The roar was deafening in the capacity-filled Detrick Gymnasium as US President Barack Obama walked out onto the stage. Arriving at the podium, the president pumped up the already frenzied crowd, yelling “Go Blue Devils!”

Pushing for support to increase the federal minimum wage to $10.10, Obama’s March 5th trip to CCSU had the atmosphere of a high-octane pep rally. Eager to see the 44th president of the United States with their own eyes, more than 3,500 people—students, faculty, staff, and the public—stood outside Kaiser Hall waiting for hours in lines curling around Kaiser Circle, down the slope toward Sam May and Gallaudet residence halls.

“It’s good to be back in Connecticut,” said the president, flanked by US Labor Secretary Thomas Perez and the governors of Vermont, Massachusetts, Maine, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

Transmuted into a bright blue and white spectacle, Detrick was adorned with official flags of the New England states and a sweeping banner displaying the president’s “Opportunity for All” agenda.

Being selected as host site was more than a stroke of luck for Central, according to Richard Bachoo, CCSU’s chief administrative officer, serving as the University’s liaison to the White House.

“We have more experience hosting US
The Board of Regents for Higher Education recognized CCSU faculty for their outstanding performance at its annual awards presentation in April, with each award netting a $1,000 prize.

CCSU award recipients included Oscar Perdomo, associate professor of mathematical sciences, winning both the campus-based and system-wide Board of Regents Research Awards; Margaret Johansson, adjunct professor of English, winning the system-wide Adjunct Faculty Teaching Award; and Kate McGrath, associate professor of history, winning a Teaching Award for Connecticut State Universities.

**OSCAR PERDOMO**

Perdomo was nominated for the high quality of his mathematical research in differential geometry, which uses the tools of calculus to study shapes.

“By Newton’s law of physics, lots of problems in dynamics and generally in physics, can be solved by solving an ‘ordinary differential equation,’” Perdomo explained. “I created a notion that is useful solving differential equations, and I called it the Treadmill-Sled.”

Perdomo and Idaho State University Mathematics Professor Bennett Palmer’s explanation and applied use of the Treadmill-Sled notion was recently published in the Pacific Journal of Mathematics and in the Illinois Journal of Mathematics.

“We used the Treadmill-Sled notion to find shapes of rotating liquid drops and collected the results in two papers that have been submitted for publication,” said Perdomo, the prolific author of 42 papers, producer of several YouTube educational videos, and frequent presenter at conferences worldwide.

Palmer describes Perdomo’s work as “groundbreaking.”

“Once this result is better known,” predicts Palmer, “it will find widespread applications and have a lasting impact in geometry.”

With his research gradually shifting from pure math to applied math, Perdomo plans to spend his upcoming semester on sabbatical leave conducting research with a focus on predicting the number of moons a planet has based on its movement.

“The idea is that a planet with moons moves differently from a planet without moons,” said Perdomo. “Can we use this difference in the motion to find out the number of moons a planet has?”

**MARGARET JOHANSSON**

Johansson was nominated by Assistant Professor of English Lee Einhorn in recognition of her outstanding service, pedagogy, and collegiality.

Johansson has powerfully impacted students through innovative assignments, course design and curriculum development, according to Einhorn, saying she has “fostered increased communication and collegiality among the disparate and oft-isolated members of our adjunct faculty.”

Chair of the English department, Stephen Cohen concurs. “Margaret Johansson has taken on the toughest job we offer,” he said, “and performs it with passion, grace, extraordinary dedication, and unparalleled excellence.”

Teaching developmental courses since 2010, Johansson earned a PhD in social work from Columbia University and a master’s in education from Fordham University. She’s been instructor and mentor for the University Success Program for the past three years and will serve as a mentor in the Athletics Faculty Mentor Program. Johansson is TESOL-certified, and has taught graduate-level courses in social work research, as well as high school and middle school English.

“I see the classroom as a social setting in which all participants form a collaborative team,” she said. “The writing classroom, in particular, is more like an art studio, orchestra rehearsal, or sports scrimmage than a lecture, because writers learn by doing. We rely on multiple revisions of each assignment, based on classmate and professor feedback.”

**KATE MCGRATH**

Unanimously nominated by the CCSU department of history, Kate McGrath is a specialist in Medieval Europe, Anglo-Norman studies, gender history, violence studies, and the history of emotions.

She is a recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities Award, Oxford, UK, with her current research focusing on the function of anger rhetoric in Anglo-Norman ecclesiastical histories and its application to aristocratic culture.

Commending McGrath’s scholarship, the department of history’s evaluation committee stated: “She is driven in her teaching, research, and service by her strong commitment to the art and craft of inspirational teaching, her devotion to building strong bonds of community within CCSU, and between CCSU and outside institutions.”

Prior to joining CCSU, McGrath taught at her alma mater, the University of Georgia, where she received both her bachelor’s in political science and bachelor’s in history in 2002. She received her master’s and PhD in history from Emory University in 2005 and 2007 respectively.
Ken Champion ‘79
Construction Management Grad Oversees Multi-Billion Dollar Renovations

When Ken Champion ’79, construction management, was in his senior year at Central, he knew there was a “bigger world out there” and he wanted to be part of it. Big construction projects would be in his future—the bigger the better. Case in point, he recently completed a six-year stint managing the $2.1 billion renovation project at the United Nation’s World Headquarters in New York City, and is currently in Queens, New York as part of the construction management team overseeing the $6 billion renovation of JFK and LaGuardia airports.

For a CCSU grad who describes himself as “just an average college student,” the Clinton native’s work has led to the preservation, fortification, or construction of some of this country’s greatest gems, from Disney’s Epcot Center in Florida to the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, DC. His imprint can be seen across Manhattan in dozens of locations, including the Natural History Museum, Rockefeller Center, a Madison Avenue skyscraper, Pier 17, the Fulton Street Fish Market commercial center, the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. Considering the scale of his prominent assignments, his record is remarkable. Skanska, Morse Diesel, and Tishman are just some of the big name construction firms that have put him in the hot seat to manage over $8 billion of work.

Q. What do you attribute to over three decades of ongoing success?
A. I specialize in getting jobs done. I’ve been entrusted with incredible pieces of history. It’s humbling and it’s demanding. In 34 years of construction management, I’ve had no incidents, no serious accidents or injuries, and no litigation. Above all, if you have integrity and stay true to your word from the start of your career, you will go far.

Q. What knowledge and skills lend themselves to a successful career in construction management?
A. It’s not a career for the mild. A degree from Central is a good start, but you also need to like—really like—projects, and feel satisfaction from the outcome of those projects. You should be good with numbers, at problem solving and resolving issues. Being able to interpret design drawings is a must. Though it’s an architect who puts a vision on paper, it’s the construction manager who makes that vision happen.

Q. What was your first job?
A. When I attended Central, the construction management program required a summer internship, so my first construction job was as a carpenter’s helper. That experience went a long way in preparing me for my first job out of college as the assistant project manager on a parking garage in Stamford. I had good mentors and not a lot of bad habits. I had the fundamental skills from my studies at Central and knew my way around a job site because of my internship. I tackled the assignments they gave me with enthusiasm and always asked, “What’s next boss?”

Q. How do we change the perception that construction is a career for men only?
A. We’ve got to get the message out there that there are jobs as estimators, office engineers, schedulers, cost accountants, and more. There are so many components of the construction industry—you don’t have to become a rough and tough field commander. So we’ve got to do a better job of educating our children by starting early to teach boys and girls what building is all about. For generations, boys were given Lincoln Logs, model kits and Tonka trucks to play with and that is changing. I discovered my passion at age 12 when I built a three-story tree house in my backyard.

Janice Palmer
Before college, Heidi Eilenberger never did particularly well in school. “I didn’t go to class. I barely got through,” said the quiet, introverted Eilenberger. Working 75 hours a week as a daycare worker and nanny, it was by chance that a parent at the daycare facility helped her realize the importance of continuing her education. Had that not occurred, Eilenberger, 29, doubts that nearly a decade later, she would be a proud graduate of CCSU with a 3.97 GPA, and plans to pursue her graduate studies at the University. “I hadn’t been to school in eight years and didn’t know what to expect,” she recalled. “It really just took that first semester to realize that, yes, I really want this badly enough to give up every minute of free time I have.”

Drawn to CCSU’s English department, Eilenberger quickly demonstrated tremendous growth in her writing courses. While working closely with small groups of students, she began developing valuable relationships with peers and faculty, transforming herself from a shy, timid student who avoided the written word at all costs, to an accomplished writer and editor with something to say. “Heidi is a very rare student, as she embodies extraordinary talent and also an unparalleled work ethic. Reading her work and learning from her was like reading and learning from my most valued colleagues in American studies.”—Associate Professor of English Aimee Pozorski.

“Sometimes a Great Notion” left an indelible impression on Eilenberger, launching the idea for her study. Perplexed as to why more people weren’t reading the novel, she sought to expound its virtues, strongly believing it should be included in the 20th-century American literature canon of influential works. “It carries a really important message to America as a country,” she said of the novel. “People get stuck in the idea of the ‘American dream’, but the nation’s constantly changing, and our dream and our goal has to change with the progress of the nation.”

Devoting her senior year fall semester to the project, Eilenberger dissected the 700-plus-page tome, comparing the novel to others in the canon with similar themes and techniques, William Faulkner’s Absalom, Absalom! and Philip Roth’s American Pastoral. Her passion paid off, as her extensive research earned Eilenberger the Undergraduate Research Senior Award in Arts and Humanities, with a University grant to further her study. Taking her interests one step further, Eilenberger traveled across the country, spending her spring break pouring over Kesey’s original manuscript at the University of Oregon’s library. “I just stared at it for a while, overwhelmed with emotion I hadn’t expected,” she said, reflecting on how far her academic pursuits had taken her. “I held in my hands the handwritten notes of a man I revere greatly.”

Kelly McSherry

“‘Heidi is a very rare student, as she embodies extraordinary talent and also an unparalleled work ethic. Reading her work and learning from her was like reading and learning from my most valued colleagues in American studies.’”—Associate Professor of English Aimee Pozorski
Michele “Mickey” Perez is Anything But Ordinary

For CCSU student and recent Barnard Distinguished Student Award recipient Michele Perez, the path to higher education has been anything but ordinary.

“Mickey” (as she’s known by those close to her) grew up in Brooklyn and at the age of 16, gave birth to her daughter, who is now herself a college student. Dropping out of high school as a teen mom may have temporarily delayed her academic pursuits, but after receiving her GED in 1992 and her associate’s degree from Staten Island College, Perez believes her motivation to succeed and passion to learn strengthened with time.

Embarking on a CCSU academic career path in management in industrial technology and applied engineering, Perez immerses herself in foreign cultures, studying some of the most successful industrial technology companies worldwide. A world traveler and native New Yorker, she values the importance of cultural education, celebrating the differences between people rather than allowing them to become barriers. By taking advantage of the study abroad programs offered at CCSU through the CIE (Center for International Education) program, Perez has traveled to Chile, Argentina, Austria, Germany, and Japan. She’s studied manufacturing practices at major global automotive factories, such as Porsche, Mercedes-Benz, and BMW, and was particularly impressed by Germany’s emphasis on domestic products and Japan’s skilled labor employee benefits.

Perez has completed internships at local firms Pratt & Whitney and Horst Engineering, where she worked on turbine manufacturing, attended ISO training sessions, and helped automate and streamline important production processes. Active in her local community, Perez served as director of operations for the Maryann Loprete Memorial Foundation, a driver for Meals on Wheels, and has donated her time for marketing and fundraising efforts on behalf of the Nutmeg Big Brothers and Big Sisters organization. As president of the student chapter of CCSU’s Association of Technology Management and Applied Engineering, she revived the once-dormant club, leading successful recruiting and fundraising efforts, while organizing several popular visits to state-wide manufacturers.

Her professors at CCSU have been impressed with Perez’s desire to learn, as well as her career motivation. CCSU Manufacturing and Construction Management Professor Eric Kirby applauds her ambition, saying Perez has “gone into her educational pursuits with extraordinary goals and expectations” for herself.

“Mickey has definitely taken her leadership abilities seriously in both her academic pursuits as well as her career goals,” said Kirby.

With each accomplishment, Perez reflects on her roller coaster route towards academic and professional success.

“Sometimes I sit back and think how far removed I am from the days of handball and the smell of wet pavement from the hydrant on a hot summer day. I have come a long way from being a high school dropout teen mom.” — Michele “Mickey” Perez

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“Sometimes I sit back and think how far removed I am from the days of handball and the smell of wet pavement from the hydrant on a hot summer day,” she said. “I have come a long way from being a high school dropout teen mom.”

Will Doemland
More people visit gardens in America than go to Disneyland and Disneyworld combined, and even more than visit Las Vegas, the nation’s top vacation destination, according to Richard Benfield, a professor of geography at CCSU.

“Garden tourism is one of the largest sectors in the tourism industry,” said Benfield, author of Garden Tourism (CABI Press, Wallingford, England, 2013).

With 500 public gardens and over 3,000 garden-centered annual events and festivals nationwide, Benfield says earth-friendly garden tourism is one of the country’s fastest growing areas of leisure and recreation.

“In terms of our society, there’s an element of wanting more beauty,” said Benfield, a world traveler who describes the industry as any visit to a park, garden, flower-themed festival or a series of gardens.

“People are tired of the sterile, gray urban,” he adds.

Benfield has toured hundreds of botanic gardens worldwide, including the gardens of South Africa, the Middle East, China and the Valley of Flowers, India where he researched the intersection of garden tourism and conservation. A prolific speaker on the geography of floriculture, he’s an active speaker, presenting talks both big and small, whether appearing at local Connecticut garden clubs or trekking across the world, including speaking engagements for Botanic Garden Conservation International, and recent appearances at the World Botanic Garden Education conference in Mexico, and the World Congress in New Zealand.

The New Britain Museum of American Art recently invited Benfield for a presentation on his critically acclaimed book. Calling it a “must have,” Casey Sclar, executive director of the American Public Gardens Association, considers Benfield a “recognized master.”

Profiling the various types of gardens, including ornamental, historical, horticultural, conservation, and community, Garden Tourism presents an overview of the growing industry, such as the history of garden visitation, tourist motivations, urban gardens, garden festivals, and analysis of management and marketing campaigns designed to spur tourism revenue.

Benfield’s seed of interest in garden tourism was planted in 1997 during a trip to the popular Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. Surrounded by crowded lines of visitors eagerly waiting to see the site’s horticulture spectacle made him reflect more and more about the industry. However, he was surprised shortly thereafter when he couldn’t find a single book published on garden tourism. That is, until now.

“We’re looking much more for something a little deeper,” said Benfield. “There are many studies that suggest plants do a lot for human health and well-being.”

Additional factors influencing garden tourism include a steady increase in urban residential growth, or reduced access to nature in one’s own backyard, less time spent in woods and fields, and a collective diminished knowledge about agriculture. Benfield sees tremendous growth potential in garden tourism, having researched patrons’ demographics, spending habits, and overall interests and patterns for nearly two decades.

Like any business, garden tourism is about matching the right product or service with heightened consumer interest.

“Know your customers,” he said. “Know their age, gender, income, motivations, locations and media habits. Then you can better cater to them.”

Geri Radacsi
Three decades of artistry, vision and creativity. Esteemed educator and acclaimed artist, Rachel Siporin recently commemorated her 30th anniversary at CCSU with a new passion: color reduction relief printmaking (CRRP).

Taking several days to weeks to complete, CRRP is a multi-step process: flat surfaces of wood blocks are cut away in stages to form an image; Ink is then applied to the block’s surface; Any area not cut away, picks up the ink; a press method then transfers it to paper; After the paper dries, the block is further cut away; A new layer of color is then applied as the cycle continues until each additional layer of increasingly darker colors eventually forms the finished print.

Siporin’s CRRP woodblocks were showcased during the recent 3rd Annual Connecticut Printmakers exhibition at the Eastern Connecticut State University Art Gallery, the Alexey von Schilippe Gallery in Groton, and this November, her work will be featured in a New York City solo exhibition at the Bowery Gallery.

With a foundation of teaching still life painting and drawing, Siporin, chairperson of the art department, discusses her adopted medium. Her challenges. Her evolution. Her creative journey.

Q. What drew you to CRRP?
A. I was really fascinated by them. In the color reduction relief process, what is cut away does not print—opposite of the intaglio process where what is etched, prints—one continues to cut away one color at a time, reprinting the entire edition with the subsequent color. Printmaking is very drawing-based, so it really appeals to me. Maybe it’s even the fact that although you see everything, there’s always a surprise when you print it. It’s always different. You can never completely calculate it. I start with a notion, but never a plan.

Q. What are some of the obstacles associated with CRRP?
A. It’s an extremely time consuming and unforgiving process. With a woodcut, if you cut away too much, you just have to live with it. As you’re adding color, you’re getting to know more of what you want. You have to print all of the prints at once because you keep cutting away the block. With a regular woodcut where you only do one color, you could do five prints, and then a year later you could do another 20 prints, or as many as you want, but with CRRP, you don’t have that flexibility. I start out with about 14 prints, but I like to keep different stages of them, so if I finish and I have anywhere from about four to ten prints, then that’s pretty good.

Q. How has your CRRP style and technique evolved?
A. I found ways to increase the subtlety of the color, and also the number of colors. I’ve really explored that. I decide, for instance, what do I want to keep orange—and of course the yellow is already there—so I cut out what I want orange, and then I next move on to print the red. The transparent medium in the ink allows some of the original color to still come through. The thing that’s really appealing about a woodcut is you have very clear, solid, flat, abstract shapes because of the nature of the medium. I like that, but as a painter, I also miss the variety of edges that you would get in a painting. By using two blocks instead of one, and using transparent medium in the color, I’m able to create a lot more color because sometimes when a transparent color overlaps one of the colors, you get an exciting, new third color.

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The “Nuts and Bolts” of Writing and Design
CCSU Teams Reach Out to Community, Exhibit Story of New Britain Manufacturing

Associate Professor of Creative Nonfiction Mary Collins likes to say she has a dogged personality. Eleanor Thornton, chair of the department of design graphic/information, comes from a family of artists and engineers. Perhaps this is why the two professors and their respective departments were highly successful in their collaboration with the New Britain Industrial Museum (NBIM), creating the exhibit “Nuts and Bolts: Stories from New Britain Manufacturing,” on display through September 10 at the Downtown District Visitors’ gallery on 66 West Main Street in New Britain.

Collins has been at CCSU for several years, but had never heard of the NBIM until a colleague recommended that visiting could be the perfect way to make her project come together.

“I was on sabbatical and I like to come up with some civic projects for my classes,” said Collins. “I went down and I saw the museum, and I thought, ‘there is a remarkable story here and it’s not being told.’” Wasting no time in funding the project, Collins and NBIM Director Karen Hudkins immediately went to work on a CT Humanities grant.

“Frankly, this wouldn’t have happened without Mary Collins,” said Hudkins, crediting students in Collin’s Nonfiction Narrative classes for interviewing retired factory workers, typing up transcripts and writing a series of pieces profiling their subjects and other objects housed in the museum.

“I think initially everyone in my class was pretty intimidated by the assignment when it was first described to us,” said undergraduate and narrative nonfiction student, Mary Ellen Murray. As Collins worked with the class, demonstrating how to properly conduct interviews, perform research and craft an angle, Murray said she and her classmates increasingly gained confidence.

“I was really impressed by the incredible work my classmates came up with and the research they managed to uncover on these objects,” said Murray. Students went from being scared to write a piece about a toaster to suddenly crafting beautiful vignettes. The writing portion, however, was only half of the project.

“I knew that we had to explain how we were going to design this exhibit, so we talked the design department into providing the design and the photographs for the exhibit,” Collins explained. Joining the project for the design portion, Thornton’s team of professors and students took photos of the objects and retirees, created the design, and curated the exhibit.

“Everyone worked hard, long hours photographing, writing, talking, transcribing, editing, printing, designing, installing, etc.,” said Thornton. “It is all those invisible increments of labor that make the show work so well.”

Professor of design Lilli Chin took several of the portraits of the retired workers with the help of undergraduate Paola Baiz, while undergraduate Brian Hall, graduate student Stephanie Nobert and others took photos of the objects.

“These objects, they all have stories, and all together they tell a story of New Britain,” Nobert said. “Some people hand-painted the green tips of the zigzag ruler Stanley has. Then you’d get images of the ball bearings, which are very circular and round.”

Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of the project, according to Nobert, was seeing how proud the retirees were of the exhibit.

“They were heard,” Nobert said. “All the people there wanted to hear them. Their stories are up on the walls, and their faces and the objects they worked on. It’s the kind of exhibit that can just keep growing.”

Kelly McSherry
Serving as keynote speaker at this year’s 11th Annual Amistad Lecture Series and Banquet, Dr. Obioma G. Nnaemeka discussed the ongoing struggle for human rights and equality in her native Nigeria, across Africa, and throughout the world.

The Amistad (which in Spanish translates to “friendship”) fits into the larger struggle for equality, according to Nnaemeka, citing egregious human rights violations still rampant in parts of Africa. To respect another’s human rights, one first has to accept another’s humanity, said Nnaemeka, a native Nigerian, noting that despite ongoing challenges, she’s encouraged by her homeland’s call for change.

“What I have witnessed and experienced is urgency, not paralysis,” she said. “What I see are everyday acts of heroism.”

Keith Hagarty & Erin O’Donnell

Additional commemorative events held at CCSU throughout the month included:

• The 2014 Carter G. Woodson African American Studies Black History Month Lecture Series at Founders Hall, featuring William Jelani Cobb, associate professor of history and director of the Institute of African American Studies at the University of Connecticut, and Dania V. Francis, assistant professor of economics and African American studies at the University of Massachusetts. An author and editor, Cobb has had several articles and essays published in The New Yorker, The Daily Beast, and the Washington Post, with his research specializing in post-Civil War African American history, 20th-century American politics and the history of the Cold War. Francis developed and teaches a course at UMass entitled, “Foundations of Black Education,” with her major interest of study focusing on labor economics and public economics, with an emphasis on racial and ethnic inequalities.

• “That the Blood Stay Pure” presentation featuring guest speaker Arica L. Coleman, assistant professor of black American studies at the University of Delaware. Presenting her book That the Blood Stay Pure, Coleman profiled the history and legacy of the Commonwealth of Virginia’s effort to maintain racial purity, and its impact on relations between African Americans and Native Americans.

• Civil Rights Lecture Series at Torp Theatre, featuring civil rights attorney Fred D. Grey, principal lawyer involved in the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955. Representing several distinguished figures of the civil rights’ movement, including Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Grey’s litigation strategy for the boycott led to the U.S Supreme Court’s landmark 1957 ruling declaring bus segregation unconstitutional.
Connecticut’s police departments, under pressure by state leaders to eradicate racial profiling during traffic stops, are making progress towards that goal with the help of CCSU’s Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP).

“This is a very positive sign that law enforcement agencies want to be strong partners in our efforts to eliminate racial profiling,” says Ken Barone, IMRP policy and research specialist. “Even in cases where departments were notified that information was not being reported, steps already have been taken to assure full compliance as soon as possible.”

Nearly all law enforcement agencies in the state (94 percent) are now compliant with the state’s anti-racial profiling law—the Alvin W. Penn Act. The legislation was first enacted in 1999 to prohibit police from stopping, detaining, or searching any motorist when motivated solely by race, color, ethnicity, age, gender, or sexual orientation. In response to racial profiling concerns brought on by federal allegations and the subsequent criminal indictments of East Haven police, the Connecticut General Assembly improved and strengthened the act during the 2012 and 2013 legislative sessions.

“The revised Penn Act requires police to collect required information for every traffic stop and, on a monthly basis, electronically report that information to the Office of Policy and Management,” Barone explains.

Responsibility for implementing the revamped law was shifted to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), in consultation with a newly established Racial Profiling Prohibition Advisory Board. At the request of OPM, the CCSU institute team was brought in to conduct research, analyze data, and develop and execute strategies for helping police departments comply with the new law.

To fund its work, known as the Connecticut Racial Profiling Prohibition Project, the institute sought and received a $1.2 million grant from the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration and the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

Andrew Clark, IMRP director, and Barone have worked closely with the advisory team and several national racial profiling experts to develop a new, standardized method to “more efficiently and effectively collect racial profiling data from traffic stops,” according to Barone.

Among the specifics police must report are: information about whether or not the vehicle was searched, to what extent the vehicle or person was searched, whether or not the search was consensual or not, what the probable cause for the stop was, and what resulted from the stop (the issuing of a citation, summons, or warning).

Using the new system developed by the institute, Barone and his team analyze the data looking for evidence of profiling. The analysis of that data will be released this summer, as the project’s first progress report to the general assembly was due in March.

“One of the most important aspects of the report was the level of compliance by law enforcement agencies,” Barone points out. “Another key milestone was the printing and distribution of more than one million notices designed to inform motorists of their right to file a complaint if they feel they were profiled. Police officers must distribute a notice to each motorist they stop.”

Last summer, IMRP staff trained over 500 police administrators and patrol officers for the coming changes in the law. Materials were prepared and then provided to police departments to equip them for training their staff. A public service announcement was produced for television and radio, and public forums were held in eight communities to share information about various aspects of this project.

For more information on the Connecticut Racial Profiling Prohibition annual report, go to www ctrp3.org.

Janice Palmer
Award-winning writer, poet, and feminist leader Robin Morgan was the keynote speaker for CCSU’s annual Women’s History Month Luncheon held March 25th at the Student Center’s Alumni Hall. This year’s theme was “Celebrating Women of Character, Courage and Commitment” with Morgan invited by the CCSU Committee for the Concerns of Women because of her prolifically impressive career as an acclaimed poet, novelist, political theorist, feminist activist, journalist, editor, and bestselling author.

Morgan is author of over 20 books, translated into 13 languages, and several renowned anthologies, such as Sisterhood is Powerful (Random House, 1970), Sister is Global ( Doubleday, 1984; updated edition, The Feminist Press, 1996), and her latest offering Sisterhood is Forever: The Women’s Anthology for a New Millennium (Washington Square Press, Simon & Schuster, 2003).

Following the luncheon, Morgan conducted a special free lecture entitled, “A New Sisterhood for the Age of Twitter,” sharing her three decades of experience as a women’s activist and leader in the international women’s movement. Her dedication to contemporary feminism includes key role on several women’s organization boards, both nationally and abroad. She served as president of The Sisterhood Is Global Institute, recently co-founded GlobalSister.org, and has worked closely with dozens of experts in her field, such as co-founding the organization Women’s Media Center with activist Gloria Steinem and actor/activist Jane Fonda.

Morgan is a recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts Prize in Poetry, the Front Page Award for Distinguished Journalism, the Feminist Majority Foundation Award and numerous additional honors. As Ms. editor-in-chief, she reinvented the magazine as an international, award-winning, ad-free bimonthly, before resigning in 1994 to become consulting global editor.

Living in New York City, Morgan embraces her roles as an organizer, lecturer and journalist, traveling across Europe, Australia, Brazil, the Caribbean, Central America, China, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Nepal, New Zealand, Pacific Island nations, the Philippines, and South Africa. One of her initiatives included spending months in Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Syria, West Bank, and Gaza reporting on the conditions of women.

The annual women’s luncheon at CCSU was sponsored by: the Committee for the Concerns of Women, The Ruth Boyea Women’s Center, Women, Gender and Sexualities Studies, and the CCSU History Department.

Professor Al-Masoud Earns Distinguished Engineer of the Year Award

Professor of Engineering Nidal Al-Masoud (left in photo with Peter F. Baumann, chair of the department of engineering) has been awarded the “Distinguished Engineer of the Year” award by the Hartford chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). Presented annually, this tribute acknowledges exemplary achievement and professionalism in the field of engineering. Al-Masoud has a distinguished record of dedicated service within the CCSU School of Engineering and Technology. His vision, careful planning, and development work with colleagues led to the establishment of the mechanical engineering program, the first baccalaureate engineering program in the Connecticut State University System. (Photo courtesy of ASME Hartford Section)
EXTRA CREDIT

College Goal Sunday, the American Savings Foundation-sponsored event to promote high school juniors and seniors completing their financial aid documents, was well-attended by CCSU personnel for the second year.

Assistant directors Carlos Soler and Keri Maynard, counselor Frank Bitetto, and graduate assistant Charlotte Etier all volunteered from the office of recruitment and admissions, as did Director Tom Menditto, Assistant Director Wilma Tynes, and University Assistant Lisette Signorelli-Rodrigues from the TriO-ETS program.

As part of a series of documentaries and discussions on the American Civil Rights movement hosted by the Avon Public Library, Karen Ritzenhoff, professor of communication, Matthew Warshauer, professor of history, and Robbin Smith, professor of political science, each gave lectures and presentations on several films. In addition, Smith moderated a forum on the life of Henrietta Lacks, whose death from cancer in 1951 lead to the development of the vaccine for poliovirus.

Assistant Professor of Engineering Khaled Hammad recently published two articles in the *Japanese Journal of Visualization* and the *ASME Journal of Fluid Engineering*. Hammad has served as a technical reviewer for such journals as *Microfluids and Nanofluids*, and the *Journal of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronauts*.

Business School Adjunct Professor Daniel Purushotham was named a recipient of the 2013 University of Hartford Anchor Award. The award is the most prestigious honor granted by the University of Hartford Alumni Association. It recognizes alumni who have distinguished themselves by achieving the highest levels of professional accomplishments.

Professor of Music Daniel D’Addio (above) was welcomed as a guest conductor of the Hartford Independent Chamber Orchestra for a performance at CCSU’s Founders’ Hall. In addition to teaching at CCSU, D’Addio is an instructor of trumpet at The Hartt School Community Division, directs the Connecticut Youth Symphony, and has performed throughout the nation and Europe.

Assistant Professor of Education Jacob Werblow hosted forums discussing education standards, such as the Common Core and standardized testing. Held in February at the Wilson Branch Library in New Haven and again at CCSU in March, the forums were attended by students, parents, educators and state Rep. Gary Holder-Winfield, D-New Haven.

Of the eight new members inducted into the Connecticut Soccer Hall of Fame this year, CCSU is proud to count an alumnus and a coach. Shaun Green coached the CCSU men’s soccer team for 30 years beginning in 1985, and is credited with pioneering a modern coaching style involving multimedia. Kenneth Pearson ‘83 set new records for both goals and assists for the University, and was a two-time All American, leading the CCSU men’s soccer team to numerous men’s state championships.

CCSU alumnus and assistant coach of the men’s cross country and track team, Sam Alexander ’12, helped lead the USA to victory in the 2014 North American, Central American, and Caribbean Cross Country Championships held in February in Trinidad & Tobago. At CCSU, Alexander won the 2011 Northeast Conference Championship and was a two-time All-NEC choice.

Creative Writing Professor Barry Leeds published his memoir *A Moveable Beast: Scenes from My Life* (AuthorHouseUK, 2014). After a half-century of teaching, Leeds wrote his memoir merging various facets of a full life, including his great love of writers, his passionate writing about love, harsh personal tragedy, and tireless perseverance.

In addition to publishing an essay in the *Potomac Review*, Creative Writing Professor Mary Collins’ artist-in-residence National Park Service project was selected for permanent exhibit at the Petrified Forest National Park. On display at the historic Desert Inn, the “Faces of the Petrified Forest” exhibit celebrates the workers, volunteers and visitors to the park, featuring Collins’ text paired with photographs by Susan McElhinney, a former photographer for *Newsweek* and *National Geographic*.

Professor of English Steve Ostrowski published the novelette *The Beginning of Wisdom* (Lucid Play Publications, 2014).
With a Fall 2015 target date, CCSU is on schedule with plans to build a new on-campus residence hall and food services dining facility. Located at the corner of Harold Lewis Drive and Ella Grasso Boulevard, the new $82.3 million, eight-story, 220,000 square ft. residence hall will keep CCSU in the vanguard of higher education in operations and facilities, said CCSU President Jack Miller, noting its ideal fit into the University’s strategic plan for the recruitment and retention of new students.

“All this is part of our responsible stewardship of state resources to provide a great, educationally supportive campus for our students,” said Miller.

The new residence hall will be the tenth at CCSU, and the largest on any of the four Connecticut state university campuses, according to CCSU Chief Administrative Officer Richard Bachoo. Features include over 600 beds, a 2,000 square foot fitness facility, a kitchenette on each floor, a large kitchen and living room on the main floor, and will house approximately 150 suite-style rooms, each with a living room and bathroom shared by four students. Each floor will also have a computer room, a game room and group study rooms and alcoves for one-on-one studying and socializing.

Plans also call for CCSU Residence Life administrative offices to move into the new facility from its current Barrows Hall location.

Construction will also soon begin on a new food services dining facility located near the north end of campus near the existing residence halls.

“The construction of this food service facility will enable the campus to effectively support the increase of on-campus students,” said project manager Robert LeBaron from CCSU facilities management.

The planned $10.3 million, 22,000 square ft. food services dining facility will include areas for food preparation, serving, and accommodate dining for approximately 1,200 residents.

Renovations are also underway at Willard and DiLoreto Halls. Funded by the CCSU 20/20 program, the $61,085,000 project calls for both Willard and DiLoreto Halls to be completely renovated, including the development of a new main entrance with elevators, bathroom facilities, and additional offices and classroom space.

“Over the long term, with the opening of the new residence hall, we will be able to take older residence halls offline for much needed renovations,” said Miller.

Upgrades to Willard and DiLoreto Halls will also provide for new heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, with the interiors of the buildings also receiving enhanced lighting, computer technology and classroom/office upgrades.

“The construction and renovations ensure a quality environment that promotes learning,” said CCSU Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Sal Cintorino. “These projects complement our academic programs and offer our students the opportunity to experience a safe campus infrastructure that fully supports the needs of their education.”

Geri Radacsi
BUILDING BRIDGES
Between Campus and Community

CCSU Appoints Police Chief and Coordinator of Community Engagement

Call it a homecoming for new CCSU Police Chief Gregory Sneed who brings 30 years of experience to his new position.

“It is truly an honor,” said Sneed, a Bristol resident born and raised in New Britain. “This is such a wonderful department.”

Taking over the reins from interim chief, Lt. Chris Cervoni, Sneed’s experience includes serving as a Middletown police officer and deputy acting chief, with later service at Eastern Connecticut State University. He’s excited to embrace the CCSU opportunity, confident his background and extensive knowledge of the area will serve him well.

“It’s about building new partnerships and building bridges,” he said. “I believe that one part of being a successful chief is to get out from behind my desk and be seen, and talk to people. It’s easy to get locked into your office answering emails, phone calls, dealing with budget issues, etc., but the other part of the job is understanding the community you serve.”

Already an active presence on campus, Sneed says if you’re looking for him, he’s probably the guy in the fedora.

Bridging campus resources and community needs is the passion of Jessica Hernandez, recently named the new coordinator of community engagement at CCSU.

“My areas of expertise are specifically tailored around building on-campus support and interest for community-based outreach initiatives,” said Hernandez, who for the last three years served as senior associate director of equal opportunity programs at Marquette University, overseeing several projects, including a $4.2 million budget for outreach programs and community partnerships. She holds a masters’ in social work as well as a Bachelor's in Urban Studies, both from the University of Connecticut.

“Ms. Hernandez brings to this position a wealth of experience with community outreach in higher education,” said Carl Lovitt, CCSU provost and vice president of academic affairs. “We look to her for leadership in cultivating and facilitating more opportunities for students to engage in community-based projects in their academic courses.”

Kelly McSherry and Will Doemland
Rossomando Named CCSU Football Coach

The Blue Devils will have a new leader patrolling the sidelines this fall as Director of Athletics Paul Schlickmann named Pete Rossomando as the 13th head coach in the history of the CCSU football program.

“I am tremendously excited to join the Central Connecticut athletics family and to help our football program return to the top of the Northeast Conference,” Rossomando said during his Jan. 24th hiring. “President Jack Miller, Paul Schlickmann and I all share the same vision about where this program needs to be on a yearly basis.”

Rossomando spent the last five seasons as head coach at the University of New Haven (UNH), where he was named Liberty Mutual NCAA Division II National Coach of the Year following the 2012 season. He also earned three Northeast-10 Coach of the Year awards at the helm of the Chargers, where he compiled a 42-13 record, two NCAA Playoff appearances and coached numerous all-conference and All-American student-athletes.

Shortly after UNH reinstated its Division II football program after a five-year hiatus, Rossomando was named head coach of the Chargers in December of 2007, rebuilding the team into one of the best Division II programs in the country.

The coach envisions similar success with the Blue Devils. “I believe we can win consistently at CCSU and have a chance to compete for a Northeast Conference title and advance to the NCAA Playoffs each and every season” said Rossomando. “We have everything in place to be successful. I’m looking forward to meeting the players, building my staff and beginning a new era of CCSU football.”

Rossomando brings 20 years of collegiate coaching experience to CCSU. Prior to being named head coach at UNH, Rossomando was an assistant coach at the University at Albany (UA) for seven seasons, serving as associate head coach, offensive coordinator and offensive line coach for his final three seasons with the Great Danes. With Rossomando on the sidelines, UA won three Northeast Conference Championships (2002, 2003, 2007). As a student-athlete, Rossomando played at the FCS level (then I-AA) for Boston University, seeing action on the offensive and defensive lines for the Terriers from 1990-93. He and his wife, Jessica, have three children, Reese, 15, Gianna, 9, and Nicholas, 7.

“My family and I are excited to be Blue Devils,” said Rossomando. “Throughout this process I was impressed with the entire campus and the facilities and direction of the athletics program at CCSU. “This football program has been successful in the past, winning four NEC titles since 2004, and I know we can get back to that level of football,” the coach added. “We have some work ahead of us, but the players that are here are ready to get back to the top of the NEC, and we’re excited to begin that process.”

Tom Pincine

2014 Blue Devils Schedule

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*Northeast Conference Game
President Obama Comes to CCSU

students than anyone else,” he said, referring to previous campus visits by George W. Bush, George H.W. Bush, Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford. “Detrick Gymnasium offered the level of flexibility the White House needed to create an event that would draw media coverage.”

Pointing to CCSU student leaders gathered on the stage behind him, the president quipped about the Student Government Association’s logo. “A gavel and a pitchfork—interesting,” he mused. “I just wish the folks in Congress used the gavel more—less of the pitchfork.”

Obama emphasized the need for Congress to “get onboard,” urging the audience to contact their congressional delegation and let their voices be heard. “It’s time for 10-10 ($10.10). It’s time to give America a raise,” said the president. “It’s not about politics. This is about common sense. It’s about business sense.”

The president built a case for how his “Opportunity” agenda would restore the American dream and return America to the kind of society where “wages and paychecks support a family.”

“Folks at the top are doing better than ever, but average wages have barely budged,” he said. “Too many Americans are working harder than ever just to keep up. Nobody who works full time should ever have to raise a family in poverty. That violates our basic sense of who we are.”

Governor Dannel Malloy agreed, telling the president, “I absolutely believe, as you do, that if you work 40 hours a week, you should not be living in poverty in Connecticut, or in any other of the 50 states in America.”

Before being whisked back to Air Force One,
Q. You’ve said CRRP’s “reliance on simple shapes and color” helps refine your focus and vision. How so?

A. I’m an avid collector of newspaper photographs, particularly those of natural disasters, political events and theatrical productions. I combine the depictions to construct a narrative through an amalgam of imagery. I always thought of the still life as having a sort of narrative to them. The printmaking medium work lends itself well to this narrative. Art has to be formal, in that every painting has to abstract. I actually have never worked in a non-objective way. My work has always been figurative, but at the same time I feel if there isn’t a very strong abstract underpinning for artwork, it’s not going to be successful. Some of my later prints often make you stop and wonder if it’s even a woodcut, or if it’s a silkscreen or watercolor. It’s not absolutely recognizable.

Q. You’ve pointed to the French tradition, modern painting and post-impressionist masters as influential, but what role did being raised in a family of artists play in your artistic development?

A. The idea of having art in your life was probably the biggest influence for me. The idea of observation. Working from life with careful observation was very influential. The abstract expressionism in particular that came out of representational painting was very influential to me as well. The kind of artists who were involved in the process of painting, intuitively painting through ideas.

Q. Wearing multiple hats as an administrator, teacher, and artist, how would you describe your career at CCSU?

A. I love the department, and I love serving it—that’s what motivates me. I’ve had some amazing students over the years. People that I’ve kept up with and been inspired by their work. Skill still impresses students. The biggest push that I put into teaching is observation, to really look at things, to understand spatial relationships, tonal relationships and color relationships. Whatever I’m involved in with my studio, I bring into my teaching.

Keith Hagarty
Dean's List recipients from the 2013-2014 CCSU freshmen class were honored in February at the inaugural CCSU Class of 2017 Academic Honors Celebration. Held in Welte Hall, the inaugural event featured the top 15 students (from the overall 18 percent of the freshmen class who earned a place on the Dean's List) being awarded book scholarships for the Fall 2014 semester. An additional 45 book scholarships were awarded to students based on a random drawing.

Alyana James graduates Magna Cum Laude this spring. In addition to excelling in her courses, she also interned with the New Britain Public Defender's office and with Senator Richard Blumenthal. Her advisor, Excellence in Teaching Award winner and Associate Professor of Political Science Robbin Smith, says, “Alayna is a superb student who reached beyond the classroom to understand the interaction of law, society, and politics.” Alayna credits Smith's role in her success: “Many of the professors here, like Professor Smith, made a huge difference in my life—encouraging me to excel and to get involved.”

Your gift makes such successful student-faculty combinations possible, whether it supports scholarships like those that enabled Alayna’s education, or the academic programs that innovative faculty like Smith use to inspire students to greatness. Please support CCSU today!

“The scholarship support I received at Central helped me realize my passion for learning about politics and the law. I want to make a difference in people’s lives. You can make a difference in students’ lives by giving to the CCSU annual fund!”

— Alayna James ’14, Political Science

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National Public Radio’s (NPR) “All Tech Considered” blog quoted a recent study by CCSU professors Laura Levine, Bradley Waite, and Laura Bowman. The Psychological Science faculty researched the link between media multitasking and impulsiveness. Their study was published in the December 2013 issue of Cyberpsychology, Behavior and Social Networking.

Jerold Duquette, associate professor of political science, was interviewed in late January for a Wall Street Journal article about the Connecticut Republicans who were lining up to run against Governor Dannel Malloy. Voicing his opinion, Duquette said at this point, gubernatorial candidate Tom Foley has the most “institutional advantages.”

At a legislative hearing at the state capitol in February, Jesse Turner, professor of reading & language arts and director of CCSU’s Literacy Center, was interviewed by the New Haven Register about the efforts of the “Save Our Schools” alliance to give parents the right to “opt out” children from taking standardized tests.

Chief Diversity Officer and Title IX Coordinator Rosa Rodriguez was interviewed in February by the New Britain Herald and NBC Connecticut about the Red Flag Campaign and its goal to raise public awareness about the prevalence of dating violence on college campuses.

In March, WFSB’s Scot Haney took a spin at the potter’s wheel while interviewing Professor of Management & Organization Sarah Stookey about April’s Empty Bowls event her students helped orchestrate to raise money for New Britain area homeless. Promoting Hoops for Homeless, Assistant Director of Recreation Liz Urcinas challenged Haney to a game of basketball. Co-organized and co-sponsored by CCSU, the May 3 event featured a 3-on-3 tournament in downtown New Britain to raise money for programs serving the homeless population.

NOTABLE PROGRAMS

Husain Haggani, former ambassador from Pakistan to the United States, spoke on campus regarding “US Pakistan Relations: An Epic History of Misunderstanding.” The Peace Studies Program presented Haggani’s talk and accompanying question and answer period.

In January, “Miss Representation,” a powerful documentary on the media’s portrayal of women and girls was shown on campus. Hosting the panel was Susan Campbell, Robert C. Vance endowed chair in journalism and mass communication at CCSU. Campbell was joined by fellow panelists: Cindy White, CCSU professor of communication. Teresa Younger, executive director of the CT Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, and Mala Matacin, associate professor of psychology at the University of Hartford.

Prism 2014: collage concert featuring CCSU student ensembles was held in February at the Student Center. The ensembles includes wind ensemble, university singers, Sinfonietta and chamber ensembles. The concert was hosted by The Carol A. Ammon School of Arts and Sciences Department of Music.

Honoring the year of the horse, the Chinese Culture Center hosted the 2014 Chinese New Year Gala Celebration featuring a variety of music, dance performances, and martial arts demonstrations. Joining the festivities and addressing the audience were CCSU President Jack Miller and Chinese Culture Center President Songdong Tian.

The Fiedorczyk Lecture presented “What Polonia Thinks: Polish American Press, its Readers and their Letters” by Dr. Anna D. Jaroszynska-Kirchmann. The on-campus event honored the 40th Anniversary of the S.A. Blejwas Endowed Chair of Polish Studies Program.

Acclaimed Nepalese bilingual poet Yuyutsu RD Sharma performed at CCSU in February in the Marcus White Living Room. The event was free and open to the public.

Fourteen students from the CCSU Department of Communication were inducted into the Lambda Pi Eta Honor Society on March 13, 2014. The ceremony featured guest speaker Glynis Fitzgerald, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Justin Slater, chapter president, and Christopher Pudlinksi, faculty advisor. This year’s inductees met the National Communication Association standards by achieving an overall GPA of 3.0 with at least 60 credits and a GPA of 3.25 in at least 12 credits of communication courses.