Several residents and landlords from the nearby Belvedere neighborhood in New Britain are fed up with Central students’ off-campus partying and raucousness in their quiet, suburban community. They demand resolution. While CCSU campus police work with the New Britain Police Department to address the ongoing issue, University and student leaders discuss possible, common sense solutions.

As the largest employer in New Britain, with over 170 employees living in the city, the University values its connection to the community, but can do a better job of educating students wherever they live, according to CCSU President Jack Miller.

“When you are a citizen of a community, you need to uphold the values of that community,” Miller stated in an open letter to the New Britain Herald in September. “If you do not, there will be appropriate repercussions.”

Miller’s pledge: students who continue to violate the law, can expect to face swift and immediate action.

“We must do everything we can to reduce the amount of inappropriate behavior, realistically realizing we will never totally eliminate it,” says the president. “I will always support and defend the 99-plus percent of our students who work and learn at the University and are excellent citizens.”

continued on page 3
Dancers, martial artists, singers, and musicians from China's Shandong Normal University joined local middle and high school students for this fall's 2nd annual Confucius Institute Day at CCSU.
#BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Upon the invitation of Vice President for Student Affairs Laura Tordenti, representatives from the Student Government Association (SGA)—Edward Corey, Wyatt Bosworth, and President Caroline Fox—have been actively involved with Town & Gown meetings, a coalition comprising representatives from the University, neighboring residents, landlords, and New Britain city officials and police.

“The University is taking steps now to try and educate our students better,” says Bosworth, “and provide ‘Good Neighbor’ programming for them.” The SGA has launched a social media campaign — #Be a Good Neighbor—designed to remind students to respect their off-campus neighbors.

COMMUNIVERSITY

Conducting extensive research on how other institutions handle similar off-campus housing/partying concerns, SGA representatives are intrigued by the University of Oregon’s “CommUniversity” initiative, providing neighborhood programming to help bring landlords, renters, and residents together.

“A lot of big, state schools have institutional resources devoted to educating and programming for their off-campus students,” says Bosworth, noting how Oregon’s program provides a website portal, featuring information on renter’s rights and responsibilities, tips for being a conscientious neighbor, clearly defined housing ordinances, and resources for landlords and tenants.

CommUniversity is a residential student ambassadorship campaign, according to Corey. After reviewing Oregon’s program, Tordenti asked the student reps to write a proposal on how Central might adapt the program for its own needs.

“These students are true leaders,” says Tordenti. “They’re so earnest in their desire to help the University and our neighbors deal more constructively with off-campus issues.”

If adopted, a pilot program could be in place for spring, with four to five students serving as community liaisons, Tordenti says.

“Students affiliated with the program would be living in the neighborhoods,” Corey explains, “and possibly receive a stipend in exchange for putting on programming, facilitating communication, developing resources, websites, brochures, and distributing them to students and neighbors so there’s resources available.”

EMPOWERING RESIDENTS

Another proposed measure is restructuring the town and gown committee, with the addition of volunteer neighborhood representatives, says CCSU Director of Student Conduct Christopher Dukes, co-chair of the Town & Gown Committee with New Britain Mayor’s Outreach Coordinator Zeena Tawfik.

The neighborhood representative positions provide an active voice, according to Dukes, saying it would further allow residents’ concerns to be reviewed and discussed as incidents occur, instead of being limited to just four committee meetings a year.

“I think it will be more efficient and more manageable for us,” says Dukes, calling it an opportunity to “streamline” the process. “By the time we come back to our next meeting (Feb. 1, 2016), we can actually give you a report on outcomes of what’s been accomplished, what and how many concerns came in, and what did we do within our authority to remedy those situations?”

GUILTY BY ASSOCIATION?

Central’s problem students are certainly in the minority, add Bosworth and Corey, saying the disruptive few unfortunately ruin the reputation of the entire student body.

“I want to show neighbors that there are good students here, and in fact, the vast majority of students (‘99 percent,’ as Dr. Miller said) don’t cause trouble and are here to study, here to stay,” says Bosworth. “It’s really motivated me to find solutions that protect our students who aren’t troublemakers, and have the ability to live off-campus, be financially sound, and able to afford tuition and fees at this school.”

It’s a question of managing expectations and relationships, Corey adds, urging students and neighbors alike to seek mutual, peaceful compromise, and avoid confrontation when possible.

“We can definitely manage what our students are doing, and what their neighbors can demand of them,” says Corey. “No one wants their house vandalized. No one wants to feel unsafe. We’re not having students breaking into homes or throwing rocks through windows. But just having a group of rowdy, young people outside your window when you’re a 60- or 70-year-old retiree, that’s scary, so we definitely don’t want to trivialize how they’re feeling.”

— Keith Hagarty
Does Mars have life? Following the recent discovery of water on the giant, red planet, Associate Professor of Planetary Science Jennifer Piatek believes we are one step closer to finding out.

“The idea that Mars is (or was) potentially inhabited is not brand new at all,” says Piatek. “If there’s water, then there’s a possibility for life. That is entirely what’s driven the exploration of Mars. They’re looking for the building blocks of life.”

The mysteries of Mars have captured Piatek’s inquiry and imagination for as long as she can remember, providing endless questions, but few answers.

“This is the most Earth-like planet we’ve ever seen, and of course we want to know what happened to Mars to make it dry up,” she says. “We have all of the water features on Mars, so the question becomes: how do you get all of these river valleys and giant lake beds on a planet that doesn’t have much of an atmosphere?”

With a slew of Mars-related models, globes, and assorted intergalactic knick-knacks adorning her office, Piatek can hardly contain her enthusiasm for the discovery of water on Mars and the mysterious wonders in store.

STAR SEARCH

Despite setting her sights on working with racehorses as an equine veterinarian, Piatek was fascinated by the formation of stars and constellations since she was a child.

“During my high school physics class, I remember my teacher talking about the year 2001, when Mars was going to be very, very close to Earth,” she says. “At the time, we thought that would be an ideal opportunity to send people to Mars.”

Starry-eyed with dreams of someday visiting the red planet, tragedy struck just five short years ago when a fall from a horse severed Piatek’s spinal cord, leaving her paralyzed from the chest down. Confined to a wheelchair, she refuses to allow her injury and physical limitations to define who she is, or dictate her narrative journey.

“I want to be the person that sees what’s over the hill,” she says of the possibility of humans someday landing on Mars. “I don’t just want a picture of it. I want to go there.”

GOING STREAKING

Like the discovery of water on Mars, sometimes life, according to Piatek, provides unexpected discoveries and hope in the most serendipitous ways.

NASA’s recent announcement that liquid, salty water can be seen flowing on the surface of Mars can be traced back five years to the work of University of Arizona undergraduate student, Lujendra Ohja, who while studying images from NASA’s Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter during the warmer spring and summer months, discovered what appeared to be dark, transitory streaks along the sides of mountains and hills, or the appearance of running water. Still needing chemical confirmation of the streaks, Ohja defined the visual markers as “recurrent slope lineae” (RSL).

“What they discovered is that salt is literally sucking water out of the atmosphere,” says Piatek, noting how spectroscopic analysis determined the streaks as hydrated perchlorate (chlorine with oxygen), a briny liquid of perchlorate salt with water trapped in crystals.

“As it gets more humid on Mars, it sucks the water out of the atmosphere,” Piatek explains, noting the extreme low air pressure with a low atmospheric density. "The water is a higher priority to go to Mars for than we once thought. It’s an ideal place for liquid water."
MAKING HISTORIANS
(L-r) Matthew Warshauer BA ‘90, MA ’93, John Tully BA ‘95, and William Mann MA ’84 discuss the importance and perspectives of documenting and analyzing our place in time and chronicling society’s collective past with an eye towards tomorrow at “Making Historians @ CCSU: Teaching and Writing the Past, Present, and Future.” Sponsored by the friends and supporters of the Elihu Burritt Library and moderated by Susan Campbell, Robert C. Vance Chair in Journalism and Mass Communication, the conversation forum offered an opportunity for the campus community to meet some of Central’s outstanding professors of history while providing insight into their academic process.

Howard Pitkin
is the new American Savings Foundation (ASF) in Banking and Finance Endowed Chair. Appointed this fall by the CCSU School of Business, Pitkin has been with the State of Connecticut Department of Banking for nearly 40 years, serving as banking commissioner since 2006.

“Howard is an excellent choice for this prestigious appointment,” says Dean of the School of Business Kenneth Colwell. “His extensive knowledge of the banking industry and the Connecticut banking community are already proving to be beneficial to his students, the faculty, and me.”

The American Savings Foundation Endowed Chair focuses on real-world banking and finance through educational opportunities, program development, and active engagement in local community outreach initiatives with area business leaders in banking, finance, or financial services.

Calling it an “extreme honor” to be named AFS Chair, Pitkin says he is excited to join the Central community.

“The School of Business has grown so much in terms of students and curriculum, and, on top of that, it’s nationally accredited, adding to the quality and credibility of the education given here,” he says. “My experience in the field of bank regulation and knowing so many people will enable me to bring the real world into the classroom. I’ve invited bank CEO’s, consultants, and people from government that let the students know how they do their jobs, how they got their jobs, and information on career opportunities in the banking industry.”

— Keith Hagarty

Fearon
2015 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award

School of Business Professor David Fearon has been named to the prestigious Board of Examiners for the 2015 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The award is the nation’s highest honor for organizational innovation and performance excellence.

Fearon, a professor of management & organization, is one of 350 leading experts competitively selected from industry, professional, trade, education, health care and nonprofit organizations from across the US. The examiners are responsible for reviewing and evaluating applications submitted for the Baldrige Award, as well as other assessment-related tasks. Named after Malcolm Baldrige, the 26th Secretary of Commerce, the Baldrige Award was established by Congress in 1987.

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— Keith Hagarty
SCHOLARSHIP

CCSU Faculty Scholarship

• From an interview with Tony-award winning actor Nathan Lane in the November 5th edition of the New York Times’ Sunday Book Review, “Nathan Lane: By the Book”:

New York Times: What genres do you especially enjoy reading?

Nathan Lane: “Without question, biography is my favorite genre … I just finished two shining examples of the genre: “Eugene O’Neill: A Life in Four Acts,” by Robert Dowling (Yale University Press, 2014), and John Lahr’s “Tennessee Williams: Mad Pilgrimage of the Flesh” (W. W. Norton & Company, 2014). Both scrupulously researched and elegantly written. I have to admit I was surprised and tickled to be quoted in the foreword of Mr. Dowling’s book. Having done two productions in the last few years of “The Iceman Cometh,” I can’t get enough of the father of American drama, Eugene Gladstone O’Neill, and a life that feels like one of his epic tragic-comic plays…. They should both be required reading for anyone in the theater.”

• Professor of Communication Karen Ritzenhoff recently authored the article “‘UK Frost Can Kill Palms:’ Layers of Reality in Stanley Kubrick’s ‘Full Metal Jacket,’” appearing in On Kubrick: New Perspectives (London: Blackdog Publishing, 2015). She also co-edited:
  – The Apocalypse in Film: Dystopia, Disasters, and other Visions about the End of the World (Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield, 2016) with Angela Krewani, Germany.
  – Selling Sex on Screen: From Weimar Cinema to Zombie Porn (Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield, 2015) with Catriona McAvoy, United Kingdom.
  – Heroism and Gender in War Films (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014) with Jakub Kazecki, Germany.

• Associate Professor of History Matthew Specter had two articles accepted for publication in History and Theory (published by Wesleyan University/Wiley-Blackwell Publishing; where he serves as associate editor): an introduction to a forum on author, Michel Foucault and Neoliberalism (Oct. 2015); and “Rethinking Modern European Intellectual History” (Feb. 2016).

• Associate Professor of Physical Education & Human Performance Carol M. Ciotto co-authored PASS: A Guide to Creating Physically Active School Systems (AuthorHouse, 2015) with Southern Connecticut State University Associate Professor of Exercise Science Marybeth H. Fede.

• Professor of History Heather Munro Prescott’s recent panel presentation on “Griswold v. Connecticut” at the American Association for the History of Medicine is being published in the Connecticut History Review (Fall issue).

• Professor of Modern Languages Antonio Garcia-Lozada recently gave two presentations at the third International Congress of Poetry in Santiago, Chile: the first focusing on the Colombian narrative, while the second centered on the works of prolific Chilean poet, Pedro Lastra. García-Lozada (who also serves as University ombudsman) was joined at the conference by several distinguished Latin American poets, including Carlos Germán Belli, Elicura Chiuailaf, Rafael Rubio, Carmen Berenguer, and Raúl Zurita.

• Professor of Biology David Spector publishes a recurring natural history column for the Daily Hampshire Gazette. Some of his recent essay topics, sponsored by the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, include: “Earth Matters: The Puzzle Tree: Independence Day Musings on Sycamores,” “Robins Seen Declining Statewide, But Numbers Tricky,” and “Birdwatching for a Cause — but Mostly for Fun.”
As America’s workforce in higher education ages, Central is preparing the educational leaders of tomorrow.

“There is a real need to figure out who the next generation of leaders are going to be,” says Associate Professor of Educational Leadership, Policy & Instructional Technology Linda E. Clark, coordinator of Central’s new doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership (EdD): Higher Education Strand.

Debuting this fall, the doctorate program’s higher education strand is designed to enhance the skill set of current higher education professionals who aspire to leadership positions. It provides an opportunity for each student to design and focus on an area of individualized specialization of higher education.

“Doctoral students are aware that the leadership demographic is changing,” Clark says. “CCSU stays relevant by responding with a cohort-model program based on an already solid K-12 segment. It’s a natural progression.”

Using a cohort-model (about 20-25 students total) the structure allows students to move through the program at the same pace, or in unison, according to Clark.

“We’ve seen that this promotes collegiality, intellectual stimulation, professional development, and networking,” she says.

What makes this program unique? While the courses are highly focused within the field of higher education, students have to complete an individualized, 15-credit sequence in conjunction with a CCSU faculty member.

“This allows students to really create a career track for themselves, and develop an expertise in something that their aspirations are in line with,” according to Clark, saying the program offers the opportunity for students to merge their passions and enhanced skills with leadership positions at colleges and universities across the state and beyond.

“Higher education has become more complex,” she says. “We’re dealing a lot more with accreditation and pushes for assessment. We also have a lot of ethical debates going on, as well as the fiscal piece of higher education: facing escalating costs, and affordability.

“Ultimately, Clark adds, “there’s a real need for leaders who are trained to deal with current issues, understand what is at stake, and prepared to juggle it all while maintaining the things that make the US higher education system great.”

With the next cohort starting in January 2018, applicants can look for calls for admissions material in Spring 2017. For more information about the program, click on the “Doctor of Education” tab for the CCSU School of Education and Professional Studies at www.ccsu.edu/seps.

— Kate Callahan ’14
Held in October at the Bushnell Performing Arts Center in Hartford, the annual 100 Men of Color ceremony celebrates the power of family, friends, and the community, honoring individuals for their contributions towards the advancement of young, African-American males. The gala recognizes honorees contributions from the fields of business, education, entrepreneurship, entertainment, government, and service throughout Connecticut.

NBC News anchor David Ushery hosted the ceremony, with a portion of the proceeds supporting college scholarships for male high school graduates as well as male leadership and mentor programs.

CCSU representatives honored during the 100 Men of Color Black Tie and Gala Awards 2015 include (front, l-r): Chief Administrative Officer Richard Bachoo, Professor of Anthropology Warren Perry, Professor of Communication Serafin Mendez-Mendez, Director of Admissions Larry Hall and also (pictured below): CSU Professor of Philosophy Felton Best, Adjunct Professor of Philosophy Ben Foster, alumnus Bilal Afolabi '15, and posthumous recipient Ebenezer D. Bassett, America’s first African American diplomat, Class of 1853). In photo above, at back, CCSU Senior Associate Athletics Director Michael Ansarra congratulates his honored colleagues.
“Sarah Speaks Up”
Against Domestic Abuse

Living in a constant state of fear and despair for more than a decade, Sarah Gallardo suffered daily at the hands of her abusive ex-husband. Afraid to share her anguish, she wrestled with her torment over sleepless nights of terror, hiding her physical and emotional wounds. The downward spiral hit rock bottom when her abuser shot a gun through her car windshield, narrowly missing her head. After he discharged his weapon, Gallardo says she’ll never forget his haunting words as he calmly and casually strolled back into their home as she stood, frozen in fear, trembling on the driveway.

“I’m not sorry I did it,” she recalls him saying, “I’m only sorry I missed you.”

She cites the birth of her daughter as a powerful wake-up call to a better life. Gallardo left her abusive partner (nearing completion of a four-year prison sentence), and enrolled in CCSU, majoring in Communications (Public Relations/Promotions track). She credits her actions for helping to instill the confidence and self-worth she thought had been lost forever. Volunteering as a domestic violence counselor at the Prudence Crandall Center of New Britain, she now dedicates her life to educating, comforting, and empowering victims through her Sarah Speaks Up campaign, a charitable organization to raise awareness about domestic abuse.

What advice would you give others, such as college students, who may be quietly living in an abusive relationship?
Jealousy is not love—absolutely not. Jealousy implies ownership and that begets control. Someone who loves you is going to respect you, honor your decisions, support your wants and needs, understand that you can’t get back to them right away, understands that perhaps you want to take a semester abroad, or go home for the weekend and not stay on campus, or go to a sporting event with friends and not just be with your significant other. Two people in a relationship are in fact two separate people, and by this interweaving of one into the other, there gets to be this misconception that somehow they deserve to know, or have control over the other—and that’s simply not true.

What has the Prudence Crandall Center meant to you during your recovery, and your decision to enroll at CCSU?
I’ve been volunteering at the center going on three years now. I ended up meeting someone there, the kind of person my life just wouldn’t be the same without: Robin Todhunter. She was the support group leader at the time, an amazing person, multifaceted. I call her my DV (domestic violence) mom. She told me that I have too much potential not to go back to college. She used to fit the question, “So when are you going back to school?” into our conversations on a weekly basis. Her belief in me, and her

Sarah Gallardo
Hometown: Newington, CT
Major: BA, Communication: Public Relations/Promotions Track
Finding Her Voice: Suffering in silence for more than a decade in an abusive relationship, Gallardo turned despair into hope, becoming a domestic violence counselor at Prudence Crandall Center in New Britain, and recently founded “Sarah Speaks Up,” a non-profit awareness campaign against domestic abuse (www.sarahspeaksup.com).
Rising Sun: Named a “2015 Woman of Inspiration” by the Connecticut Sun; a “First 100 Men and Women” award recipient by the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence; and awarded a Live Your Dream scholarship from the Farmington Valley Soroptimist Club.
Based on 19th-century Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen’s *A Doll’s House*, Central’s contemporary adaptation honors the original work’s theme of suburban, marital strife, and questions of loyalty, while casting a fresh, new outlook and reimagined interpretation: set in the modern day suburbs of middle-class Connecticut. Performed in October at the Black Box Theatre in Maloney Hall, *DollHouse* was written by playwright *Theresa Rebeck*, and directed by CCSU adjunct professor of Theatre *Jan Mason*.

Other upcoming stage productions for the Department of Theatre’s 2015-16 performance season include: *The Man Who Came To Dinner* by Kaufman & Hart (December 2-5, 2015), *The Winter’s Tale* by William Shakespeare (March 9-12, 2016), and *Carrie: The Killer Musical Experience* by Cohen, Gore & Pitchford, sponsored by the Student Government Association (April 27-May 1, 2016). Tickets will be available via the CENtix Box Office at ccsu.showare.com.
Sophomore Swimming Champ Targets Olympic Gold

After leading the Blue Devils to the 2015 Northeast Conference Championship, sophomore Maddy Garber now sets her sights on an even larger goal: the 2016 USA Swimming Olympic Team Trials.

Competing in July at the Connecticut Senior Championships at Wesleyan University, Garber, of Milford, Massachusetts, qualified for the upcoming national swimming trials with a time of 1:10.94 in the 100-meter breaststroke, earning her the NEC Rookie of the Meet award.

Hot off a record-breaking year in her first season with the Blue Devils, Garber broke the Northeast Conference (NEC), school, and freshman record in the 200 breaststroke finals with an NCAA b-cut qualifying time of 2:13:37 (marking the second time at the 2015 championship she broke the record, with the second record-breaking time being 2.95 seconds faster than the previous NEC record, and 2.33 seconds faster than the school record; a mark she set earlier in the season).

Held June 26 to July 3, 2016 in Omaha, NE, at the CenturyLink Center Omaha, the 2016 USA Swimming Olympic Team Trials is the final national competition before the Olympics, with the top performers competing in next year’s 2016 Summer Olympics, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
Elizabeth Eberhardt ’15
Named NCAA Woman of the Year Nominee

The Northeast Conference (NEC) selected Central three-sport athlete Elizabeth “Lizzie” Eberhardt ’15 as a 2015 NCAA Woman of the Year nominee.

Celebrating its 25th year, the NCAA Woman of the Year Award honors graduating female student-athletes who have distinguished themselves throughout their collegiate careers for excellence in academics, athletics, community service and leadership.

“Elizabeth has excelled in every aspect of her career as a student-athlete, and is incredibly deserving of this honor,” NEC Commissioner Noreen Morris says of Eberhardt, chosen as one of 147 honorees across all three NCAA divisions (I, II, and III). “From her championship performances on the track, to her incredible 3.80 GPA, and her work in the community, Elizabeth has positioned herself for lifelong success.”

Eberhardt has distinguished herself as a star athlete in cross country, indoor and outdoor track and field for the Blue Devils. Some of her career highlights include: setting the school outdoor record in the 3,000 meter steeplechase; earning gold as a member of the CCSU distance medley relay team at the 2014 NEC Indoor Track & Field Championship; and qualifying for the East Regional after dominating the field in the steeplechase at the 2014 NEC Outdoor Track & Field Championship, finishing nearly 8 seconds faster than the runner-up.

Calling her one of the finest young women and student athletes he has been privileged to be associated with in his 22 years of college athletics, CCSU Director of Athletics Paul Schlickmann says Eberhardt embodies all of the best qualities the University strives to instill.

“We are extremely proud of Lizzie for her exceptional accomplishments as a Blue Devil student-athlete,” says Schlickmann. “This prestigious honor is fitting testimony to all that she has achieved throughout her CCSU career.”

While at Central, Eberhardt excelled as a double major in Marketing and Management Information Systems; was named 2014 NEC Scholar-Athlete of the Year in women’s cross country; and was recognized as a USTFCCCA (U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association) All-Academic selection.

In September, the Woman of the Year selection committee narrowed the pool of nominees down to the top 10 honorees (30 in all) in each division (Eberhardt was not selected as a top 10 honoree). The 30 honorees were then narrowed down to nine finalists, with three from each division. In October, the NCAA Committee on Women’s Athletics casts votes among the nine finalists to determine the 2015 Woman of the Year: Kristin Day, a collegiate diver from the University of Pennsylvania.

— Keith Hagarty
HITTING THE CANVAS
Sports and Arts Converge In “Locker Room Culture” Exhibit

What do athletics and the arts have in common? A symbiotic connection, according to alumnus Glen LaVertu ’99: both are a reflection of performance, ability, and energy, a pure expression of body and soul.

Breaking down dichotomous walls, LaVertu helped the Department of Art kick off the 2015-16 school year with the mixed media art exhibition “Locker Room Culture: Strategy, Play and Commentary in Sports and Art” (Sept. 10-Oct. 8) in the Samuel T. Chen Fine Arts Center. As exhibition curator, LaVertu was driven to find a new and unique avenue to share his passion for art with his sports-centric friends, while sharing his love of sports with his artistically inclined cronies.

“What I’m really interested in is dispelling the stereotypes that we usually have, such as the classic: big jock versus the nerdy artist type,” he says. “The fact is, many an athlete has been an artist, and many an artist has been an athlete.”

Sometimes converging two seemingly dissimilar subjects and themes can spur creativity and inspiration, says Associate Professor of Art Cassandra Broads-Garcia.

“We’re really excited to start a new academic year with a really interesting exhibition,” she says. “I really became interested in what Glenn was doing while toiling with ideas, linking sports and art — and the sometimes uncommon commonalities the two have.”

Born and raised in Connecticut, the artist-educator LaVertu has exhibited throughout the United States and Europe, teaching art at several institutions of higher learning, including Brown University. He currently teaches foundations and illustration courses at Parsons School of Design in New York City, and a drawing instruction class at Central.

“My argument is that sport should be looked at as a valid art form,” says LaVertu. “There have been many scholars throughout the 20th century who have tried to make these connections, or made some kind of philosophical inquiry into the connecting areas of sport and art.”

He further wants to dispel the notion that the purpose of art is pure aesthetic pleasure.

“The purpose of art is not beauty,” he states. “In fact, a famous quote from Barnett Newman, who was an abstract expressionist painter is: ‘Aesthetics is for me like ornithology must be for the birds.’”

Taking it a step further, LaVertu says his point is crystallized with the words of columnist Steven Mumford, who said, “Art is not supposed to be aimed primarily to create beauty, but to achieve more specifically targeted goals.”

In the absence of beauty, LaVertu says his exhibition showcases cognitive aesthetics, or the notion of what happens in the mind is what connects sports and art together.

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Guayasamín’s Art in Motion: Ecuador Unframed

The work of prominent 20th-century artist Oswaldo Guayasamín reflects the evolution of his Ecuadorian homeland: a rich array of cultural multiplicity with an identity in constant motion.

Hosted by the Elihu Burritt Library, the “Guayasamín’s Art in Motion: Ecuador Unframed” exhibit showcases the talent and style of Oswaldo Guayasamín (1919-1999), “one of the most important Latin American painters of the 20th century,” says curator Rocio Fuentes, assistant professor of modern languages, who coordinated the exhibit with Heather Rodriguez, assistant professor of sociology.

Displayed through late October, the exhibit was the successful end result of several months of collaboration among Central faculty, Carlos Jáuregui, and his team of faculty researchers at the University of Notre Dame. At the heart of the exhibit is Guayasamín’s dynamic piece, known as “Mural Ecuador” (1952; courtesy of the Fundación Guayasamín).

“Guayasamín felt that his mural is the nation—for everything merges,” Fuentes says, describing the mural as a metaphor for Latin America’s long, storied history of racial and cultural influences.

Composed of five movable and interchangeable panels, the featured mural was exhibited alongside a digital interface, allowing visitors to view 30,720 potential configurations of the piece, including the opportunity for visitors to virtually create their own mural.

Calling it an honor to represent his native Ecuador at the exhibit’s opening, invited guest speaker Raúl Erazo Velarde, Ecuadorian Consul General for Connecticut, says Guayasamín is one of the most “monumental artists” his homeland has ever produced.

“This is a great opportunity to share a little bit about my small country with a big heart,” says Erazo.

Guayasamín was an artist who opened his eyes and mind to the world around him, says Associate Professor of Art Rachel Siporin. Describing the mural as “cinematic,” Siporin points to multicultural, artistic influences rampant throughout Guayasamín’s multi-perspective work, including the classic Mexican muralists, the French Symbolist painter Gustave Moreau, and Cubism, particularly the paintings of Pablo Picasso.

Guayasamín’s Quechan Indian heritage was a source of pride for the artist, adds Professor of Art Mike Alewitz.

“He was a staunch defender of the Cuban revolution and peasant struggles,” says Alewitz. “He painted about the real history of Latin America.”

Exhibit sponsors include the Modern Languages Department, the Latin American and Latino Studies Program, Elihu Burritt Library, the School of Education, Art Department, History Department, Student Affairs Office, and the Latin American, Latino and Caribbean Center at CCSU.

— Keith Hagarty
How do you define innovation? CCSU’s Institute of Technology & Business Development (ITBD) Education & Innovation Center in downtown New Britain recently assembled a panel to explore the question.

“Innovation means a lot of things to a lot of people,” says ITBD Director Richard Mullins, offering some commonly held descriptions, such as “creativity,” “technological breakthrough,” or “evolution.”

“We’ve assembled a panel of some of our incubators, one of our inventors, and one of our students to tell you what inspired them to start their business,” he told the packed room.

The panel discussion helped launch ITBD’s new, free “3D Printing: Design, Research & Business Management” course, providing local students with academic assistance, support, college preparation, exposure, career development, and cultural enrichment. Running through January 26, the course’s enrolled student roster is split evenly between CCSU students and local high school students (part of Central’s TRiO Educational Talent Search (ETC) program).

“We have a very diverse group here who are interested in trying to apply what they’re learning in the course with what their interests are, and what their fields of study are,” says CCSU TRiO Director Tom Menditto. “That’s a great thing.”

Inventor John Barone has already seen the exciting possibilities of 3D printing technology. After battling cancer and still feeling the uncomfortable, lingering effects of treatments, Barone, a martial arts instructor, was searching for a piece of protective equipment for his lower body. Unable to find the ideal solution, he turned to ITBD for assistance. Manufacturing Management major Christine Gutierrez worked with Barone for several months, helping him fine-tune his patent-pending prototype.

“I’ve had a great time working with these people, and they’ve done a great job,” Barone says while presenting a prototype of his protective equipment created through the program’s 3D modeling software and printer.

Describing the course as an interdisciplinary approach, Menditto says the goal is to inspire a new generation of student learners.

“We want to inspire you to be innovative, and inspire you to understand how you can have an idea, and make that idea into a physical form through product development,” he says. “We want to inspire you to think about entrepreneurship.”

Contributing to the course, officials in attendance from the CCSU Elihu Burritt Library include administrator Sharon Clapp, head of reference and instruction Susan Slaga-Metivier, librarian Dana Hanford, and reference librarians Brianna McGuckin, and Martha Kruy. Applauding the library’s involvement throughout the program’s development, Mullins says Clapp’s connections throughout the business community, in particular, have been invaluable.

“Because of Sharon, this summer, 30 students from TRiO and the University got to go down to New York City for a day, and sit in on a conference about open source solution software,” he explains. “They learned about this innovative, new approach to software coding and development.”

Other course contributors taking part in the meeting, include: Karen Hudkins, director of the New Britain Industrial Museum, and Jack Crowley, co-founder of New Britain-based promotional product developer, JC Special T; Drew Harris, professor and head of the Central’s entrepreneurship program; and Duane Pierre, founder and executive director of ParaDYM, a community-based organization providing media training, college preparation, and enrichment programs for at-risk youth.

For more information about “3D Printing: Design, Research & Business Management” and other courses and programs offered by ITBD, visit www.ccsu.edu/ITBD.

— Keith Hagarty
Nancy Ladish ’01 (MS, Reading & Language Arts) has been named the 2015-2016 Teacher of the Year for Farmington Public Schools. Ladish has been teaching in the state for over 40 years and has been a second and first grade teacher at West District School for 15 years.

Susie Da Silva ’97 (BS, Education: Spanish, Elementary), ’00 (MS, Reading & Language Arts), ’05 (EdD, Educational Leadership) is Darien Public Schools’ new assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. She previously served as principal of Kings Highway Elementary School in Westport.

Michael Vose ’79 (BS, Education: History) was appointed new director of instructional technology for Bethel Public Schools. He previously served as an administrator in Killingly Public Schools, lending his expertise and experience to integrate technology into teaching and learning opportunities.

Christopher Richter ’06 (BS, Education: Social Science), ’09 (MS, Special Education) was named Southington Public Schools’ 2015-2016 Teacher of the Year. The Kennedy Middle School social studies teacher of eight years was also recently honored by Southington school officials as an educational advocate and inspiration for teaching and learning.

Mario Gioco ’82 (BS, Accounting) was named chief financial officer of Polamer Precision, Inc., overseeing the New Britain-based company’s corporate strategy and corporate business development.
Alumna Named CT Women’s Hall of Fame Honoree

As executive director of the World Affairs Council of Connecticut (WACCT), Megan Clark Torrey ’96, MS ’08 works to reverse gender inequality and bring global issues into focus. Torrey oversees the development and delivery of world class programming to educate the statewide community on global affairs, recently implementing a nationwide series on global women’s health, coordinating a leadership mission to Brazil, and producing a documentary on former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. Her research interests include citizen participation in foreign policy, and inclusive security and the role of women in post-conflict situations.

Dedicating her career to worldwide women’s issue, Torrey was recently named a 2015 Global Impact Honoree by the Connecticut Women’s Hall of Fame.

“Globally, there are many challenges to the full and equal participation of women in society,” says Torrey.

How are you bringing women’s global issues to the state?
At the World Affairs Council, I was part of the team that developed a series of programs called “The Global Women’s Issues Forum.” These programs focus on issues, like education and healthcare, which are imperative to women around the globe. We’ve had programs that focus on women and business empowerment and skillset building, globally. We are able to bring thoughtful global leaders on these issues to Connecticut, and connect our community with people and organizations around the world. For instance, we hosted the first female Iraqi minister of the environment.

How did your experiences at CCSU prepare you for the work you’re doing now for WACCT?
At CCSU I studied International Relations. That gave me a foundational knowledge of all things global. Knowledge and understanding of what is going on in the world, and how it impacts us here in Connecticut is essential to my role.

Why did you choose CCSU?
I have always wanted to study global relations and CCSU has the most comprehensive program for one of our state schools. It also offered the flexibility that allowed me to work and go to school at the same time.

Professor of Anthropology Evelyn Phillips (Torrey’s master’s thesis advisor) says, “Prior to becoming a student in the International Studies Program at Central Connecticut State University, [Megan] enrolled in the Sorbonne and was fluent in French. She brought an international worldview to our program that led her to do an applied research project regarding ways that citizens can intervene and help solve global problems.” Can you give an example of citizen participation here in Connecticut?
The biggest thing one can do is vote for political candidates that share the same views on foreign policy. We try and connect our community with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and get people excited, involved, and engaged in those issues. We recently hosted a program on Syrian refugees. Chris George from Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services in New Haven, Ellen Billard who founded her own NGO, called “Road to Mafraq,” and two local residents addressed the issue of dealing with one of the world’s most critical crises. Our hope is that we’re connecting our community to critical global issues.

What does being named a Global Impact Honoree by the Connecticut Women’s Hall of Fame (CTWHF) mean to you?
This year the theme of the CTWHF is Global Impact. It is a tremendous honor to be recognized for all of my work in this arena. To be personally recognized for the work I do in global education and engaging the public in critical global issues here in our state is very rewarding and gratifying to me. It is inspiration to continue on this path.

— Kate Callahan ’14
Mars, continued from page 4

pressure on Mars (about 1/6,000th of Earth). “As the salts get liquefied, it rolls down the hill. It’s not little streams of water running down the surface. It’s just places that get very, very damp.”

The discovery of water on the planet’s surface, she says, is akin to suddenly discovering dark marks on basement walls.

“You know something’s damp, even if it goes away,” she says of cellar spots. “You know something’s leaking, even if you don’t yet know what it is.”

MARS OR BUST

Since the 1960s, mankind has been exploring Mars with flyby missions, orbiters, and an ongoing series of surface-dwelling rover missions. With about 35 million miles between Earth and Mars, the estimated travel time for a manned trip would take approximately six to eight months (under ideal conditions, with both planets situated as close in proximity as they could possibly be while using the fastest spacecraft built to date).

“There’s a frustration with us wondering why we haven’t gone there yet, but we’re going to get there, no doubt in my mind.” says Piatak. “The question is: will it be soon?”

If NASA put out a call tomorrow, recruiting individuals for manned interplanetary exploration, Piatak is confident there’d be no shortage of volunteers.

“They’d have hundreds, if not thousands of applications,” she says, noting its humankind’s inherent nature—our manifest destiny—to explore and chart the unknown.

“Going to Mars,” she says of our collective curiosity, “is part of that mystery.”

— Keith Hagarty

Gallardo, continued from page 9

persistence, convinced me that even if I didn’t see those qualities in myself, someone who I highly respect did. It was enough for me to try college again.

Did you ever have any doubts about your decision to go back to college?

When I first went back to school I was nervous that I wouldn’t be able to keep up with the workload (having a child, a home, and a job to keep up with). I had to relearn how to take notes and how to study. But it wasn’t much of a stretch. Those are the kinds of things you never really lose.

How has Central helped in your development?

Very early on in my first semester at CCSU, I began to feel more confident. I used to walk around campus and feel part of something bigger. Something that was going to feed my mind and enhance my life. Before that I had felt like I failed myself by not living up to my full potential. I still tend to feel that I have a lot of time to make up for, but I know I’m doing my best with the cards I was dealt. I’ve found that by growing despite everything I have been through, I am able to reach more people and encourage them as an example of someone pushing forward no matter what.

How does your Communication major equip you with the tools required to achieve your professional goals?

I believe it helps, especially with my Sarah Speaks Up efforts, by continuing to grow and develop my skillset in marketing, media, public speaking, and social networking. After all, communicating with the general public is exactly what Sarah Speaks Up is all about. CCSU is helping me sharpen the tools I need to share my story and change people’s lives.

For more information about Sarah Speaks Up, volunteer opportunities, or Gallardo’s upcoming speaking engagements and writing projects, visit www.sarahspeaksup.com.

— Keith Hagarty

“Locker Room,” continued from page 13

“The rules, strategies, and plays that are dealt with by coaches and athletes are not all that different than what happens in an artist’s studio,” he says. “We all know sports have rules, but so do artists.

“My point of view in all of this is as an artist, primarily,” he adds. “I’m someone who played sports when I was young, but I’m here today as an artist.”

Others presenting their work at the exhibition’s opening reception were Costa Rican artist Adrian Mangel, and New York City-based visual and performance artist Frank J. Miles.


— Keith Hagarty
Last year, thanks to the contributions of our alumni and friends to the Campaign for CCSUCCESS, we provided over $1 million in scholarships to 547 students. This year, we want to provide more resources for more scholarships for more students.

Here’s how you can help Raise the Flag for Student Success. Donate $100 or more, and, to thank you for your support, we’ll send you a CCSU Blue Devil flag.

Our flag-raising campaign runs from now through December 31, 2015, so please make a contribution today and raise your flag to show your Blue Devil spirit!

Online at www.ccsu.edu/give; or call 860-832-2587; or use attached envelope.
Celebrating Connecticut Publics Make a Difference Week (Oct. 18-24), Central Connecticut State University joined 16 other institutions of higher learning statewide, participating in a series of public service activities designed to make an impact in the community. Pictured, President John Miller (center) joins volunteers from the United Way’s Live United program during Jumpstart’s 10th annual Read for the Record event, a global campaign aimed at generating public support for high-quality learning. Billed as “the world’s largest reading experience,” the 2015 Read for the Record campaign featured this year’s spotlight children’s book, Not Norman: A Goldfish Story, written by Kelly Bennett and illustrated by Noah Z. Jones (Candlewick, 2008).—Keith Hagarty