prosecutor, and a judge...four jobs in my adult life. I’m very, very lucky.”
Lori Coppinger is detective captain with the West Hartford Police Department, a position she has held for two years. A member of the WHPD for more than 21 years, Coppinger previously spent one year as captain of support services, in which capacity she was in charge of training and the traffic division. She also supervised the department’s two K-9 teams for about ten years.

“I got to where I am today through hard work and dedication,” says Coppinger. “As one of only two female officers of rank in a department of 128 officers, I started at a time when women were not welcome in the job, so I had the unwanted burden of proving that women were capable of handling this profession.”

While at CCSU, Coppinger majored in sociology and worked as a student helper in the Campus Police Department. She also acquired martial arts training by joining the Karate Club. “I earned my black belt,” recalls Coppinger, “which helped me to develop confidence and the physical ability to handle difficult situations.”

Coppinger notes that CCSU prepared her to continue her academic pursuits beyond the undergraduate level. She went on to obtain her master’s in theology from Holy Apostle College and Seminary, and she currently serves as chaplain for the Connecticut Association of Women Police. Over the years, Coppinger has taken training classes in many aspects of police work, including an eleven-week training course in leadership at the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA. When not working, she teaches a class in Police Organization and Administration at Northwestern Community College.

Robert Mullins literally grew up in Kaiser Hall. From the ages of about 6 to 12, he was the ball boy for the CCSU basketball team, and he attended Central’s day camp during the summer. “The coaches in Physical Education really looked out for me,” says Mullins, “so when it came time to go to college, I had to choose Central.”

Currently, Mullins is an attorney with the law firm of O’Donnell and Riley in New Haven. The firm, which he joined about ten months ago, practices criminal and civil litigation. Previously, Mullins spent twenty years in the New Haven Police Department, the last seven of which he worked as a detective in burglary/robbery, child physical abuse, sexual abuse, and auto theft.

Mullins earned his B.A. in communication with a minor in public administration. He took classes during the day while working the late shift at the police department. “My professors at Central knew that I worked full-time and attended classes,” says Mullins. He remembers two professors in particular, Dr. Cindy White (Communication) and Dr. Ghassan El-Eid (Political Science), who recommended classes that helped him to achieve his goals.

“Dr. White knew I was considering a career beyond police work, and she encouraged me to continue my education beyond the undergraduate level,” says Mullins. “It was, in large part, due to her motivation that I earned my master’s in criminal justice and a certificate of graduate study at the University of New Haven. Following that, I went to law school.”

“It was my experience growing up at Central, first through athletics with great coaches like Bill Petruch, Hank Mejling, and Julian “Jigger” Wojcik, and later with the great professors I had, that allowed me to achieve success in my professional life,” he concludes.
Ed.D. Program
In A Class
By Itself

Last December, sixteen candidates for the Ed.D. in educational leadership received their diplomas in a special commencement ceremony on campus. The ceremony was significant for several reasons: it was the first time the University graduated doctoral students; it marked the 50th anniversary of graduate studies at CCSU; and it featured the investiture of Central's new president, Dr. John W. Miller.

"It was exciting to mark three such important events simultaneously," exclaims Dr. Karen Beyard, a professor of educational leadership and director of the Ed.D. program. "To have the first doctoral students walk the stage and receive their hoods was a stunning moment for the University."

Bringing the Ed.D. to life took years of hard work by many people. According to Beyard, talk of such a program began in the mid-70s. But it wasn't until 1991, when Dr. Richard Arends was hired as dean of the School of Education, that things started to take shape. "Dick really began to plan and argue for it," says Beyard. The program finally received approval from the Connecticut Department of Higher Education in 2001, and the first cohort of students arrived on campus the following summer.

With so much time and energy invested, has the program worked out as planned?

"Well, we expected that some students would start but not finish," says Beyard. "But almost four years into the program, not a single student has quit." As a result, the program has moved from annual admissions to alternate-year admissions.

"We simply ended up with more people in the program at any one time than we had anticipated," Beyard says.

Beyond that, the program was designed to have a strong connection both to the field and to practice. "We hoped that our graduates would be able to aspire to more influential leadership positions as a result of their studies, and that they would be able to use research to improve education in Connecticut. Both of these are beginning to happen," Beyard observes.

Other interesting developments have occurred along the way. For one, as the program's reputation has spread, it has attracted clusters of students from individual districts. "When that happens," explains Beyard, "there is a real opportunity to impact practice in the district, because we know what they need; they understand what we can do, and we begin to work in partnership."

The program currently enrolls students from school districts surrounding the University—including New Britain, Hartford, West Hartford, Bloomfield, and Newington—as well as from such far-reaching locales as Westchester County. "People have been willing not only to give up the necessary time to pursue full-time study, but also to commute a significant distance to be a part of our program," notes Beyard.

Another distinctive aspect of the program is the post-dissertation requirement: Each student must present a conference paper or submit a manuscript for publication in a journal. "Our students aren't allowed to put their dissertation on the shelf, heave a big sigh of relief, and go back to business as usual," says Beyard. "They are obliged to figure out a way to bring their findings both to the world of practice and to the scholarly world—and, hopefully, to continue to think that way."

CSU Board of Trustees vice chair Karl J. Krapek (left) presents University mace to newly invested CSU President Jack Miller.

CSU formally welcomed its 12th president, Dr. John W. Miller, at a special investiture ceremony last December that also featured the commencement exercises for graduate and doctoral students. Miller was installed by CSU Chancellor William J. Cibes, Jr., and Lawrence D. McHugh, chair of the CSU Board of Trustees. "Jack Miller has what it takes to ensure that Central Connecticut State University continues to grow and prosper," McHugh said. "Jack is clearly a leader. He's not afraid to make tough decisions. He's passionate about higher education and truly values the important goals of academia and academic excellence."
HAPPENINGS

Arthur '52 and Edythe Director at eastern Connecticut alumni party

Art Tolis, Jr. and Ivy (Violette) Tolis '95 at Scottsdale, AZ alumni party

Mario '72 and Catherine Torcia, Kathleen (Sammis) Andrews '78 at eastern Connecticut alumni party

Scott Steinhagen '83 and Martin Sanborne '82 at Scottsdale, AZ alumni party

Janet (Sinkiewicz) Sola '57 and Roy Sola with friends Joan and Lou Landino at eastern Connecticut alumni party

Dr. E. Arnold Hokile '53, Walter and Dorothy (Prince) Snaddon '54, Margaret Hokile, Catherine (Healy) Jest '74 at Scottsdale, AZ alumni party
Student lives are made better by every gift to the annual fund. Below are snapshots of how private support enables CCSU students to excel.

Lisa Ptak, an Honors Program Scholarship recipient, knew in high school she wanted to teach history. Once she decided that, choosing a college was rather easy. Since her first semester at CCSU, Lisa has worked for the phonathon, raising money for the university and learning from alumni who benefited from CCSU's programs. Lisa's ultimate goal is to join her mentors at Crosby High in Waterbury, CT as a colleague. "I feel at home when I go back," she says. "It's a special kind of community at Crosby." She models herself after her teachers at Crosby because of their support for and commitment to students. "Seeing that made me want to be a teacher more," she says. "I know I want to make a difference."

These notable accomplishments, and many others, are made possible by the generous support of our donors.

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HAPPENINGS

Loyal Blue Devil fan and CCSU Alumni Association Director Keith Hall ’78 enjoys Homecoming alumni barbecue

Paul Koscak ’73 offers the Blue Devil a bottle of water at Homecoming ’05

The Colbys entertain at Homecoming ’06

CCSU Alumni Association Awards

Friday, April 28, 2006
Reception 5:30 pm / Dinner 7:00 pm
Farmington Club
Farmington, CT

Distinguished Alumni Service Award
Angelo J. Messina ’75

Young Alumni Service Award
Tracey L. (Obst) Bonvicini ’89

Kaiser Alumni Service Award
Jack H. Banks ’81

CCSU Alumni Association Athletic Hall of Fame Induction
Dr. Gale G. Brown, Jr. ’74
Kevin W. Cranford ’89
Kenneth C. Hightower ’84
George L. Redman
Robert C. Winn, Jr. ’82

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CCSU Alumni Association Directors at December ’05 graduation commencement J-R. Kelley (Douglas) Hadley ’87, Justin Pagano ’84, P. Fitch McMahon MS ’88, Richard Wisniak ’73, Christine I. Sullivan ’73, Wendell Davis ’89, and Keith Hall ’78
Hyundai Motor America Presents $3 Million Gift to CCSU

Hyundai Motor America, the U.S. subsidiary of Hyundai Motor Company of Korea, has presented CCSU with a gift of $3 million, the largest single endowment in the University's 156-year history.

The funds will be used to establish the Dr. Mong Koo Chung/Hyundai Motor America Endowment Fund, named in honor of Hyundai Motor Company's chairman, to enable Korean and CCSU students and faculty to study and lecture at CCSU and in the Republic of Korea.

In announcing the gift, Jeon Kap Lee, president of Hyundai Motor Company, said, “CCSU has been a long and steady partner with Hyundai. The University has always recognized the importance of forming and strengthening Korean-American relationships for the purpose of improving educational opportunities, business exchanges and international sharing.” He went on to note that, “From 1995 to 1997, many Hyundai business leaders and executives, including myself, had an opportunity to participate in the Global Leadership Program on the CCSU campus. As I take pride in being one of the first graduates of that program, it gives me great pleasure to present the scholarship fund endowment on behalf of Chairman Chung.”

The relationship between CCSU and Hyundai dates back to the 1980s. In 1989, the University acknowledged Chairman Chung's global leadership by awarding him an honorary degree.

Hyundai Motor America, headquartered in Fountain Valley, CA, sells and distributes cars and sports utility vehicles through 640 dealerships across the United States. Hyundai sold its first car in the U.S. in 1986, and has since grown into the fourth best-selling foreign manufacturer in the nation.

Four CCSU Alumni Journalists returned to campus last November to discuss how their education at Central prepared them for their chosen careers, and what they have learned about the fields of journalism and communication since leaving the University. Participating in the panel discussion were Darren Sweeney '98, a meteorologist and reporter at WWLP-TV22 in Springfield, MA, and an instructor in public speaking at Manchester Community College; Joanna Mechlinski '02, a reporter for the Bristol Press; Brendan McKenna '02, a reporter for the Rutland (Vermont) Herald; and Sara Ziegler '04, videographer and editor for the Archdiocese of Hartford's Office of Communication. Both Sweeney and Ziegler went on to earn master's degrees from the Newhouse School of Communications at Syracuse University.

The panel discussion was the first presentation at a larger conference, entitled The Speed of Light: Pictures, Print, News and Sports. Among the featured speakers was John A. Walsh, executive vice president and executive editor of ESPN, Inc., and a former managing editor of Rolling Stone magazine and U.S. News & World Report, who reflected on the diverse, high-level nature of his career as it relates to broader issues in journalism, communication, sports and society. Hartford Courant Photo Editor John Long, a nationally recognized specialist in photography and ethics, also spoke and gave a visual presentation on “Journalism Ethics in the Age of Digital Photography.”

Dr. Karen Ritzenhoff, associate professor of communication, served as moderator for the conference, which was organized by Drs. Tony Cennelle and Vivian Martin, associate professors of English, and sponsored by the Robert C. Vance Foundation, the CCSU Communication Department, the Journalism Program of the English Department and the School of Arts and Sciences.
Basketball Standout Turns Talent Scout

When Toronto Raptors forward Charlie Villanueva recently played in the 2006 T-Mobile Rookie Challenge during the NBA All Star Weekend in Houston, nobody was prouder than former CCSU basketball standout Jim Kelly, and with good reason. Villanueva was one of nine rookies and 10 second-season pros picked to compete, solidifying Kelly’s reputation as one of the NBA’s finest evaluators of talent.

Villanueva was the Raptors’ top draft pick in 2005, at Kelly’s urging, and the former UConn star is averaging just under 12 points and just over five rebounds per game coming off the bench.

Kelly’s choices continue to pay big dividends for the Canadian team, but, amid the turmoil of the 2003-2004 season that ended with both the general manager and head coach being fired, Kelly, the team’s director of player personnel, was a “home run” as he prepared for the NBA draft.

As the search for a new GM dragged on, Kelly—and his inner circle, which includes other “Central guys,” Bob Zuppola ’59 and Steve Young ’73—simply came to work everyday and did his job knowing that the odds of his keeping that job under a new general manager were slim. “You just try to be as normal and consistent as possible,” he told Toronto Globe and Mail sportswriter Michael Grange.

At the draft, where the Raptors had the number four pick, Kelly’s choice of Georgia Tech’s Chris Bosh was viewed as disappointing, but Bosh is averaging 22.6 points per game and is the Raptors’ best player.

Team management was so impressed with Kelly’s loyalty, not to mention prescience, that they kept him on after the “regime change.” He now has Zuppola scouting the East Coast. Young, another former CCSU star, handles Europe.

Kelly has remained just as loyal to CCSU: “We probably speak about once a week on average,” says Central Coach Howie Dickenman. “Despite an incredibly busy schedule, Jim always finds time to attend a CCSU game or practice every year.” He and Zuppola, who lives in Rhode Island, also attended a recent Hoop Group Luncheon.

Student Athletes Earn Top Honors

Women’s Soccer Honored

Central’s women’s soccer program, coming off a fourth straight trip to the NCAA post season tournament, earned a National Soccer Coaches of America Association Team Academic Award. Led by Northeast Conference Women’s Soccer Scholar Athlete of the Year Ashley Ferraro, the Blue Devils tied for 26th in classroom prowess among more than 300 Division I schools.

On the field, they were 12th in the nation with a .310 winning percentage. “Within our program we strive for sustained excellence in everything we do,” said head Coach Mick D’Arcy.

McInerney Hits Recruiting Trail

Saying that Jeff McInerney “hit the ground running,” in his first weeks as head football coach at CCSU would be an understatement. Just three weeks after being introduced in January, he announced his first recruiting class, which included seven Connecticut players.

“We are extremely excited about this recruiting class and the caliber of student athletes that we will be bringing to CCSU next season,” McInerney said.

Nutt Cracks the Books

Offensive lineman Ryne Nutt has earned “ESPN the Magazine” Academic All-District I first team honors. Nutt, the Blue Devils’ starting left tackle, spearheads the CCSU rushing attack and helped lead the team to its second straight Northeast Conference championship.

Cream of the Kropp

Junior softball outfielder Kristin Kropp has joined the parade of CCSU academic excellence, having been named to the College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-District I Softball Second-Team.
37 Mabel (Kropshan) Pulda is the mother of six children, grandmother of 15, and has four great-grandchildren.

58 William H. Wright, a teacher for forty years and seasoned world traveller, retired eight years ago in Thailand where he continues to teach English on a volunteer basis. He enjoys collecting Asian art, especially jade.

59 Torri (Gioia) Gehler, Ph.D. has been appointed to a second term as commissioner on the Art in Public Places Commission by the city council of Aurora, CO.

64 Thomas R. Vogt MS '71 co-authored a story of a cousin, Lafayette Foster 1806-1880, renowned Connecticut statesman, jurist, and philanthropist, that was serialized in the Newspapers in Education section of the Danbury News-Times, January-June, 2005.

65 Mary-Ann Tirone Smith published her eighth book, Girls of Tender Age: A Memoir, "which applauds her portrait of a 1950's girlhood in blue-collar Hartford into the story of a violent sexual predator who wound up in her plaice community." One scene, a conference between Mary-Ann and the late Professor Reginald Swann, is set at CCSC.

67 Thomas F. Shea MS '73 retired from Watertown Public Schools after 38 years of teaching grades 4-8. Tom and Lorraine (Burns) Shea '63 have two married daughters (both CT public school teachers) and are proud grandparents.

68 Ernest A. Rongelegi MS '81, MSOM '81, retired history teacher, conceived the Haunted Gravestone at Lake Compounce from a need to celebrate Halloween without candy when his six-year-old daughter was diagnosed with diabetes. What began as dummies and decorations in the family's yard has grown into one of the largest Halloween attractions in New England, and a benefit for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation expected to exceed $50,000 in 2005.

John E. Mulligan teaches English for the Institute of Public Administration in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, his most recent teaching assignment in a foreign country, many for the Peace Corps and International Voluntary Services. John has taught in Malaysia, Laos, Martinique, and the Philippines, as well as at Navajo Community School in New Mexico.

71 Kathleen (Don Aroma) Jenkelunas, a 27-year veteran of the classroom and 2004 Educator of the Year Award recipient, was named director of outreach education at the American School for the Deaf in West Hartford. Kathleen received her degree in Deaf Education in 1972 from the University of Virginia.

73 Joyce (Gagnon) McAlloon MS '88, a 3rd grade teacher at Flanders Elementary School in Southington, is the 2005 Walmart Teacher of the Year, and also received the 2005 Excellence in Science Teaching Award from the Connecticut Science Teachers Association.

74 Marjorie T. Beman, certified nursing assistant at Wellington Regional Medical Centre in Wellington, FL, is employee of the month. She was also Palm Healthcare Foundation's 2005 Distinction Award winner and CNA of the year for Palm Beach County.

75 Patricia (Mulcahy) Olson MS '78, pre-school teacher at John Paterson Elementary, is Newington's 2005-2006 Teacher of the Year, an honor awarded for her outstanding and inspiring work with children who have physical, mental or social disabilities. "Appioned for her work in professional development workshops, Olson has been recognized in Who's Who Among America's Teachers and received major awards from Wal-Mart and Disney."

William T. Storck was elected mayor of Bristol in the November elections.

76 Richard L. Pane retired after 29 years with the federal government, most recently as the financial manager and comptroller for the Chief of Navy Information. In August 2005 he joined Booz Allen Hamilton on their Economic and Business Analysis Natural Team.

78 Keith T. Hall MS '85, transportation supervisor for the Connecticut DOT, completed his second CD, East of the Sky, on the Suite Audio label, a compilation of original and traditional folk songs on piano and six-string guitar. Keith performs at the Chezard Pub and Chane's Coffee House in Torrington. Margaret "Maggie" (Clements) Amberg is Deputy Program Manager, Integrated Deepwater System, providing acquisition and program management leadership and strategic planning for the development of the U.S. Coast Guard's largest recapture program since January 2004.

80 Michael A. Nestor was promoted to vice president, Global Organizational Effectiveness at Bayer HealthCare in Tarrytown, NY.

82 Cynthia (Gianetti) LaPiano is an accountant in the Financial Reporting Department of the Office of the Controller at Yale University.

83 T. Garth Connolly is the author of three books on fast attack craft of World War II and has begun work on a fourth. He also operates a naval historical research consulting firm with the website www.ptboatworld.com.

84 John F. Leconche was appointed vice president and chief administrative officer at Briarwood College in Southington. Judith Lopul MS '94, teacher of a combined class of 5th and 6th grades at Hartford Christian Academy, received a Golden Apple award from the New England Association of Christian School Teachers.

85 Candace M. Cartbone MS '91, professor of business office technology and chair of the Business and Technology Department, Tunxis Community College in Farmington, received the 33rd Business Educator of the Year award from the Connecticut Business Educators Association. Jamie Klein (MS) was named director of the Family and Child Education Center at the Greater Hartford Jewish Community Center in West Hartford.

86 Mark D. Boughton, was re-elected mayor of Danbury in November, the first Republican mayor to win a third term since the early 1900s. Alfred A. DiVincenti recently joined Halloran & Sage LLP in its Hartford office as counsel in the practice of Construction and Surety Law. He has extensive litigation experience in complex construction, commercial and insurance coverage.
disputes. Andrea M. Hansen was appointed vice president and treasurer at Briarwood College in Southington.

88 Alan J. Woolwich is senior community planner at the Brevard County Planning and Zoning Office in Melbourne, FL.

90 Mary (Rector) Campbell was promoted to vice president of fashion and beauty merchandising at QVC, Inc. James R. Miron was elected mayor of Stratford in the November elections.

92 Thomas T. Mason is a financial analyst for Raman Structures in Jacksonville, FL. Laura M. Jakubishyn works for Resort Adventure Centers, Inc. at Marriott Frenchman’s Reef & Morningstar Resorts in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

93 Lisa M. Bartolotta was promoted to shift coordinator at Burger King in Portland, CT and earned a diploma in Freelance Writing. Dale (Zdankoivicz) Domin is clinical nurse specialist/clinical educator for the Critical Care, Cardiovascular and Telemedicine units at St. Mary's Hospital in Waterbury. Terrence J. O'Brien is New England territory manager for Applied Medical. Carrie Ann (Szakolzay) Polk opened her second agency office for Nationwide Insurance & Financial Services in Owings, MD. Melissa Riccioli is a social worker supervisor for the CT Department of Children and Families.

94 Jennifer (Graves) Flotow is a transfer admissions counselor at University of Bridgeport. Integrated marketing agency Pita Communications principal and creative director Paul Pita won a best-of-show award at the Northeastern Economic Developers Association’s annual Literature and Promotion Awards for Hartford: Make It Your Own, an original DVD recruitment package that offers a fast-paced snapshot of living and working in Hartford.

Christina (Lincakis) Pulkkinen is a care manager for Connecticut Community Care, Inc. Jeffrey Yolke was named creative services director of WVVY-TV (ABC 22) while maintaining the same position with WFFY-TV (FOX 44). He is currently gearing up efforts to launch the market's first ten o'clock newscast.

95 Donald E. Newton has lived and taught in China since graduating from CCSU, part of the time on Peace Corps assignments. He attributes his passion for everything Chinese to his parents, especially his mother who earned a master's degree in Chinese history at CCSU. Brian Reeves is a firefighter for the City of New Britain.

96 Jennifer (Loughran) Atkins '01 is a kindergarten teacher in Goshen for Regional School District #6.

Brenden M. Healy was named manager of Haggett Longobardi LLC, a business planning and CPA firm in Glastonbury. Mary Kay Rendall (MS), a 5th grade language arts teacher at Carmen Arace School in Bloomfield, is the 2006 Connecticut Teacher of the Year. Victoria N. Romenko (MS) joined Federman, Lally & Remis LLC in Farmington as a staff accountant.

97 Jack J. Burriesci has a new position as senior management analyst in the Strategic Budgeting Branch, Office of Budget and Planning, for the District of Columbia. Steven M. White completed requirements for licensing as a professional engineer and was promoted to senior engineer at GNBC Consulting Engineers, Inc. in Old Saybrook.


99 Lesa (Clarke) Maencwka is a biotechnology associate at Yale University. Douglas Hadded MS ’00, a 7th grade science teacher in Simsbury, co-authored a health and fitness book, Top Ten Tips for Tip Top Shape, health programs designed for every professional field. Doug is the ‘trainer’ columnist for Gezeerock magazine and is the host of his own internet radio show, “The Doctor Doug Show”, at http://www.dgdm.com/ on cyberstation.us.

01 Holly A. Beckley was promoted to assistant manager at the CCSU Bookstore. Kevin D. Begley is a graduate student at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, MA. Dianna (Rambe) Roy MS ’04 is a teacher in Springfield, MA. Laurie Stuart-Wonderly MS ’01, 5th Jr. ’05 is the new principal at Philip R. Smith Elementary School in South Windsor. Matthew C. Widlarz (MS) is a beverage scientist for Badauri Martini in Jacksonville, FL.

02 Eric M. Blake is an assistant cross country and track coach at CCSU. Stefanie (Harrower) Donahue '03 is a 3rd grade teacher at Silver Lane Elementary School in East Hartford. Husband, Brendan T. Donahue '00 is a senior information systems specialist with St. Paul Travelers. Kevin M. Violette is an account underwriter for Chubb Specialty Insurance in Simsbury.

03 Jeffrey J. Culler is a social worker for the CT Department of Children and Families.

05 Wanda I. Reyes-Dawes (MS) is a Minority Fellow at Manchester Community College for the 2005-2006 academic year.

New Arrivals (Births/Adoptions)

Carrie Ann (Szakolzay) Polk '93 and Andy Polk: a son, Ryan William

Gloria Vitola-Twombly '94 and Robert Twombly: a daughter, Emma Young Twombly

Jennifer (Loughran) Atkins ’96 and Adam Atkins: a son, Nicholas Paul

Timothy J. Mello '96 and Alice Mello: a daughter, Margaret Ella

Katherine (Bruneau) Reeves ’96 and Brian S. Reeves ’95: a son, William David

Jennifer (Hill) Thompson ’96 and Eric Thompson: a daughter, Taylor Alyssa

Deborah (Barker) Perry ’97 and Ronald R. Perry ’97: a son, Josh Deron

Emily (Stone) Westerberg ’98 and Steven J. Westerberg ’97: a daughter, Lilian Alice

Michael A. Zielinski, Jr. ’98 and Kori (Pavillo) Zielinski: a daughter, Emily Dawn

Stefanie (Harrower) Donahue ’02 and Brendan T. Donahue ’00: a son, Benjamin Timothy
Marriages

Jennifer M. Graves ’94 and Kevin T. Hatlow 9/24/05
Heather Anne Lavery ’97 and John D. Bishop 4/30/05
Elizabeth J. Harmon and Joseph A. Barlow ’98 6/6/03
Donna Knisely ’98 and Anthony Santilli 7/8/05
Kori Paolillo and Michael A. Zielinski ’98 10/27/01
Meredith B. Bronson ’99 and Douglas B. Neiman 2/19/05
Lesa N. Clarke ’99 and Emmanuel Mcemeka 7/9/05
Michelle Capasso and Christopher L. Secor ’00 11/1/05
Deana J. Jeski and Matthew T. Fote ’01 1/9/04
Dianna M. Rabas ’01 and Kevin C. Roy 8/13/05
Ashley K. Lehman and Edward A. DePau ’02 7/29/05
Lynn J. Ferrelli ’02 and Danny Velez 10/7/05
Bridget Anne Meenan and Michael A. Bozzi ’03 6/18/05
Sara D. Introvigne and Stephen G. Kelley ’03 7/23/05

Campus Obituaries

Director of facilities management, emeritus, Wayne Antonini died September 25, 2005. He served the CCSU community from 1986 until his retirement in 2003.

Dr. John T. Huntington, professor of health and physical education, emeritus, died December 12, 2005. A CCSU faculty member from 1957 to 1982, he was an outdoor education specialist and served as chair of the Department of Health and Physical Education for six years.

George R. Rudd MS ’74, director of veteran affairs, emeritus, died December 18, 2005. He retired from CCSU after serving the community for 20 years.

Dr. Robert H. Thompson, professor of industrial technology, emeritus, died October 9, 2005. His CCSU teaching career spanned 31 years, from 1966 through 1997, during which he served as chair of the Department of Industrial Arts Education.

In Memoriam

1929
Jeanette Simpson Miller 3/3/04
1930
Catherine McMahon Halloran 10/3/05
1931
Alice Will Vail 7/7/05
1932
Minerva Pellegrino Gaudette 9/11/05
Julia Galvin Sullivan 5/12/00
1934
Helen A. Zebrowski 11/23/05
1935
Helen Norton Schieding 11/30/05
1936
Catherine Clark Conway 8/23/05
1937
Dorothy Dittmer Konney 5/15/05
Lillian Scott Lagrotta 5/26/05
1939
Amy Stoll Dewey 6/18/05
Albert I. Freedman 11/8/05
1942
Betty Pearson Anderson 7/28/05
1943
Carl D. Nygren 11/14/05
Elise M. Van Zandt 9/24/05
1945
James E. O’Connell 12/27/05
1947
Filomena Regina Basile 10/4/05
John C. Hicks 3/4/05
Gustavo R. Nordgren 10/27/05
1948
Robert F. Koster 8/31/05
Jean Blackford Naughton 9/3/05
1950
John F. Gondek 12/2/05
1951
Harold K. Cott 8/27/05
Robert F. Giannini, Sr. 9/19/05
Shirley Kalbfman Rais 9/17/05
Barbara Heggins Stedard 8/24/05
1958
Joann Richardson White 10/28/05
1963
Doris LeClair Hogan 11/14/05
1966
Wayne J. Willard 3/27/05
1967
John D. Aukstanskas 12/5/05
Jana McLaughlin McCutcheon 11/8/05
1968
John D. Whalen 8/21/05
1969
Gloria Samborski Beckius 12/30/05
1970
Peter Lobockis 10/2/05
Mary Anne Lynch Jones 10/8/05
Elaine Fleckenstein Nordgren 12/4/05
1971
Clifford E. Aminoff 11/8/05
Marlene Legonick Loersch 8/5/05
Rose A. Queroda 8/2/05
Rose J. Tomasson 10/14/05
1972
Charles E. Jones, Jr. 11/19/05
1973
Richard B. Bell 6/20/05
William A. Lawrence, Jr. 12/15/05
James E. Prior, Jr. 12/31/05
1973
Robert C. Brazeaukas 12/13/05
Jane Maggiorra D’Agostino 11/22/05
Robert L. Foglia 11/4/05
James E. French 10/16/05
1974
Deborah A. Pfiefferberger 8/23/05
George R. Rudd 12/10/05
1975
Lee E. Eilsworth 12/31/05
Charles Paul Gibb 10/3/05
1976
Bruce F. Evans 10/20/05
Brian K. Pasco 1977
1977
Cathy Ann Amendola 9/22/05
Marion Banulski Morton 8/3/01
Brian F. O’Grady 12/21/05
Joseph T. Verissell 12/25/05
1978
Francis L. Pratt 10/2/05
1979
Gladya M. Jones 7/17/05
1980
Gregg D. Coccaro 9/23/05
1983
Irene Weinrib 8/12/05
1986
John E. Ferguson, Jr. 12/25/05
1987
Mary M. Morrissey Gallagher 11/28/05
Henry R. Saddler III 8/26/05
1989
Sebastian Guy Mazzarella 12/4/05
1990
Richard C. Hastings III 8/28/05
2001
Jackie Jensen Keen 11/16/05
2004
Jeffrey H. Schubert 9/17/05

Memorial gifts may be made to the CCSU Foundation, P.O. Box 612, New Britain, CT 06050.
Peter C. Anderson ’73, MS ’83, and daughter, Kathryn Anderson ’06, a recipient of this year’s CCSU Alumni Association Scholarship

"Receiving this alumni scholarship could not have come at a better time for me. With student teaching rapidly approaching, and my opportunities to work during that time being very few, this scholarship greatly lessened my financial worries during an important time in my educational career. Thank you to all who made this possible!" — Katie Anderson

CCSU Alumni Association-Sponsored

UPCOMING EVENTS

CCSU Alumni Association Awards
Friday, April 28, 2006
Reception 5:30 pm / Dinner 7:00 pm
Farmington Club
Farmington, CT

Distinguished Alumni Service Award
Young Alumni Service Award
Kaiser Alumni Service Award

CCSU Alumni Association
Athletic Hall of Fame Induction

Alumni Day
Saturday, April 29, 2006

Blue Devil Golf Classic
Friday, May 5, 2006
Tunxis Plantation
Farmington, CT

CCSU Alumni Association
Annual Meeting
Monday, June 19, 2006
5:30 pm
Student Center
Central Connecticut State University

Alumni Networking Party
Thursday, June 22, 2006
5:00 – 7:00 pm
Archie Moore’s
Fairfield, CT

CCSU Alumni Travel Seminar – Ireland
July 13 – 23, 2006

Gridiron Update Lunch Series
with Football Coach Jeff McInerney
Wednesday, August 30, 2006
Wednesday, October 4, 2006
Wednesday, November 1, 2006
12:00 noon
Angelico’s Café
New Britain, CT

HOMECOMING
Saturday, October 7, 2006

Tickets / Reservations / Information
phone: (860) 832-1740
e-mail: alumnidept@ccsu.edu
website: www.ccsu.edu/alumni

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 www.ccsu.edu/instidv/scholarships

Stay [In] Touch!

website: www.ccsu.edu/alumni/update
mail: CCSU Alumni Office
1615 Stanley Street
PO Box 4010
New Britain, CT 06050

e-mail: alumnidept@ccsu.edu
phone: (860) 832-1740
fax: (860) 832-2585
“Playing basketball as a student athlete at Central afforded me many opportunities that otherwise might never have been within my reach,” says Beryl Piper. “For instance, after graduating, I spent a year playing professional basketball in Ireland, and the experience of living in another country and winning the National Cup with Team Barneby was priceless.”

When Piper returned to the U.S., she spent a season coaching junior varsity basketball at Northwest Catholic High School in West Hartford, which gave her a chance to work with a state championship-winning team. She then began teaching and coaching in New Britain, and she currently is celebrating her 19th season coaching at New Britain High School. During this time, her team has gone from winning three games to winning a state championship in 1998. They also won the CCC South championship six times from 1998 to 2003. Piper also has coached the Connecticut starters 16-year-old National team for eight years, finishing in the top 16 three times and fifth in the country once.

“The highlight of my professional career is the pleasure and pride that comes from watching my student athletes grow as individuals, go on to college and become successful adults with careers as business women, FBI agents, teachers and coaches. I love to hear from them and find out how, and what, they are doing,” Piper says.

“As a physical education major and student athlete at Central, I spent a lot of time at the gym,” she continues. “Central became my second family. I was fortunate to have teachers and coaches who not only were fun, but who worked together to help me succeed. They always made me feel important, and they were a positive influence on my decision to become a teacher and coach. I know that I am welcome at Central, and I have gone back for advice many times.”

Piper has five older sisters and one younger, none of whom were able to attend college. “Central gave me a chance by offering me a scholarship, and the education I received prepared me to succeed as a teacher and coach,” she says.

Piper feels a responsibility to give back to the program at CCSU so other students like her can have the same opportunity she had. “I believe in Central; it has so much to offer. I encourage all alumni to give so the University can continue to improve its educational and athletic offerings.”

Postscript: Congratulations to Beryl Piper and the New Britain High School Girls’ Basketball Team for winning the 2005-06 Class LL State Championship!