In the construction industry, planning a building project is as important as the actual build, and can be more time consuming.

The CCSU construction management majors who participated in the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) student competition in November didn’t have the luxury of time, but they still managed to create an award-winning construction proposal.

Each year, the ASC competition challenges student teams to create a proposal, complete with construction timeline, material requirements, and costs, in one of three categories—commercial build, heavy civil, and design/build—during a very compressed, stress-filled three-day timeline.

Teams arrive late on Thursday and receive specifications from an actual construction project, previously completed by one of the judging companies. They then work around the clock on Friday to analyze and specify job requirements, formulate a construction timeline, and produce a detailed proposal, without internet access or assistance from their faculty advisor. The final proposals are presented on Saturday morning, with first place teams in each category winning $2,000.

“This competition let me put my classroom learning to a real-world test.”
Assistant Professor of Music Drew Collins says he was elated upon becoming CCSU’s Director of Choral Activities. In his new post since September 2013, he’s optimistic about future choral activities and sees himself as a good fit in the Music Department.

Collins says, “The classes I am teaching and the choirs I’m conducting are right in my wheelhouse as far as my training, experience, and area of interest.” Previously he was on the faculty at Wright State University in Dayton, OH—a school similar to CCSU in size, funding, mission, and student demographics.

Collins leads the Chorale, CCSU’s open-enrollment chorus. It comprises singers from across campus regardless of major. The group performs choral music from many eras; musical styles include western music, relevant music of today, and world music.

He also directs the University Singers, CCSU’s premiere choral ensemble. Founded by Professor of Music, Emeritus, Pamela Perry in 1993, the auditioned group rose to international prominence under her leadership. The 24 members represent departments throughout the University. The ensemble boasts scholarships for 10 of its singers, and Collins aspires to have all members under scholarship. Perry retired in 2013, passing the baton to Collins.

Buoyed on meeting Perry, Collins remarks, “There is a joke in our field that the only thing two choral conductors can agree on is what the third one is doing wrong! In this case, however, it was clear that Pam and I shared opinions about a great many aspects of choral music.”

Perry said it was apparent Collins was familiar with the CCSU University Singers, its repertoire, concert tours, scholarship opportunities, and its connection with high school choral programs. She recalls, “I have often stated that the most difficult and crucial aspect of my role as a choral director is the choosing of repertoire. It must speak to the hearts of the singers, be a vehicle for their musical growth, work as a unit in a program, and be accessible to the audience.”

In repertoire selection, Collins and Perry both value the music of Renaissance, early Baroque and the Romantic era along with Part-songs (secular a cappella songs for chamber size groups) as well as spirituals and jazz.

Versatility shines throughout Collins’ background. He holds degrees in music education and conducting from Concordia College, Boston University, and Cincinnati Conservatory. As he observes CCSU student teachers planning to be choral conductors, he will be building bridges with local teachers for collaborative projects.

Collins’ stellar accomplishments include conducting All State choirs, touring domestically and internationally, leading four professional-level adult ensembles—and in 2007, headlining at Carnegie Hall.

As a tenor and counter-tenor he has performed widely, and locally is a member of the professional choirs Concora and Voce.

He is also a published composer, arranger, and editor of choral music. Prominent publishers have accepted his work. Last year alone, he had five pieces accepted.

“The ideal for any program is that each singer and listener will take a roller coaster ride of expression and beauty.”
Robbin Smith Grows Civic-Minded Graduates

Associate Professor of Political Science Robbin Smith ardently believes civic skills must infuse the curriculum to produce enlightened graduates eager to engage in public and community affairs.

Smith, who earned her PhD from Boston University, joined CCSU in 2008, and was the recipient of the 2012 Excellence in Teaching Award. She is an expert on the Supreme Court, American politics, civil liberties, law and politics, and US public policy.

Fascinated by how government evolves, she reflects: “In the US 30 years ago, I am not sure anyone could have envisioned the level of dysfunction that would emerge in Washington. ‘Divided government’ was a concern then and ‘gridlock’ occurred. But the Senate was still considered a largely ‘collegial’ group. Today, our government is riddled with factions and rife with uncompromising political show horses. I encourage students to do what Congress cannot—explore and accept their differences and, when possible, find common ground.”

She points out there is greater pressure on the courts to intervene in matters when the elected branches do not act. She explains, “When we talk about new public policies in my classes, we consider the appropriate role of the courts in a democratic society. If the elected branches become unable to act efficiently and effectively, should we, as a people, seek redress in the courts? How should the court wield its power and authority?”

“Robbin is one of the most phenomenal teachers,” said Professor of Political Science and chair of the department Paul Petterson.

He notes that she has created exercises engaging students to think like members of Congress and come to understand the inherent pressures on elected officials.

Smith encourages the development of intellectual and participatory civic skills that include interpreting and critiquing different points of view, identifying public problems, building consensus, and forging coalitions.

Establishing content mastery and civic skill acquisition as balanced goals, Smith created the course US Elections and Civic Engagement, securing a three-year, federal Help America Vote Grant to develop and teach the course.

The grant underwrote training student poll workers, placing the students in local communities on Election Day, collaborating with town clerks, interviewing town voter registrars, collecting student data, and submitting all academic reports to the US Election Assistance Commission, while collecting data on the students’ rates of civic engagement and levels of civic knowledge.

Although students initially faced the prospect of Election Day service with trepidation, Ryan Baldassario, a 2013 political science graduate, says he drew from the experience when writing his honors thesis on Civic Engagement. “I then had an internship at the State Capitol reaching out to constituencies, and those skills helped enormously in my current role.” Baldassario is continued on page 7
President Miller’s America’s Most Literate Cities Study Receives National Coverage
Washington, DC, Ranks First for the Fourth Consecutive Year

The publication of President Jack Miller’s 11th annual survey of America’s Most Literate Cities was announced in USA Today in February. The study ranks the nation’s 77 largest cities based on research data for six key indicators of their citizens’ literacy: booksellers, educational attainment, internet resources, library resources, newspaper circulation, and periodical publishing resources. The information is compared against population rates in each city to develop a per capita profile of the city’s literacy.

This year Miller offers a regional outlook, finding clear regional differences in reading habits and resources for reading. Nearly 90 percent of the cities representing New England and the Mid-Atlantic states, for example, are above the median for all cities studied, and 55 percent of that region’s cities are in the top quartile, making the region the national leader for literate behaviors. By contrast, in the Southwest region, 86 percent of the cities are below the median of all the cities ranked, and none of the region’s cities make it into the top quartile, making it the lowest ranking region for literate behavior.

Miller also notes a revealing historical trend: the oldest cities in the Northeast (Boston, New York, Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, for example) have some of the highest literacy practice levels. But moving from Northeast to the Southwest, there are fewer and fewer highly ranked cities. This suggests to Miller that “it may take a very long history to develop a culture of literate practice” — to develop, in other words, the vital tradition of reading that generates both readers and resources for reading.

The first America’s Most Literate Cities study was published in 2003. The survey has become hugely popular and generates widespread media attention, reaching a national and international audience of well over 100 million. Research for this edition of the study was conducted in collaboration with the Center for Public Policy and Social Research at CCSU. The complete study is available at www.ccsu.edu/AMLC2013.

– Janice Palmer

Susan Campbell Appointed Vance Endowed Chair

Award-winning journalist Susan Campbell has been named the Robert C. Vance Endowed Chair in Journalism and Mass Communication in CCSU’s Carol A. Ammon School of Arts & Sciences.

Well known staff writer and columnist at The Hartford Courant (1986–2012), Campbell wrote a column about the shootings at Connecticut’s lottery headquarters in March 1998, which was part of The Courant’s Pulitzer Prize winning coverage.

Currently she is the communications development director at Partnership for Strong Communities in Hartford. Campbell writes a weekly column for the New Haven Register, and is a monthly columnist for the Connecticut Health Investigative Team. She is also an on-air commentator/contributor to WNPR’s Where We Live and The Colin McEnroe Show. Campbell teaches writing workshops at area colleges, and is the author of two books. She earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Maryland and a master’s of religious studies from Hartford Seminary.

Campbell says she hopes to “help CCSU students understand the relationships they have with media, and to encourage them not to be the passive partner in that relationship.”

Communication Department chair Christopher Pudlinski lauded Campbell’s expertise and enthusiasm, saying “she will challenge our students” as she teaches courses on decoding modern media and on writing for electronic media. She will be coordinating events and panels and initiating a media panel/mentor program designed to connect select students with media professionals. On January 28, she hosted the screening and panel discussion of the documentary Miss Representation.

The professorship, jointly under the departments of Journalism and Communication, was created in 2003. The appointment is supported by earnings from the Robert C. Vance Chair in Journalism and Mass Communication. WNPR’s John Dankowski held the appointment before her.

– Geri Radacsi
The Management Information Systems (MIS) program in the School of Business continually evolves to keep abreast of a business world in constant flux.

Chair of the department Marianne D’Onofrio says, “With the business landscape changing due to the economic climate, technology advances, and demographic shifts, the MIS faculty work to ensure their programs and curricula are relevant and timely.” The faculty has the responsibility of preparing MIS majors and minors with the knowledge and skill sets needed in this fast-paced business environment.

As a field, MIS bolsters company activities, including management and decision-making. The MIS program focuses on preparing information specialists in systems, data management, operations, and many functional areas of a business.

D’Onofrio explains that MIS is the glue that holds the organization together. It is, indeed, the marriage of business and technology. MIS helps organizations sustain their competitive edge. MIS specialists work with the massive amounts of data (aka big data)—aggregating, synthesizing, and analyzing it—to make informed business decisions. They must be able to use technology and application software to address problems in a variety of areas.

D’Onofrio points out the department offers an Emerging Technologies for Business course, with topics changing to keep students abreast of leading edge technologies. Examples of some of the recent topics include big data, cloud computing, computer forensics and information security, data mining for business, incidence response and digital forensics, and health care management.

Additionally, the department has proposed certificate programs and short course offerings in several areas, including project management, business analytics, cloud computing, and communication skills for tomorrow’s leaders.

At its core, the MIS program encompasses the acquisition, development, analysis, design, implementation, and management of information systems. Graduates are prepared to become part of the leadership team that develops and implements the organization’s strategic vision and mission.

It prepares students for advanced graduate study and careers in organizations. Graduates may aspire to be information systems specialists focusing in areas including application programming, database administration, information systems management, systems analysis and design, or business analytics.

D’Onofrio proudly states that MIS graduates are highly prized in the employment marketplace with demand exceeding supply and graduates earning top salaries. “We have more internship and job opportunities available to our students than we have students to fill them,” she declares.

She helped guide MIS graduate Derrick Karle ’11, who now works at The Hartford Financial Services, as an IT Project Manager. As an undergraduate, he recalls, “Never a day went by without an opportunity for internships. Dr. D’Onofrio helped us find our niche in the workplace.”

Further, he says, “The program provided a well-rounded, specialized curriculum that directly aligns with the industry careers in MIS with such courses as Project Management for
Before CCSU senior Alayna James decided she wanted to pursue a career as an attorney, she struggled to find the right academic major and career path. Like many of her fellow students, James investigated several different majors and career options before finding the right vocation.

“I changed my major three times in my freshman year,” James said. “But after taking a 100-level political science course and a course about Middle Eastern politics, I realized that I love politics, international relations, and the law. I always have.” She continued, “Once I changed my major to political science with a minor in English, everything fell into place.”

After her freshman year, James applied to the Honors Program, was accepted, and has been excelling ever since. She will graduate in May with a 3.89 GPA, has completed her coursework and an internship with the New Britain Public Defender’s office, and is interning with Senator Richard Blumenthal’s office in Washington, DC, for her final semester this spring.

According to chair of the Political Science Department and director of the Honors Program Paul Petterson, “Alayna has been a great political science major and a great honors student. She’s very articulate, an excellent writer, and very engaged. Alayna is a student who likes what she’s studying, gets involved, and takes initiative. I am certain she will go on to do great things when she graduates.”

Of her experience in the Honors Program, James said, “The classes were very interesting and I liked having the same classmates throughout the program. I made a lot of friends who were also very invested in their education.

“I also pursued something I was really interested in when writing my thesis; I’m sure I never would have written a 50-page paper during my undergraduate years if not for the Honors Program.”

James’ thesis on The Arab Spring focused on the series of revolutions and protests throughout the Middle East and North Africa that began in 2011 and how the upheavals differed from nation to nation. In her thesis, James explored a number of countries, but focused on Tunisia, the birthplace of the unrest, and Libya, whose revolution directly affected the United States when US Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens was killed there in 2012.

In addition to researching and writing her thesis, James took courses on international terrorism and international relations, and enrolled in a course abroad to Spain and Morocco.

“In Spain and Morocco I experienced two completely different worlds. In Morocco, I was so fascinated with the culture—so different from my own—that I’ve since focused much of my studies on the Middle East and North Africa,” she noted.

James was one of a dozen CCSU students chosen to attend a dinner with former Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who holds highly controversial positions on human rights, nuclear development, and Israel.

James’s thoughts on the event: “Looking back on this experience, I appreciate that I was able to attend. It was very eye-opening to be exposed to a perspective on international politics completely different from my own.

“Before I came to CCSU, my view of the world was small. I hadn’t had many ‘big’ experiences. I had only been out of the country once, on a trip to China in high school,” James said. “CCSU helped me realize my passion for traveling and for understanding other nations and cultures. As a CCSU student, I’ve visited the United Nations twice, spent a weekend in DC with the College Democrats, and studied abroad in

continued on page 10
Writing Competition Determines Sigrid Schultz Scholarship Winners

Three years ago, CCSU was selected to receive an annual grant from the Sigrid Schultz Trust to award scholarships to students in the Journalism program. The scholarship is funded through the estate of Sigrid Schultz (1893-1980), the Chicago Tribune foreign correspondent and bureau chief who alerted the world to the growing threat of Hitler’s regime. Schultz, who was living in Westport when she died at 87, was a trail blazer for women in the field of journalism.

Rather than award scholarships to students based on academic criteria or on financial need, the Journalism Department faculty opted to create an annual writing competition to determine scholarship winners. To qualify to compete, a student must be a journalism major or minor with plans for a career in journalism, and a GPA of at least 2.5.

Students who sign up for the competition are given a topic in advance so they can research the subject matter. This year’s topic was a comparison of the Hitler-era writings of Schultz and Dorothy Thompson, the New York Post Berlin bureau chief whom the Nazis expelled from Germany.

On the day of the competition, students are given two hours to write a story on the topic, without the help of notes, internet, cell phones, or computers. Journalism faculty then read and score the essays, which requires a major effort on their part. This approach is unique—no other scholarship at CCSU is awarded in this manner.

This year, the department awarded $24,700 in scholarships, with journalism major Sean Begin declared the winner. Additional recipients included journalism majors Michael Griffen, Brittany Hill, Matthew Knox, Devin Leith-Yessian, Skyler Magnoli, Acadia Otlowski, Christopher Pace (English major/journalism minor), and Nikki Sambitsky.

Robbin Smith Grows Civic-Minded Graduates

now a district aide in Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty’s office in New Britain.

Matthew Clyburn, a 2011 graduate, now in the Public Policy master’s program at Trinity College and communications manager for Aetna, concurred. Smith, he said, is “innovative, inclusive, thoughtful, and thought-provoking. She expanded the value of the experience by supplementing our work on Election Day with crucial reading and activities.”

Smith restructured her Politics of Human Services course to include a substantive undergraduate research project dealing with a topic of relevance to the state. This past semester, her students wrote research papers on subjects as varied as: physician-assisted suicide (a topic with growing relevance in CT, as the group Compassion and Choices will be lobbying for such a law here this spring); medical marijuana; the relationship between mental health services and violent crime rates in the 50 states; and the debt levels and graduation rates of students at public and private two- and four-year institutions of higher education.

Smith’s US Politics courses features an extensive “Congressional Simulation” project, in which each student is a member of Congress representing a particular constituency and serving on various committees. This role-playing exercise requires students to comprehend a variety of political concepts and institutions from the perspective of others who often are quite different from them racially/ethnically, socioeconomically, and geographically.

For CCSU graduate Madelyn Sowinski such civic skills have led to her now attending UConn Law School while working at CCSU’s Center for Public Policy and Social Research part-time. She said her internship at the Secretary of the State’s office in Hartford in the Legislation and Elections Administration Division was invaluable. Sowinski said, “My internship was a fantastic experience. It helped me realize that a job in state government is something I want for my future.”

Smith encourages the development of intellectual and participatory civic skills that include interpreting and critiquing different points of view, identifying public problems, building consensus, and forging coalitions.

Smith, as law school advisor on campus, made sure Sowinski had all the necessary documents for law school application and reviewed her admissions essay. Sowinski declares, “Dr. Smith expects students to take her courses seriously and apply themselves. It is evident that she enjoys teaching and values student interaction. I was not at all surprised to hear that she was the recipient of the 2012 Excellence in Teaching Award. She would be my choice as well.”

Smith has set her sights on further research under an AAUP grant. The topic: The Effects of a Long-Term Youth Civic Engagement Program. “I’d like to see what programs work with younger students starting in elementary school and whether they will be the building blocks for a willingness to be involved in their community and government.”

– Geri Radacsi
CCSU’s commercial build team took second place in a field of more than 15 teams, including students from powerhouse engineering schools at RIT and Drexel University. The CCSU team — Kristen Cortigiano, Anthony Diana, Sean East, Mike Fallat, Doug Hess, and Ian Rogers — was mentored by Professor of Manufacturing and Construction Management Raymond Perreault.

The real-world basis for this year’s project — the renovation of a dormitory building with heavy repairs and asbestos removal — was actually completed at a cost of $3.5 million. CCSU’s team estimated project costs of $3.7 million.

Team leader Cortigiano described the experience as “challenging, realistic, and intense.” This was the senior’s second year at the competition, and she said she felt that helped give the group a competitive edge.

“From last year, I knew what the judges would look for on presentation day, so that helped. Everyone dug right in and really worked hard to come up with the best information for our proposal.”

Fallat, who competed for the first time, said, “This competition allowed me to add some marketable, upper-level skills to my resume, even before I graduate. I’ve worked in construction since I was 14, but this experience let me put my classroom learning to the test.”

Involved with the student competition for 24 years, Perreault noted, “When this competition started out, there was just one division and seven schools. This year, there were 17 universities and 36 teams involved in three separate competitions.”

The weekend event also includes a career fair, which attracts local companies looking for top students for internships and permanent positions. During this year’s event, two of the commercial build team members had scheduled interviews with one of the sponsoring companies before the weekend was over.

CCSU’s construction management undergraduate program evolved into its own major in 2001 from an industrial technology concentration established in the late 1970s. The master’s program was approved in 2007. Both degree programs prepare students for technology-oriented supervisory, middle management, and leadership positions, responding to increasing industry demand for highly qualified personnel who have a combination of technical and managerial skills.

According to Associate Professor of Construction Management and department chair Jacob Kovel, there are currently 220 undergraduate and 40 graduate students enrolled in the program.

“By necessity, the major is very hands-on, with required lab work and internships,” Kovel said. “But there is a strong foundation in business coursework as well, so our graduates are well-rounded and prepared for the rigors of a career in the field.”

Field trips to job sites are common (see page 12 for related story). Sarisley has even taken student groups to his house to learn about solar panels, which he has installed at his home.

The department organizes industry-specific career fairs each semester, which attract more than 50 employers. Students have the opportunity to learn more about the companies that attend, and to meet with hiring representatives to discuss internships and permanent jobs. Many students, including Cortigiano and Fallat, secure permanent positions before they graduate.

Fallat said, “I think we are part of the first generation that will need a college degree in the construction industry, and with all of my studies and the experiences I have had here at Central, it can only lead to success.”  

– Patrice Dumond

Students who also competed at the ASC student competition: Design/Build group, led by Associate Professor Linda Reeder: Nicholas Centore, Nicholas Chmura, Michael King, Chris Martello, Henry Nickerson, and Michael Schaller; Heavy Civil group, led by Professor Edward Sarisley: Steve Dayton, Jason Mikulski, Brendan Sampieri, John Swaney, and Greg Taylor.
History Graduate Students Co-Author Book

History Professor Matthew Warshauer is well-known for his knowledge of and interest in the Civil War era. He has written many articles and a book on the subject and is the co-chair of the Connecticut Civil War Commemoration Commission, which has been responsible for developing programs and events commemorating the war’s sesquicentennial.

It is no surprise, then, that he has shared this interest with his graduate students, nine of whom have written the essays contained in Inside Connecticut and the Civil War: Essays on One State’s Struggles. The book, edited by Warshauer and published by Wesleyan University Press, covers topics as diverse as the abolitionist movement in Windham County, wartime ship-building in Mystic, and post-traumatic stress disorder among Connecticut Civil War veterans.

Said Warshauer, “I’m very excited about this book. This all-graduate-student publication adds a new chapter in the University’s history and reveals the astounding, original research in which our faculty and students are engaged.”

According to Warshauer, the vast majority of these former students now have history-related careers—the authors’ biographies boast a museum guide, a historic preservationist, and multiple history teachers, among others.

A book launch is scheduled for February 28 on campus, where attendees have the opportunity to speak with the authors. Contributors include David C. W. Batch MA ’12, Luke G. Boyd MA ’13, James E. Brown, Michael Conlin BA ’01, Certification ’04, Emily E. Gifford MA ’11, Todd Jones BA ’08, MA ’11, Diana Moraco MA ’10, Carol Patterson-Martineau MA ’13, and Michael Sturges BS ’05, MA ’13.

Drew Collins Takes Up Baton as Director of Choral Activities

continued from page 2

A proponent of contemporary music, he has served as editorial consultant to four publishing companies (two of these as senior choral editor), has served as an octavo reviewer for Choral Journal and served for seven years as repertoire forum editor of Choral Director. He has produced and conducted recording sessions for several publishing companies.

Collins is in demand as a festival conductor, clinician, consultant, producer, and adjudicator. He has presented at conventions at the state and national levels.

Such a vita will fortify Collins as he makes plans for future choral activities at CCSU.

“The most exciting things in the works for the Chorale are collaborative projects with local high schools.” Still in the planning stage, Collins says, “This semester a high school will be selected for a major chorale project for next year, bringing together the choruses and orchestras from the high school and CCSU, and performing a major work, such as a Mozart or Shubert Mass.”

Another Chorale initiative is to bring a prominent composer to campus to coach a collaborative high school-university performance of the artist’s work.

For the University Singers, Collins foresees them continuing to tour internationally, but also touring state-side, beginning in New England. Further, the ensemble has been invited to perform with the premier professional choir, Voce, in Hartford. Collins would like to see a musical linkage with a prominent local orchestra as well.

He sets the bar high for student performances. “First, the piece has to be of the finest quality. My students and audience deserve the very best. Second, there has to be something for the audience to latch on to; some innate aesthetic or expressive quality. Maybe the piece draws out an emotion in the listener, maybe it makes them think, or maybe it’s just beautiful. The ideal for any program is that each singer and listener will take a roller coaster ride of expression and beauty.”

– Geri Radacs
The CCSU Alumni Association presents the Ninth Semester of Classic Fridays this Spring

The CCSU Alumni Association is once again sponsoring Classic Fridays this spring. The film and lecture series began in spring 2010, and since then, 31 classic Hollywood films, dating back to 1931, have been screened and discussed by faculty, students, alumni, staff, and community members. All films are shown at Torp Theatre in Davidson Hall, with a pre-screening reception beginning at 1:30 p.m., and the film following at 2:00 p.m. This semester’s offerings include:

**All Roads Lead to Rome**

- **February 28**
  - *Cleopatra* (1935)
  - Harold Toger Vedeler, History

- **March 28**
  - *Hannibal* (1959)
  - Don Adams, Philosophy

- **April 11**
  - Susan Gilmore, English

---

**Alayna James**

London as well as Spain and Morocco. Through my honors courses, my political science classes, and my travels, my world has really expanded.”

During her time at Central, James has been a member of the Education Club, the Golden Key and Alpha Lambda Delta honor societies, vice president of the College Democrats, an orientation leader, and a peer leader.

“Being a peer leader is a good way to make a difference,” said James. “Providing academic and peer support to underclassmen makes a positive impact.”

James, who was sick throughout high school, said that she did not do well academically until she came to CCSU, where she found a support system in the honors program and her department, especially from her advisor, Associate Professor of Political Science Robbin Smith.

“Many of the professors here, like Robbin Smith, have made a huge difference in my life—encouraging me to excel and to get involved,” she said. “Now I push myself to do well and to take on new challenges.”

Smith says, “Alayna is a superb student who has reached beyond the walls of the classroom in order to understand the interaction of law, society, and politics. She is intellectually curious and quite willing to challenge herself both academically and personally. She strives to learn more about US public policy and grapples with the fact that politics can be messy, fragmented, and unfractuous.”

Fueled by her experiences in several classes with Associate Professor of Political Science Ghassan El-Eid, including an International Relations course, James became interested in international law, and decided to apply to law school. In fact, James received a scholarship from the Political Science Department to take an LSAT prep course.

“I have wanted to go to law school off and on throughout my life,” James said. “My father and stepfather are public defenders, and several other family members are lawyers. My mother is a public defender social worker. It’s always been a part of my life.

“I have a strong interest in international law, but I am also interested in human rights and constitutional law. Right now, I think I would rather work on a larger scale in terms of human rights and the interests of the United States.”

After a brief pause and a half-smile, James admitted, “Judging by how many times I changed my major in college, I could get to law school and decide that I am interested in a totally different area of law.”

– Kassondra Granata
Pre-pharmacy Courses Offered at Central Aids CCSU Students in Attending UConn School of Pharmacy

In a joint press release published in December, UConn and the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (ConnSCU) announced that students at Central, Eastern, Southern, and Western Connecticut State Universities who want to attend UConn’s School of Pharmacy are now able to enroll in pre-pharmacy curriculum at their home schools. This partnership is designed to prepare students for entry into UConn’s Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree program.

Students typically complete two years of coursework before entering the four-year pharmacy program. Pre-admission criteria also includes submission of Pharmacy College Admissions Test (PCAT) scores and a personal interview. Admission to the program is highly competitive, with no more than 100 students accepted annually. Preference traditionally has been given to UConn students, Connecticut residents, and New England students, but under the new agreement, CSU students who successfully complete the pre-pharmacy curriculum will be granted preference equal to that of UConn students.

Upon completion of the pharmacy program, students earn a Pharm.D. degree—similar to a Juris Doctorate and Medical Doctorate—which allows graduates to become licensed, practicing pharmacists.

About the agreement, Dean of the Carol A. Ammon School of Arts and Sciences Susan Pease said, “The partnership provides a wonderful opportunity for our students and I look forward to congratulating those students personally when they are admitted to the program.”

Sabbatical Work Highlighted in Foundation Magazine

Assistant Professor of English Seunghun Lee recently returned from a year at the Berlin Center for General Linguistics, a research stay funded by the Volkswagen Foundation’s transatlantic fellowship program for humanities scholars and the American Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Lee’s research focused on Tsonga, a South African language spoken by 4 million people. He also had the opportunity to network with scholars from all over the world.

Lee’s experience was chronicled in the Volkswagen Foundation’s magazine Crossing Borders.

CENTRAL AUTHORS

The CCSU Bookstore, the Offices of the Provost and Institutional Advancement, and the Media Center present Central Authors, CCSU’s cable television show featuring members of the Central family (faculty, staff, and alumni) talking about their books and airing on some 20 cable outlets throughout Connecticut. Check your local listings! All tapings are at 12:15 p.m. in the CCSU Bookstore.

Watch Central Authors daily on CCSU TV, channel 23, at 8:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 7:30 p.m., or online at www.ccsu.edu/courier
Students enrolled in the various academic programs in the School of Engineering and Technology must spend hours and hours in the classroom and in labs, studying subjects like material specifications, structural analysis, surveying, and environmental conditions. These subjects provide the intellectual foundation for careers that tend to be very hands-on.

Consequently, when relevant real-world learning experiences present themselves, professors and students alike are more than willing to venture out of the classroom to see that information put to use in the field.

In the fall, a group of construction management and civil engineering students, led by Construction Management Professor Edward Sarisley, P.E. and Associate Professor Talat Salama, P.E., had the opportunity to tour the CT Fastrak busway route. The group was joined by Fastrak project manager Mike Mendick, P.E. of the ConnDOT and Randy States, P.E. from Nobis Engineering, whose company is responsible for geotechnical aspects of the project and quality management.

While riding a bus along the route, the tour made multiple stops to examine and learn about the construction of such features as the Flatbush Avenue bridge in Hartford, a precast concrete arch tunnel in Newington, and a stainless steel structure at a station near campus.

Sarisley said, “The department takes every opportunity to get our students out into the real world. We view area construction sites as an extension of their lab experiences.”

States remarked, “Touring the sites really gave the students a sense of scale, and a better understanding of how their classroom learning and lab testing come into play out in the field.”

The 9.4-mile busway, which will connect Hartford and New Britain, will take almost three years to complete. In addition to the roadway, construction projects include 17 bridges, 11 stations, and 78 retaining walls, as well as a 5-mile multi-use trail that runs from the downtown New Britain station to the Newington Junction station, close to the West Hartford town line.

Stephen Dayton, a construction management major who graduates in May, is interning on the bus way project.

“Working on the bus way project has been a truly great learning experience. Being an inspector on the project has taught me a great deal. My first day on the project I was not nervous; I felt that I was well prepared for the job, as a result of CCSU’s construction management program. I am especially thankful that I was able to take Dr. Sarisley’s construction materials class. In Dr. Sarisley’s class, I learned vital information about testing concrete strength, the slump, and the air content. My employment at Gannet Fleming in conjunction with my education at CCSU has made me confident in my ability to successfully manage all aspects of construction management.”
International Volunteer Tourism: Critical Reflections on Good Works in Central America is a collection of narratives on short-term international volunteering in Central America. The volume, co-edited by Professor of Anthropology Abigail Adams and published by Palgrave Macmillan, seeks to promote better practices among prospective volunteers and organizers of travel-for-service experiences.

Adjunct Lecturer of History Katherine Harris serves as co-editor of African American Connecticut Explored, a collection of essays that cover topics such as Black Governors of Connecticut, nationally prominent black abolitionists, the African American community’s response to the Amistad trial, and the civil rights work of baseball great Jackie Robinson, to name a few. Published by Wesleyan University Press, this book represents the collaborative effort of Connecticut Explored and the Amistad Center for Art & Culture, with support from the State Historic Preservation Office and Connecticut’s Freedom Trail. Contributors include Harris and Associate Director of the Center for Public Policy and Social Research Eileen Hurst.

Professor of English J. Thomas Hazuka is the editor of the recently released Flash Fiction Funny, a compilation of humorous short stories published by Blue Light Press. Contributors to the book with CCSU connections include Hazuka, Professor of English Steven Ostrowski, and Associate Professor of English Ravi Shankar, CSU Professor of English, Emeritus. Barry Leeds, student T.J. Coane, and alums Joe Clifford ’05 and Zac Finkenstein ’99. Hazuka has co-edited the short story anthologies Flash Fiction, Sudden Flash Youth, You Have Time for This, and A Celestial Omnibus, and published the novels The Road to the Island, In the City of the Disappeared, and Last Chance for First.

Transforming Schools: Alternative Perspectives on School Reform, recently published by Information Age Publishing, offers alternative views to recent educational policies. Edited by CSU Professor of Teacher Education Daniel Mulcahy, the book’s topics include school reform, the achievement gap, literacy, standardized assessment, social justice and ecojustice, aesthetic and moral education, and general education.

Adjunct Lecturer of Modern Languages Jonathan Shea has co-authored In Their Words: A Genealogist’s Translation Guide to Latin Documents. The 400-page work, published by Language and Lineage Press, is the third in a series of language reference books, following volumes on the Polish and Russian languages.


Associate Professor of History John Tully served as co-editor for the book Understanding and Teaching the Vietnam War, published by University of Wisconsin Press. The book offers a wealth of methods and resources for high school teachers and university professors teaching courses about the Vietnam War.

Assistant Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice William Watkins’ thesis has been published in book form by Lambert Academic Publishing. The Illicit Use of ADHD Medication Among High School Students: A Theoretical Contextualization examines the risk factors and predictors that exist for the illicit use of ADHD medication.
CCSU Faculty and Students Help to Chronicle New Britain African American History

Professor of Anthropology Evelyn Phillips is no stranger to cultural/community research. In recent years, she has worked with her anthropology students in St. Petersburg, FL; mentored youngsters at Pulaski Middle School in New Britain; and she co-leads a study abroad program to Ghana for anthropology and geography majors each summer.

When looking for a community-based research project for her students, Phillips learned about the efforts of two New Britain residents, Janice Choice Edwards and Elizabeth Nkonko-Ward, to document the lives and contributions of African Americans in New Britain. Seeing a potential learning experience for both the University’s and the city’s students, Phillips immediately expressed interest in the project.

In an article in *The New Britain Herald*, Phillips pledged CCSU’s support to the project: “We applaud their (Edwards and Nkonko-Ward) efforts and would like to help bring these earlier efforts to fruition. We believe that the lives we live locally connect to a wider world and a global history that is worthy of preservation.”

The project, a collaboration between the Center for Africana Studies, the Department of Anthropology, the New Britain Public Library, and the community, held its first open meeting in August, after an exciting discovery.

Laura Jensen, a researcher and university assistant in the Center for Africana Studies, said organizers found photographs of New Britain women from the World War II era. The photographs, taken by Gordon Parks, show young African American women working as welders in a New Britain factory in support of the war effort.

Fueled by such an important find, the project gathered momentum, as more than 15 city residents and six CCSU students signed on to receive training in research methods and oral interview techniques. Once training is completed, participants will comb through various archives, conduct oral history interviews, and research information brought to light in the interviews.

Jensen leads the team of CCSU students who are involved in the project. Freshman biomolecular sciences major Abiola Oretade, a leadership intern with the Center for Africana Studies, has already begun some preliminary research, following leads on the internet.

Oretade says, “Online research is quite a process. One little bit of information generally leads to another, and sometimes it leads to another whole topic to pursue.” He is currently researching New Britain’s connection with the Underground Railroad, and said that this project has started him thinking about researching his own roots.

In addition to collecting physical data — newspaper clippings, photographs, letters, census data, and church records — the group will conduct oral history interviews. Participants are trained in interview techniques, and will hopefully team up with university and high school students to do interviews.

When completed, the collection will be housed in the Elihu Burritt Library, with a traveling exhibit that will visit the city’s public library, as well as schools and churches in the city and in Plainville, where strong ties to the New Britain African American community exist.

The group would also like to have a book published that would include all collected documents and photographs, as well as transcripts of the oral interviews.

“The lives we live locally connect to a wider world and a global history that is worthy of preservation.”

Phillips is responsible for chronicling the first oral history of African Americans in St. Petersburg, FL. One of the biggest challenges she faced in her research was the displacement of African American neighborhoods, not just once, but twice — once when a baseball stadium was built, another when the railroad came through. Phillips notes that when groups are split apart, many times the recorded history becomes fractured, or is lost entirely. This phenomenon is a common factor in the New Britain research, where neighborhoods were leveled to make room for the highway. In addition, many city residents have migrated to Plainville and other surrounding towns, so the research may cover those geographical area as well.

Although Phillips hopes to have a great deal of research completed by summer 2014, she says, “This is a living archive. There will always be the option to add information, interviews, and new discoveries.”

— Patrice Dumond
CCSU Teams with HALS Academy to Produce School Newspaper

Members of the CCSU community shared their expertise with 12 student writers from the House of Arts, Letters, and Sciences (HALS) Academy in New Britain to help them produce their first school newspaper. The HALS Scoop was distributed in an edition of the New Britain Herald in November, thanks to the Herald and its managing editor, Mark Batterson.

Assisting with the project were CCSU Associate Professors of English Anthony Cannella and Aimee Pozorski, Assistant Director of Community Engagement Hannah Hurwitz, Design (Graphic/Information) students Dale Darden and Adam Luchansky, and English Education major Zenab Elzein.

Education Club Organizes Literacy Night at Smalley Academy

In November, members of the CCSU Education Club organized a safari-themed literacy night for students of New Britain’s Smalley Academy and their parents. The evening included dinner, age-appropriate reading activities for the students, and a presentation to parents about financial planning for their child’s college education.

History Class Initiative Proposes Historic District in Downtown New Britain

In the fall, Professor of History Leah Glaser led her Historic Preservation and Resource Planning students on a mission—to downtown New Britain. The community engagement project, which incidently was the final exam for the course, charged the students to research the history of buildings and homes in the downtown area, map out a historic district, and create a written proposal for national recognition, complete with documentation of their research.

The proposed area stretches several blocks and includes parts of Arch, Walnut, Main, Court, and West Main streets, and Franklin Square. Properties have Italian Villa, Queen Anne, and Beaux Arts architectural styles.

The final step, according to Glaser, is to edit the final proposal and present it to the city’s Historic Preservation Commission and the Downtown District for review. Once approved, the area can be nominated as a historic district with the National Register of Historic Places.

Hundreds Attend Conference on Criminal Justice Reform on Campus

The Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy, CCSU, and the Malta Criminal Justice Initiative sponsored a day-long conference on criminal justice reform in January. The conference, Building Bridges Revisited, included reviews of past policies and initiatives, updates on current situations, and discussions regarding future reform options. The conference attracted elected officials, municipal agencies, law enforcement professionals, students, and faith- and community-based organizations.

Professors Lend Their Expertise to CT At Work Conference

Connecticut Humanities sponsored the conference, CT at Work in New Haven in November, part of a year-long initiative to examine the past, present, and future of work life in Connecticut.

During the day-long conference, Professor of Management and Organization David Fearon moderated the panel, Made in CT, which looked at the state’s new wave of entrepreneurship; Associate Professor of Art Mike Alewitz led a session about labor history as seen through the arts and public arts programs; and CSU Professor of History Heather Munro Prescott moderated the session, The Federal Art Project in Connecticut, Then and Now.
SPRING ARTS CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 6
Chorale and University Singers
7:30 p.m.
Trinity-on-Main, New Britain

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12
Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band
7:30 p.m.
Welte Auditorium

TUESDAY, MARCH 25
Jazz Recital with Dr. Carl Knox
3:05 p.m.
Torp Theatre, Davidson Hall

THURSDAY, MARCH 27
Student Recital 1
3:05 p.m.
Founders Hall, Davidson Hall

SATURDAY, MARCH 29
Senior Vocal Recital featuring Kevin Schneider
12:00 noon
Founders Hall, Davidson Hall

SATURDAY, MARCH 29
Senior Flute Recital featuring Sonja Alexander
7:30 p.m.
Founders Hall, Davidson Hall

FRIDAY, APRIL 4
Wind Ensemble at CMEA Conference
2:30 p.m.
Crowne Plaza, Cromwell

SUNDAY, APRIL 6
The Connecticut Trio Concert
3:00 p.m.
New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain

THURSDAY, APRIL 10
University Singers
5:30 p.m.
New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain

FUTURE EXHIBITS INCLUDE:

Brooklyn Salon: March 6 – April 6
Featuring Mike Ballou, James Esber, Tony Fitzpatrick, and Jim Torok
Opening Reception: March 6, 3:00 p.m.

Capstone 2014: April 17 – April 24

The CCSU Art Gallery hosted the exhibit Redux Trois in January and February (left). The event featured the works of Valerie Garland, Marela Zacarias, and Matthew William Robinson.

Future exhibits include:

Brooklyn Salon: March 6 – April 6
Featuring Mike Ballou, James Esber, Tony Fitzpatrick, and Jim Torok
Opening Reception: March 6, 3:00 p.m.

Capstone 2014: April 17 – April 24
SPRING ARTS CALENDAR

CCSU’s Theatre Department is staging two shows this spring.

Tuesday, March 4 – Saturday, March 8
The Illusion
Written by Tony Kushner, directed by Professor of Theatre Thom Delventhal
7:30 p.m.
Black Box Theatre, Maloney Hall

Tuesday, April 22 – Sunday, April 27
RENT
7:30 p.m.
Black Box Theatre, Maloney Hall

Management Information Systems

Business, E-Business, Database Management Systems, Application Program Development, and Business Analytics and Decision Support. I was able to join the Technology Leadership Development Program at The Hartford because the courses I took at CCSU provided the knowledge and skills needed to excel in any of the rotations in the program. The study of MIS at CCSU has made an important difference in my career."

A mark of career success of MIS majors emerged last year. The Institute for Business and Information Technology at the Fox School of Business, Temple University, partnered with the Association for Information Systems to produce the 2013 Information Systems Job Index.

Fifty top IS programs in the nation were selected to participate in data collection, and CCSU’s MIS program was among those selected. Data was gathered from the MIS Department chair as well as recent MIS graduates and students about to graduate. MIS Department students fared very well when compared with students from other programs in areas including starting salaries, starting bonuses, job level, and number of initial job offers.

For the past two years, Central’s MIS students have also reaped the benefits of a hands-on learning experience with The Hartford’s Technical Case Competition. Created in 2012, interdisciplinary student teams from CCSU competed against each other to solve a technical business problem. In 2013, the competition expanded to include teams from UConn, with a CCSU team once again emerging victorious in the final round.

“These two events resulted in 10 CCSU students being hired by The Hartford,” says D’Onofrio.

“The MIS Department is proud to be a member of CCSU’s winning teams,” she continues, as most recently reflected in the School of Business earning international accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). She notes, “This makes CCSU’s School of Business one of only 687 schools of business in the world to have this distinction! AACSB accreditation is the hallmark of excellence in business education.”

– Geri Radacsi

Students Tour CT Fastrak

About the tour, construction management major Nicholas Chmura said, “The Fastrak tour gave me the chance to see how materials that are discussed in class are used on a job site. It was also interesting to see how some of the equipment was used to move those materials in place on the job.”

Sarisley said, “Our students are learning first hand through field trips and internships that it will take years of planning, design, and construction for our nation’s infrastructure to keep pace with the rest of the world, and this bus way is just a small step in that direction.”

“We are the last major industrialized country without an extensive system of high speed rail,” he continued. “However, remaining optimistic, I’m already planning future student field trips to the construction of the New Haven to Springfield line. Several years ago, we had Central students work on construction of the electrification of the Acela rail line from New Haven to Boston.”

– Patrice Dumond

Above, consulting engineer Randy States (left) describes construction methods near the Flatbush Avenue bridge.
Scott Pioli Scholarship Recognizes Outstanding Students; Eases Financial Burden For CCSU Students

CSU alumnus and former NFL executive Scott Pioli ’88 is no stranger to hard work and effectively dealing with uncharted territory. A recipient of numerous accolades including five-time winner of NFL Executive of the Year, honors from national media outlets and Executive/Personnel Man of the Decade by both ESPN and The Sporting News and now a popular NFL analyst for NBC, he clearly knows what it takes to be successful. But this hasn’t always been the case, which is why in 2011 he established the Scott Pioli Scholarship for College For Every Student (CFES) students who attend CCSU.

“My involvement with CFES began long before I established the scholarship, so this was a natural extension of my commitment to CFES and helping low-income kids get on the path to college,” said Pioli, who joined the CFES board in 2004. “When I learned about the types of kids CFES supports, I immediately identified with them. As a first-generation college student who had little knowledge about the college-going process or what to do once I got there, I vividly remember that very daunting period in my life.”

Pioli noted, “My path was athletics and it served me well, but the great majority of people don’t have that particular opportunity and the infrastructure that comes with a scholarship. I can’t imagine how I would have navigated applying to, paying for, and being successful in college otherwise. With this scholarship I want to extend those advantages to a broader audience.”

And he is doing exactly that.

Jasmyn Almodvar, a former CFES scholar who is currently a sophomore at CCSU, is a recent Scott Pioli Scholarship recipient. “Receiving this scholarship is an honor,” said Almodvar. “The financial support alleviates a tremendous amount of stress, allowing me to focus on my studies.”

Added Almodvar, “I would not have thought about going to college without the interest and support of CFES and the college-going culture they create. They saw qualities in me I didn’t see in myself. Mr. Pioli knows how important college truly is for every student and for that I am grateful.”

Said Pioli, “Establishing this scholarship was a way to recognize an organization that works to get low-income, first-generation kids across the country on the path to college while at the same time acknowledging CCSU – an institution that provided a particularly supportive environment to me, and many kids like me.”

“We are extremely appreciative to Scott and his family for investing in our university and more importantly our students,” said Vice President for Institutional Advancement Christopher Galligan. “Scott understands the importance of making access and affordability a top priority but he also gives back in countless other ways – from delivering guest lectures to opening doors for our students in the workplace. We couldn’t ask for a better ambassador.” The Pioli Scholarship is derived from an endowed fund created by a $100,000 donation given to CCSU by Pioli and his family.

In 2010, prior to establishing the scholarship, Pioli was responsible for the expansion and funding of four CFES schools in Kansas City, MO, that have served 600 children.

— Janice Palmer

About College For Every Student
For the past 22 years, CFES has helped make college a reality for more than 75,000 low-income, first-generation youth by raising academic aspirations and performance. Over the last seven years, 95 percent of CFES Scholars graduated from high school and went on to college. For more information, visit www.collegefes.org.
Graduate student Lyndsey Hazzard was selected to receive a CCSU Graduate Award in January. Hazzard, who teaches fourth grade in Bristol public schools, was hailed as an “educator of excellence.”

Management and entrepreneurship student Ryan Piraneo won the award for Best Oral Presentation at the Fall 2013 Connecticut Collegiate Business Plan Competition with his plan for a high-end hockey shop.

Associate Professor of Technology and Engineering Education David Sianez competed at the International World Human Powered Speed Challenge in Battle Mountain, NV, in the fall. He took first place in the multi track vehicle category, reaching a top speed of 47 miles per hour with a vehicle he designed and built as part of his research on composite shell design and aerodynamics.

In January, Assistant Professor of Teacher Education Jacob Werblow was part of a roundtable discussion on standardized testing and Common Core Standards in New Haven public schools.

Professor of Art James Buxton was chosen by the Greater Hartford Arts Council to exhibit his sculptures, created with upcycled and repurposed objects, at the 100 Pearl Street Gallery. The exhibition, “A Celebration of the Creative Spirit!” runs through March 28. Pictured at right is Buxton’s sculpture, “Free Spirit of Transformation.”

Professor from the University of California Riverside, was quoted in an article in The Financial Times about ethnic tension in Russia. Robarts is a specialist in both the Middle East and Eastern European History.

Professor of History Matthew Warshauer was a guest on Northeast Public Radio in January, speaking about lessons of history and public commemoration of historic events.

Assistant Professor of Economics Garfield Blake was quoted in an article in The Bristol Press in early December regarding the economic impact of Cyber Monday on the holiday season.

Assistant Professor of Physics and Earth Science Jennifer Piatek was interviewed on WFSB News in January after more than 200 people reported seeing a fireball shoot across the sky.

In November, Andrew Robarts, visiting History

EXTRA CREDIT

Criminology and Criminal Justice Associate Professor Kathleen Bentley and Assistant Professor Susan Koski published an article in the most recent issue of the Journal of Law and Social Deviance, which focuses on the insanity plea in the case of James Holmes, the Aurora, CO, movie theater shooter.

In December, CSU Professor of Philosophy, History, African-American, and Religious Studies Felton Best was named one of the Top 100 Most Influential African-American Leaders in Connecticut by the NAACP.

Associate Professor of English Mary Collins and photographer Susan McElhinney collaborated on an Artist-In-Residence project in the Penfield Forest National Park in September. Their completed works were exhibited at The Barns at Wolf Trap in Virginia in January.

Criminology and Criminal Justice Professors Stephen Cox, Damon Mitchell, and Raymond Tatract continue to work on a US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance federally funded grant program to train probation officers in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. The first group of probation offers successfully completed training in 2013, with a new cohort starting in 2014.

In November, Associate Professor of Art Vicente Garcia exhibited multiple large scale sculptures on the grounds of the Connecticut Historical Society, part of the Open Studios Hartford event.

Adjunct Lecturer of Music Laurent Gareau was the featured performer at the Marlborough Arts Center in January, part of the center’s monthly musical evenings.

IN THE NEWS

Assistant Professor of Economics Garfield Blake was quoted in an article in The Bristol Press in early December regarding the economic impact of Cyber Monday on the holiday season.

Assistant Professor of Physics and Earth Science Jennifer Piatek was interviewed on WFSB News in January after more than 200 people reported seeing a fireball shoot across the sky.

In November, Andrew Robarts, visiting History

NOTABLE PROGRAMS

The Art Educators’ 2013 Exhibition was presented in December, and included the works of Amanda Burbank, Joel Corriveau, Katie Eck, Alexa Fermeglia, Magdalena Muszynska, Brianna Pitino, Kelly Richnavsky, Carey Simone, Jacqueline Sweeney, Katarina Szekelyova, Kristina Tsantiris, Jake Urban, and Laura Yden.

In January, acclaimed journalist and author Max Blumenthal spoke on campus regarding the Fading Prospects for Peace in the Middle East. The lecture was sponsored by the Department of Journalism, Middle East Studies, Peace Studies, and the Center for International Education.

On December 9, the Computer Science Club, the Computer Science Department, and the National Science Foundation Scholarship Program joined groups worldwide to present the Hour of Code, an initiative designed to acquaint all students with the basics of computer coding. More than 15 million students participated in 170 countries during Computer Science Education Week.
As part of the campus’ sustainability effort, the Courier is printed on FSC®-certified paper. The Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC) is an international, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world’s forests.

The CCSU Courier presents a variety of news stories of interest to faculty, staff, and friends of the University, leaders of Connecticut higher education, state school districts, and the University’s other diverse constituencies.

Central Connecticut State University is an AA/EO institution and a university in the ConnSCU System.

Address inquiries or changes of address to:
CCSU Courier, Marketing & Communications
104 Maria Sanford Hall, CCSU,
1615 Stanley Street
New Britain, CT 06050-4010
Phone: 860-832-1790 • Fax: 860-832-1796
Email: patricedumond@ccsu.edu

Coordinator/Designer: Patrice Dumond
Contributors: Janice Palmer, Geri Radacsi, and CCSU students Kassondra Granata and Erin O’Donnell
Photographs: Michael J. Fiedler, Mark Gaier

CCSU’s Red Flag Campaign
This semester, CCSU joined more than 200 college campuses, military bases, and community agencies nationwide in the Red Flag Campaign, an awareness campaign designed to promote the prevention of dating violence. The campaign included clusters of red flags, posters, and banners displayed throughout campus, as well as informational resources at www.ccsu.edu/redflag.

According to the Red Flag website, the campaign was created using a “bystander intervention” strategy, encouraging friends and other community members to speak up when they see warning signs—red flags—for dating violence in a friend’s relationship.

The Red Flag Campaign is sponsored by the Offices of Administrative Affairs, Diversity and Equity, Residence Life, and Student Affairs, the Center for International Education, the Department of Athletics, Greek Life, Student Activities and Leadership Development, Student Government Association, Student Wellness Services, and the Sexual Assault Resource Team.