How do you see yourself at CCSU? Peering through his camera lens, Communication major Adam Tulloch says it’s all about perspective. “I’ve found it has little to do with the things you see, and everything to do with the way you view them,” says the lead videographer of Central’s “See Yourself at CCSU” student recruitment marketing campaign.

Reaching out to high school students across the state, “See Yourself at CCSU” is making history as Central’s first student-led, University-wide student recruitment marketing campaign, with CCSU students: shooting, acting, and editing two 30-second television commercials; and producing a series of original social media, design and billboard advertisements displayed on I-84, I-91, exterior and interior CT Transit buses, and kiosks in Westfarms, Buckland Hills, and Stamford Town Center malls.

In tandem with ongoing efforts by the Office of Recruitment and Admissions, the campaign has already contributed to a 6 percent increase in Central’s undergraduate admissions applications.

“See Yourself at CCSU” is not the product of a public relations firm or slick ad agency. It’s homegrown.

“This plan has been built by our very best resources on this campus—our students,” says President Jack Miller, assembling top students across a variety of majors to serve on and promote the $150,000 marketing campaign.

“I am constantly amazed at the ability of our students,” says Miller, regularly meeting for progress reports with students and team advisor, Mark McLaughlin, associate vice president of Marketing and Communications.

“I wanted to hear from them, our students,” says Miller, “what they thought prospective students would want to know about CCSU.”

Making Airwaves
Aired during the peak season for prospective students to apply to college, the first commercial developed for the dual-horned television ad campaign emphasizes CCSU’s rich academic experience, challenging prospective students to “Earn Your Horns.”

“We used the tagline of ‘Earn Your Horns’ to give prospective students a feeling of working towards something,” says marketing major Haily Beem, serving as co-project manager with Therese Marceynas ’14 (BA, Communication).

Inspired by Miller’s challenge to think outside the box, the team’s second commercial promotes Central’s diversity, featuring its most valuable commodity: a passionately proud student body.

“As a result of our own studies with our target audience, we saw they yearned for a great college campus life,” says Tulloch. “A high school senior’s academics are important, but their experience is just as important. With that fact, we decided to

continued on page 3
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1 Through the Lens of the Student Marketing Campaign
4 Ebenezer D. Bassett
A Man of Firsts
5 Brian Sarkozy ’11
Global Recruiting
6 Navigating a Hashtag World
7 2014-2015 URCAD Winners
8 Oscar Perdomo
Ahead of the Curve
9 A. Pablo Iannone
Global Perspective Philosophy
10 The Arts
12 Bond Between Scholars & Donors
13 Honoring Central’s 40-Year Polish Studies Program
14 Physical Education & Human Performance
16 Community Rx
17 Colonial Era Meets Digital Age
18 The Magic of Physics
20 Bridging the Gap of Income Inequality
21 ITBD Director Named “Job Corps Hero”

DEPARTMENTS
19 Campus News
24 Alumni News
25 In The News
26 Extra Credit
27 Notable Programs

Published by CCSU’s Office of Marketing & Communications
www.ccsu.edu/courier

CORRECTIONS
In CCSU Courier, September-October 2014:

• “Donors Making a Difference”: misidentified the Carol Ammon Scholarship Fund and the Anthony and Helen Bichum Scholarship Fund.

• “A New Era in CCSU STEM Education”: Four disciplines — Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math — were consolidated into the newly renamed School of Engineering, Science and Technology, along with the transfer of the departments of Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Geological Science, Mathematical Science, and Physics & Engineering Physics (formerly of the Carol A. Ammon School of Arts and Sciences, now known as the Carol A. Ammon College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences).

• “Confucius Institute Brings Global Opportunities”: Lead photo (l-r) CCSU President Jack Miller and Professor Zhixiao Shang, Chair of University Council of Shandong Normal University.
 capital on the joy of being a Blue Devil.”

Aired nightly, the “See Yourself at CCSU” TV ad blitz quickly became a familiar sight on Comedy Central, ESPN, MTV, Nickelodeon, Toon, VH1, and TBS.

**Mirror, Mirror**

While drawing on presentations by Central’s Director of Admissions Larry Hall, and media representatives, the student campaign was afforded the freedom to develop and implement their own ideas.

“When the 12 of us originally got together to design this advertising campaign, we quickly learned about all of our diverse opinions, which led us to learn we were once part of the larger target market of high school seniors choosing their future college,” says Communication major Teena Parameswaran.

“Taking all these different opinions and putting them together seemed easy at first, but by the second day, this proved to be a challenge,” she adds. “How could we take all of our opinions and boil them down to just one campaign?”

With limited professional experience and no shortage of opinions, the team stepped back to dissect the crucial question: why CCSU?

“Initially we stuck to the main reasons: affordability, location, and overall excellence,” says Parameswaran. “Under further examination, we realized that this project was a reflection of why we’re here, which is to broaden our experience, meet new people, and excel not only inside, but also outside of the classroom.”

**All Together Now: Team-Based Applied Learning**

Brainstorming sessions proved to be one of Breem’s most rewarding aspects of the entire campaign.

“I think that was a dream I always had of sitting around with a bunch of people just coming up with ideas,” she says of the team-building process. “It was really great to have everybody put out different ideas, and work together on them—you can have an idea, but when you can fully explain it, and connect it, that’s when you know...”
Ebenezer D. Bassett  
A Man of Firsts  
Celebrating Alumnu’s Inspiring Legacy


Hundreds joined the 181st birthday celebration for Ebenezer D. Bassett, a pioneering alumnus who in 1853 made history as the first African American graduate of the New Britain Normal School (CCSU’s founding institution), establishing himself as a noted educator, influential activist, and the nation’s first African American diplomat as the minister resident to Haiti.

Bassett was truly a man of firsts, says Associate Counselor in Student Wellness Services William Fothergill, chairperson of the Ebenezer D. Bassett Memorial Committee.

“His life reveals hope in a time of institutional racism, bigotry, discrimination, and inequality,” says Fothergill. “Bassett appeared fully embraced and accepted for his humanity, not solely based on the color of his skin. Not only African American students can gain from the life and legacy of Mr. Bassett. His life is a testament to all people.”

Gathering in the Student Center Alumni Circle, October’s first annual Ebenezer Don Carlos Bassett Memorial Celebration commemorated his inspiring influence still reverberating throughout the Central community over 150 years later. Organized by Fothergill and Administrative Coordinator of Anthropology Janet Woodruff, the event featured a series of proclamations from University, and state and local officials.

Bassett’s life, according to Fothergill, is best exemplified by five principles: scholarship, education, diplomacy, human rights (justice), and character.

“Not only have these ideals framed Mr. Bassett’s legacy, but they also exist as areas where he committed himself to life causes,” says Fothergill. “His life demonstrated that who we are should be reflected in everything we do. He was not only a professional man, but he was a respected husband, father, and friend.”

Admired for his humility, tenacity, and commitment to social justice, Bassett maintained a longtime, close friendship with famed abolitionist leader and social reformer Frederick Douglass.

“It’s important that our students learn about the life of an individual who overcame the barriers of his time,” says Fothergill. “Mr. Bassett’s life emphasizes the importance and relevance of education—he never stopped being an educator, and he never stopped advocating for the disenfranchised. He is the model of a scholarly man of integrity.”

With the support of President Jack Miller, the committee made the push to have Ebenezer D. Bassett Day adopted as an annual campus and community-wide event.

“We are looking to partner with every facet of the campus in order to showcase one of our prominent alumni, and the first African American admitted and graduated from our institution,” says Fothergill, whose ongoing research supports the claim that Bassett was the first African American in the state of Connecticut to graduate college in a degree program.

“The fact that Bassett was the first in so many areas of his life should make us proud because he belongs to us—not Yale, Wesleyan, or Trinity,” says Fothergill.

Bassett’s commemoration was organized by a 14-member committee, featuring members of the Art, Anthropology and History departments, the office of Student Wellness Services, Center for Africana Studies, and Burritt Library. Additional sponsors include: Department of History, Department of Anthropology, Man Enough Support Initiative, Center for Africana Studies, Office of Institutional Advancement, CCSU Alumni Association, and CCSU Foundation, Inc.

— Keith Hagarty
Brian Sarkozy ’11
Global Recruiting With Central Pride and Passion

During the 19th century, people from the Marshall Islands, or Marshallese, were regarded as some of the best navigators in the world.

“Their GPS was the stars, the birds, and the waves,” says Brian Sarkozy ’11.

Difficult to find on a map, over 8,000 miles away with a population of roughly 60,000, the tiny, picturesque Polynesian island plays a central role in Sarkozy’s journey as a teacher, mentor — and CCSU ambassador: recruiting Central’s first enrolled Marshallese students.

Forgoing birds or waves, the Simsbury resident, and teacher of mathematics at Sports and Medical Sciences Academy in Hartford, credits CCSU for giving him the guidance and tools to stamp his passport to success.

Island Dreaming
As an undergraduate, Sarkozy was drawn to Central’s Center for International Education (CIE), embracing the opportunity to travel to foreign destinations, like Ireland and Jamaica. A four-week, humanitarian trip to Ecuador prior to CCSU, his first travels outside of the US, instilled a desire to see the world. As graduation neared, Sarkozy yearned for more, looking into international teaching opportunities via TeachAbroad.org.

“I was looking for countries that had the word ‘island’ in it,” he says with a grin. “Then I was looking for jobs that were specifically for math or social studies. Most of the jobs are to teach English as a second language, but I really wanted to try to get experience in my field.”

Offering the chance to teach social studies, math, and science, a high school in the Marshall Islands capital city of Majuro perfectly matched his job search criteria.

“Just surreal,” says Sarkozy, feeling right at home with the island’s laidback, tropical lifestyle. “It’s so incredibly small. You could basically throw a rock across one side of the island to the other.”

Small in size. Big in heart.

“People are much more willing to stop and have a conversation there,” he says, describing his daily wardrobe as little more than sandals, shorts, shirt, and a smile. “What made the transition easy is just the people out there. There’s so much love and concern. Such welcoming people.”

Coming to America
As Central’s first ever Marshallese students, Henry Jikko O’Brien and Alan Keoni Murphy embody the warmth and determination of their island nation, Sarkozy says of his former high school pupils.

“I knew they were strong students. I knew they could succeed. They just needed help, and a push in the right direction,” he says.

Alumnus: Brian Sarkozy
Hometown: Simsbury, CT
Year Graduated: 2011
CCSU Degree: BA, Mathematics (minor in History)
Occupation: Mathematics teacher at Sports and Medical Sciences Academy, Hartford, CT
Globe Trotter: Taught math and social sciences for three years in Marshall Islands; recruited two of his students to become the first Marshallese students to ever attend CCSU.
Quote: “If I’m going somewhere—I’m going to go big.”

continued on page 22
Be persistent. Be unique. Be diversified. Be a difference-maker. Be a successful social media professional—one tweet at a time.

Held in November at Marcus White Hall, the Department of Journalism’s inaugural social media panel invited four alumni to discuss their career tracks, evolving trends, unexpected pitfalls, and opportunities awaiting the next crop of candidates joining the emerging field of social media.

Serving as panel moderator, Assistant Professor of Journalism Darren Sweeney ’98, says social media has grown exponentially from the early days of simple status postings on Facebook and amusing tweets.

“Five years ago, we didn’t think we’d ever be gathering here, talking about our graduates, either a) realizing social media in their jobs, or b) having a job where that is their job,” says Sweeney. “We’re at the point now where we’re developing classes and courses on mobile journalism that incorporate social media.”

Students from Sweeney’s Web Journalism class (JOU 385) attended the panel forum, live blogging and tweeting the day’s events. The impetus for the panel, according to Sweeney, came from journalism students’ constant inquiries about the explosion of social media job and internship opportunities.

“The jobs are out there, and they’re exciting,” says Sweeney. “The cool thing about it is you’re utilizing your journalism background, and utilizing social media, putting it all together and making it work.”

As a social media editor for Education World (in the Educators Network) and Banzinga.com, Jason Papallo ’11 (BA, Journalism) says to gain an advantage in the competitive job market, students should familiarize themselves with the technical aspects of social media.

“Learn to code, and learn how to do all of those things,” says Papallo, who also serves as content manager and generator. “A big reason I get to do editorial work is because I’m good with content management systems (CMS). Learning CMS, like Drupal, is going to be very valuable to you, as well working with a spreadsheet and being good with numbers. It’s all going to be very important.”

While the field often requires a tech-oriented approach to marketing and journalism, Papallo says the human element cannot be overlooked.

“Making connections is definitely a positive,” he adds. “Keeping in good contact with people is definitely the way to go in this industry.”

Getting your foot in the door comes from perseverance and portfolio development, adds Amanda Cicatelli ’10 (BA, Communication), social media strategist at the Institute for International Research (IRR) in New York City.

“When I graduated in 2010, it was still a tough job market,” says Cicatelli, who began the first two years of her career as an executive assistant at a recruiting agency, with additional freelance writing assignments for Patch.com. She now directs digital and social media strategies for large-scale events worldwide, overseeing and managing the content for 30 social media communities.

“That helped me get into the industry full-time, along with Central and all of the experience I had here,” she says, “where I was the news editor for The Recorder, and did numerous internships.”

She eventually became web editor for Technology Marketing, Inc., writing about 30 stories per week for the Norwalk-based corporation.

“My job there was basically writing content all day, every day,” she says. “My main goal was to drive traffic back to the website through really high quality content.”

As the marketing and community relations manager for the New Britain Rockcats, Brianna Bruno ’14 (BA, Journalism) oversees the minor league baseball team’s social media platforms, community events, and e-newsletter generation and distribution.

continued on page 11
With topics as varied as exploring gender roles in the pages of classic Hemingway novels, examining remote archeological Swiss rockbed formations, or even tapping into new, innovative mathematical teaching methodologies, the 2014-15 Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day (URCAD) senior prize winners share a passion for discovery.

“While we had many outstanding entries this fall, these students exemplify CCSU undergraduate research in their respective fields,” says Professor of English Aimee Pozorski, faculty coordinator of the CCSU Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Program (URCAP).

URCAP at CCSU encompasses the Undergraduate Research Senior Awards, Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day (URCAD), and the Alumni Travel Program. URCAD is a campus-wide showcase for student research and creative activities. The program is open to students graduating in either Fall 2014 or 2015 who have worked on an independent research or creative project under the supervision of a CCSU faculty member.

Announced on December 1, awards were given in each of the traditional academic areas of Arts & Humanities; Business; Education and Professional Studies; Social and Behavioral Sciences; and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. The entries were judged on such criteria as originality of research, endorsement of faculty mentors, and attention to the research method of their respective disciplines. This year’s senior prize winners are:


- **Allison Bramande**, Arts and Humanities (faculty advisor - Melissa Mentzer, 19th-Century American Literature); oral presentation: “The Woman Also Rises: Gender Reconsidered in the Work of Ernest Hemingway”

- **Erin Drennan**, School of Business (faculty advisor - Drew Harris, Business and Sustainability); oral presentation: “Entrepreneurial Research: The Effect of Trust on Investor Decision Making for New Ventures”

- **Elizabeth Harwood**, Social and Behavioral Sciences (faculty advisor - Fiona Pearson, Sociology); oral presentation: “Superwoman Ideology: Exploring the Tension Between Agency and Its Constraints”

- **Olga Mironchik**, School of Education (faculty advisor - Robin Kalder, Mathematical Sciences); poster presentation: “The Flipped Classroom: A Case Study”

Winners receive a cash award and a trip to present their research at the 29th Annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) at Eastern Washington University, April 16-18, 2015, before showcasing their work at CCSU’s 17th Annual Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day, May 1, 2015.

Pozorski applauds the senior prize winners, their faculty mentors, and all of the participating student entries, further crediting Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Carl Lovitt, Professor of Bioinorganic Chemistry Barry Westcott (previous URCAP coordinator), and Administrative Assistant for Academic Affairs Susan Matterazzo for their ongoing support throughout the process.
In his seventh year at CCSU, Associate Professor of Mathematics Oscar Perdomo has authored over 30 publications and presented more than 30 talks to colleges and universities across the country. Born and raised in Colombia, Perdomo has embraced Central’s receptive, welcoming community, citing his rewarding relationship with colleagues in “an excellent, friendly environment.” His most recent accomplishment is the discovery of a new mathematical technique, known as the Treadmill-Sled, used for solving highly difficult differential equations.

Courier. How did you discover the Treadmill-Sled, and why is it named as such?
Perdomo. I discovered the Treadmill-Sled by trying to solve a differential equation that provides the profile curve of surfaces with constant mean curvature. Surfaces with constant mean curvature can be thought of as surfaces that divide two regions of gasses with different pressures. A sphere is the basic example. The name Treadmill-Sled is due to the fact that we can construct the curve \( C_2 \) with a procedure where the curve \( C_1 \) is placed on a hypothetical treadmill.

Courier. How did it feel when your colleague Professor Bennett Palmer (Idaho State University) called the Treadmill-Sled a “groundbreaking” discovery?
Perdomo. The feeling is satisfaction. Solving differential equations is a very important and difficult task. The Treadmill-Sled notion has created a new technique to try to solve differential equations. So far I have used it in three publications—two in the Pacific Journal of Mathematics, and one in the Bulletin of the Brazilian Mathematical Society. Two of these papers were in collaboration with Palmer. Sometimes, when I come back to see the differential equation that I have stared at for several months, I get a feeling of disbelief to realize that the differential equation that looked extremely hard to solve, did indeed have an exact solution using the Treadmill-Sled technique.

Courier. What challenges have you faced when applying the Treadmill-Sled?
Perdomo. By Newton’s second law of physics, in order to find a trajectory of a motion, we need to solve a differential equation, which in general is a difficult task. With this in mind, a trajectory given by a curve \( C_1 \) is obtained by solving the differential equation. The big deal about the notion of Treadmill-Sled is that sometimes solving the differential equation that produces the curve \( C_2 \)—The Treadmill-Sled of \( C_1 \)—is easier than solving the differential equation that produces \( C_1 \).

Courier. What are some of your other research initiatives?
Perdomo. I am very proud of the research during my sabbatical leave. I have found new periodic solutions of the n-body problem. After posting one of my results in ArXiv in this problem, and posting YouTube videos explaining the result, I was recently invited to Brigham Young University in Utah to give a talk.

Courier. Have you always been interested in the field of mathematics?
Perdomo. I have been a mathematician for a long time, even before I knew mathematics was something I could study at a university. When I was in the eighth grade, I used to spend several hours trying to find a formula to solve a cubic equation. Let me explain this better: an equation like \( x+3=5 \) has solution \( x=2 \) and can always be easily solved. This equation is called linear. The equation
A. Pablo Iannone
A Global Perspective Philosophy

A professor of Philosophy at Central for 31 years, A. Pablo Iannone has spent a lifetime asking questions, establishing himself as a leading authority on philosophical dilemmas facing our rapidly evolving global landscape.

Author of 13 books, Iannone is nearing completion of two additional books: Inquiry and Imagination: Philosophical Issues in Practical and Theoretical Thinking and Practical Environmental Ethics. He is also working on an upcoming edited volume of the International Journal of Technoethics, entitled Globalization Issues, including articles contributed by scholars and practitioners from the US, United Kingdom, and Argentina.

According to Iannone, his latest book, Seeking Balance: Philosophical Issues in Globalization and Policy Making (Transaction Publishers, 2014) attempts to “describe ways of attaining some balance, e.g., a modicum of environmental stability, while preserving sound economic, technological, political, and cultural conditions, in the midst of characteristically unstable processes, e.g., forms of development disruptive of environments, cultures, political life, and a technologically improved future.”

Courier. In Seeking Balance, you view globalization as a consequence of economic, political, technological, and cultural changes. Why these four predominant factors?

Iannone. Some of the reasons are simply dialectical: It helps contrast my position with those advanced by recent writers on globalization whose discussions treat globalization as if it resulted primarily from just one or two of those kinds of factors. Other reasons are taxonomical: those four kinds of factors arguably cover any other kinds of factors that might plausibly be involved in centrally contributing to globalization. For example, I use the term “cultural” widely, so that the expression “cultural factors” covers more specific factors, like artistic movements, aesthetic attitudes about the environment, and religious beliefs. Admittedly, some people might prefer to emphasize some of these more specific factors, e.g., religious beliefs, instead of simply classifying them as cultural. However, treating them simply as cultural, serves the purpose of understanding the kinds of factors that centrally contribute to globalization, and constitute a simpler, yet accurate taxonomy.

Courier. Do these four factors ever conflict?

Iannone. The kinds of factors involved in these cases are often in tension—even conflict with other factors of the same kinds—producing jigsaw-like dynamic developments, at times favoring globalization, at other times doing the opposite. That is, globalization processes are not fated to occur. Rather, they do or do not occur partly as the result of a changing convergence of the said kinds of factors that at one time further the processes, at other times hinder them. That is, they are characteristically unstable, out of balance. This destabilizes the lives of many, if not all, groups and individuals involved in those processes. Yet, in order to flourish, or at least overcome the situation they face, they need to infuse some balance into the processes. Hence the book’s title: Seeking Balance.

Name: A. Pablo Iannone
Title: Professor of Philosophy
Born: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Author: 13 books (11 in philosophy; two in literature)
CCSU Courses: Introduction to Philosophy, Introduction to Logic, Environmental Ethics, Ethical Theory, Ethical Problems in Business, Ethical Problems in Technology, Philosophy of Social Science, The Classical Pragmatists, and Philosophy through Literature
Education: University of Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Engineering, Exact and Natural Sciences, and Philosophy and Letters; University of California, Los Angeles, BA, Philosophy; University of Wisconsin-Madison, MA, PhD, Philosophy
Words To Live By: “The proof of the pudding is in the eating.”

continued on page 23
A Glimpse “Through the Eyes of Richard Welling”

Cities are in a constant state of motion. Construction and demolition feed hope, sentimentality and progress. Connecticut artist Richard Welling spent a lifetime chronicling the flow of urban energy. Highlighting his talents as an illustrator and fine artist, the Department of Art’s exhibited collection, “Through the Eyes of Richard Welling” (displayed October-November) showcase works from the Connecticut Historical Society’s newly acquired Richard Welling Collection, including paintings, linoleum prints, and mixed media drawings.

The exhibited collection was provided courtesy of Welling’s family, who attended the opening reception in Maloney Hall of the CCSU Art Gallery. The artist’s illustrations adeptly capture the period of Hartford’s urban renewal in the 1960s and 1970s, depicting a sense of space through the use of line and media, says Associate Professor of Art Cassandra Broadus-Garcia.

“He had an exhilarating feeling every time he walked through it,” says Broadus-Garcia. Born in Hartford, Welling (1926-2009) lived in Connecticut nearly his entire life, attending the Yale School of Fine Arts and the Parsons School of Design in New York City, before working as a commercial artist at the Charles Brunelle Company in Hartford.

Despite being color-blind, Welling refused to allow his disability to dictate his fate. “He kept this a secret until the word got out,” says Broadus-Garcia. “He then used his colorblindness to help teach his students.”

Known for his use of contoured lines and strict attention to detail, Welling’s work also stepped beyond Connecticut’s borders, finding inspiration from Manhattan’s street scenes, panoramic views, and architectural icons, such as the Queensboro Bridge, World Trade Center, and countless skyline staples.

He donated 14 of his drawings to the New York Historical Society, exhibited on the one-year anniversary of the September 11, 2001 tragedy. The drawings depict a series of Welling’s firsthand observations over multiple construction phases of the World Trade Center (1968-72). Other notable series of drawings featuring major on-site construction projects, include the Travelers Plaza building, Hartford National Bank building, Hartford Insurance Group, Hartford Coliseum Space Frame, 1 State Street, and the Hartford YMCA.

— Keith Hagarty and Jenna D’Amico ’15

A Woodcut Above the Rest

Showcasing her mastery of the color reduction relief printmaking process, Professor of Art Rachel Siporin presented “Color Woodcuts” this fall at the Bowery Gallery in New York City.

Inspired by investigating personal narratives, Siporin’s solo exhibition includes images of bathers by the shore, singers under the spotlight, and figures against the backdrop of natural disasters.

“I construct a narrative through an amalgam of imagery,” she says, explaining her artistic process. “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.”

Recently celebrating her 30-year anniversary at Central, the lifelong painter discovered the color reduction relief printmaking just four years ago. Her woodcuts have been featured in the 3rd Annual Connecticut Printmakers Invitational at Akes Gallery, Eastern Connecticut State University, and a solo exhibition at the Alexey von Schlippe Gallery of Art at University of Connecticut, Avery Point.

— Keith Hagarty
STUDENT MARKETING CAMPAIGN

EARN YOUR HORNs continued from page 3

you’ve really reached it.”

Overseeing the campaign’s media relations, Public Relations major Jenna D’Amico called the experience an “incredible opportunity.”

“A group of strangers came together and had to come to a consensus about our messages and goals,” says D’Amico. “I don’t think there’s a better way to learn about succeeding in the workplace.”

Other “See Yourself at CCSU” student recruitment marketing team members include: Marketing majors Michael Morin, Dave Brant, Brian Friedman, and Van Bui; Psychology majors Alison Boober and Fatima Mian; and Graphic Design major Angelina Ventura.

— Keith Hagarty

Navigating a Hastag World continued from page 6

“Social media is getting bigger and bigger every day,” says Bruno, noting its rapid rise as a promotional vehicle. “When people are involved with what you’re doing, and they’re seeing what’s going on, that’s one of our biggest ways of promoting.

“Word gets out so quick,” she adds while taking a snapshot of the panel audience to instantly post to the Rockcats’ Facebook page.

Working three years as a local beat reporter for The Record-Journal, Andrew Rigali ’12 (BA, Journalism) stresses the importance of adding social media and multimedia elements into his stories. Starting each day by checking the latest news, notes, and trends across social media, Rigali extols its potential for story generation and community outreach efforts. Newspapers, he adds, now use social media analytics to determine key audience demographics and usage, which help determine future coverage priorities.

“If we see that a lot of people have some interest in a story, we’ll follow up on it,” he says. “If people aren’t as interested in a story, we may leave it aside, and maybe follow up on it later.”

Success in social media is fueled by a diversification of work skills, with panelists emphasizing the importance of being equal parts writer, editor, photographer, and videographer.

“A picture is truly worth a thousand words,” says Bruno.

When conducting a job search, Cicatelli also encourages applicants to use LinkedIn, saying the professional social media platform has become a powerful tool for employment.

“It’s becoming a really big platform for recruiters looking for the right candidate,” she says. “You just have to make sure you put everything you’ve done onto your LinkedIn profile, and make sure it’s robust. Put all your links to articles you’ve written, any videos you’ve created, or anything like that.”

It’s about reaching key influencers, says Papallo, pushing out content to reach new audiences and untapped market segments.

“One retweet in front of the right audience could be a big followership bump for you, and a big engagement bump for you,” he says.

You must enjoy what you do, says Cicatelli, encouraging students to lean on their strong academic foundation developed at CCSU.

“You have the specialty that not everyone has,” she tells students. “It’s been a really great experience so far. I’m very lucky to take what I’ve learned and love to do—writing and social media—and do that every day in my job. Some people go to work and may say: yeah, I like my job. But I really like my job, and I’m very thankful to have it.”
DONORS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Bond Between Scholars and Donors

Making a difference in students’ lives, the University held its 3rd annual Scholars and Donors reception, connecting scholarship recipients with the generous donors helping to make their academic dreams a reality. The fall gala has grown into an annual, spotlight event, with over 200 student scholarship recipients on hand, embracing the opportunity to express their appreciation and gratitude with dozens of donors and representatives of the endowed fund.

“Your gifts, and the gifts of others, enhance our students’ education and enable their success in classrooms, and later in life,” says Chris Galligan, CCSU vice president for Institutional Advancement.

As of 2014, total student scholarship support reached $1,014,722. Emphasizing student scholarship programs, the endowment helps defray educational costs, with a total of 451 students receiving 537 awards (some receiving multiple awards). The generosity of donor financial support can often be the deciding factor shaping student success, making educational pursuits possible, while providing critical time allocation resources to excel in their studies, or advance knowledge through contribution in scholarly research.

Created in 1971, CCSU Foundation, Inc. solicits private contributions to benefit and enrich the student educational experience. Through the foundation’s Campaign for CCSUccess, funds are allocated in five major program areas: scholarships, institutional enrichment, academic enrichment, research, and unrestricted (disbursed according to the terms of the donation).

As of June 30, 2014, 4,462 donors (2,756 of which were alumni) built the value of the endowment up to $60,797,221. Total alumni gifts reached $454,979, highlighted by $111,110 for Athletics, and another $112,515 for International Study.

With 85 percent of Central alumni remaining in Connecticut post-graduation, student success feels right at home. “Whether you contribute to give back to the institution that has helped you achieve success, or out of pride for our nationally respected institution, your gift makes our students’ success possible,” says Galligan.

For more information about the CCSU Foundation, Campaign for CCSUccess, and how you can make a difference in students’ lives, visit www.ccsu.edu.giving, or (860) 832-1740.

Scholarship highlights include:

- 22 recipients awarded $198,973 via the Travelers Edge Scholarship.
- 15 recipients awarded $88,162 via the Pratt & Whitney Quality Engineering Leadership Scholarship.
- 16 recipients awarded $25,000 via the Carol A. Ammon Scholarship for the School of Arts & Sciences.
- 43 recipients awarded $50,863 via the Anthony and Helen G. Bichum Scholarship for the School of Engineering, Science & Technology.
- 32 recipients awarded $27,500 via the CCSU Alumni Association Scholarship, benefitting children and grandchildren of Central alumni or its predecessor institutions.
- 18 recipients awarded $22,500 via the Foundation Scholars merit-based program.
- 31 recipients awarded $16,700 via the Education Support Services Scholarship, benefitting minority or economically disadvantaged or educationally underprivileged students.

— Keith Hagarty

Generosity and appreciation converge at the 3rd annual Scholars and Donors reception, bringing together hundreds of scholarship recipients with their benefactors, such as students in the School of Engineering, Science & Technology, recipients of the Anthony and Helen G. Bichum Scholarship: (l-r) Ashley Gould, Matthew Moody, Daniel Ofosu and Brittney Therrien; with Dr. Faris A. Malhas, Dean of the School of Engineering, Science & Technology (back, second to left) and donor and fund representative Paul Gianaris ’70 (front, second to left).
Honoring Central’s 40-Year Polish Studies Program

Honored for cultivating four decades of cultural pride and the advancement of the Polish American community, the Polish and Polish American Studies Program at CCSU was awarded the Amicus Poloniae Award. The Republic of Poland presents the annual award to US citizens and organizations contributing to the development of Polish-American relations and promotion of their homeland in America.

With nearly 20 percent of Central’s neighboring New Britain population being of Polish descent (US Census, 2000), the Polish and Polish American Studies Program continues to serve CCSU students and the broader central Connecticut community for over 40 years. The program’s mission is to interpret and offer perspectives on historic developments in Poland and Eastern Europe that transformed global politics and human rights during the fourth quarter of the 20th century.

Presenting a series of awards at CSSU’s Polish Studies 40th Anniversary Gala in October, Poland Ambassador to the US Ryszard Schnepf recognized Central’s program for its ongoing promotion of Polish cultural awareness. The ambassador conferred the Bene Merito Award to longtime supporters and generous contributors to the program since its inception: CCSU Foundation Assistant Treasurer Nicholas Pettinico, Jr., Michael A. Peszke, and Alex and Regina Rudewicz.

Established in 2009, the award recognizes individuals dedicated to promoting Poland abroad. Pettinico’s 30-year career of selfless service perfectly encapsulates the meaning behind the honorary distinction, says Mieczysław B. Biskupski, the Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair of the Polish and Polish American Studies at CCSU.

“Few Poles, let alone non-Poles, have for so long served with such distinction in the cause of the promotion of Poland to the American community,” says Biskupski.

Pettinico is the “irreplaceable link” between the Blejwas Chair for Polish Studies and the University, according to Biskupski, applauding his ongoing commitment as an advisor of program activities and community affairs, and superintendent of the Copernicus Fund, the monetary base of the program.

“He is always there as a guardian of the program’s mission and quality,” Biskupski adds. “He is our colleague, our mentor, and of all Poles—our friend.”

With a minor in Polish Studies, the Polish and Polish American Studies at CCSU offers courses in history, politics, culture, literature and language; and sponsors a series of programs, lectures, cultural events, exhibitions, recitals, concerts, and literary evenings. Housed in the Elihu Burritt Library, The Polish Heritage Collection contains over 21,000 catalogued books, periodicals, and supplemental course offerings. To learn more about the program, visit www.ccsu.edu/polishstudies.

— Keith Hagarty
Physical Education & Human Performance

Body and Mind as One

Offering programs in physical education, exercise science and athletic training, the department of Physical Education and Human Performance (PEHP) prepares fitness and sports medicine’s new generation of leaders, educators, and trainers.

Administered within the School of Education & Professional Studies, the department offers undergraduate degree programs in: Athletic Training (BS) and Exercise Science (BS); an undergraduate teacher certification program in Physical Education (BS, Ed); and two Masters degree programs in Physical Education with specialization in Exercise Science (MS), and Physical Education with specialization in Teaching Physical Education (MS, for certified teachers). The CCSU Dance program (minor) is the only one recognized by the state of Connecticut for teaching certification; also providing a dance cross-endorsement.

Pumping Up the Charts
With 225 students and growing, the BS in Exercise Science is quickly becoming the department’s fastest rising degree program.

“When I first started here, we had maybe 50 undergraduate student majors in Exercise Science, if we were lucky,” says Department Chair Kimberly T. Kostelis. “The changes in the fitness industry, as well as everybody’s awareness of health and wellness, I think have definitely helped our major.”

Prior to 2013, students earned their degree as Physical Education with Exercise Science and Health Promotion concentrations. The program’s new flexible format and growth potential has been key.

“Students who graduate with an Exercise Science degree can go in a lot of different directions,” Kostelis explains. “If they don’t want to pursue graduate school, they can immediately become certified exercise physiologists, but for a lot of them, they are preparing for graduate school in exercise science or allied health professions, whether it be in physical therapy, physicians assistant, cardiac rehab, nursing, strength and conditioning, or even going on to obtain their PhD.”

Put Down The Whistle
As the field of physical education and human performance evolves, so does the need to adapt to increasingly changing state and federal guidelines, particularly in the Physical Education (PE) program.

“We’re preparing our students who want to be certified PE teachers, and try to give them the best training possible,” Kostells says, noting the program’s expanded academic requirements. “We want students aware of some of the Common Core State Standards Initiatives changes, and some of the changes in teacher evaluations—because they’re going to be out there as teachers being evaluated quite differently than teachers were even a year or two ago.”

A common misconception students entering the PE program often have is that it’s going to be easy fun, just learning about sports. The reality is far more academically demanding.

“A lot of people think you’re just a gym teacher, or you’re there to play games,” says Kostelis. “They question why they have to take all of these science classes and understand the anatomy of the body, as well as more of the functional movements of the body—the whole kinesiology aspect.”

Carl F. Krein Training Facility
As one of the largest athletic training center’s in the Northeast Conference (NEC), the Carl F. Krein Athletic Training Facility has approximately 9,000 visits each year, offering student athletes a variety of quality care services, including: treatment of sports-related injuries, wound management, orthopedic evaluations, and general health services and medical assessments.

“It’s a gorgeous facility,” says Head Athletic Trainer Kathy Pirog ’81 (BS, Physical Education). “Its function is to service the student athletes, to give them a wonderful facility, but also make it an ideal educational setting for the athletic training students.”

Program alumni have gone on to pursue careers in medicine, athletic training, physical therapy, nursing, and physician assistant. As sports training and medical treatments evolve, so must the Athletic Training program, says Pirog, citing a dramatic shift in the field, most
DEPARTMENT PROFILE

BOD POD:
Cutting-Edge Body Assessment

Notably advancements in orthopedic surgery, as well as a heightened awareness of head injuries and concussion-related symptoms.

“It needed to happen because it’s two different roles,” Pirog says of the line between teaching and medicine. “For instance, if you’re going on to become a physical education teacher, you have to learn all of the sports and skills. But now as an athletic trainer, it’s all about medicine. We’re truly in a medicine profession.”

Membership Has its Privileges

With more than 50,000 members and certified professionals, the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) is the largest sports medicine and exercise organization in the world, serving as the professional home for scientists, physicians, educators, allied health specialists, and more.

Serving as president of the ACSM’s New England chapter (one of ACSM’s 12 regional chapters), Associate Professor Sean Walsh says the role has been one of the most professionally rewarding aspects of his career.

“As an educator, it allows me to network with other regional, national, and international leaders and experts in all areas of Exercise Science and Sports Medicine,” he says. “It’s also allowed me to bring my experiences with NEACSM back into the CCSU classroom to share with my students.”

Professional Involvement is Contagious.

“In the fall of 2006—my first semester here at Central—I presented my doctoral work at the annual NEACSM fall meeting, and two students from CCSU attended the meeting,” he says. “The following year, 15 students attended, and the year after that, 25 students, and since about 2010, 50-plus students from our Exercise Science and Athletic Training programs have attended the annual fall conference each year.”

One of Walsh’s final roles as president will be chairing the NEACSM’s annual spring conference “Celebrating Excellence and Leadership in Exercise Science and Sports Medicine: Past, Present, & Future,” March 26 at Alumni Hall in the Student Center.

With three additional faculty members recently nominated for CCSU’s Excellence in Teaching Awards, the department continues to develop success on three core building blocks: aptitude, determination, and compassion.

“Our faculty really makes the difference,” says Kostelis. “They’re very hands-on and provide a lot of lab experience, as well as practical, career-driven experience and guidance.”

— Keith Hagarty

Located in the Blue Devil Fitness Assessment Center (Exercise Physiology Lab, Kaiser Hall), Bod Pod testing takes approximately 30 minutes, with body composition report results detailing: percent of body fat, percent of fat free mass, overall body mass, volume, and body density. Body composition assessments are run by the PEHP, with sessions available by appointment for $75 ($50 for subsequent visits within one year).

In addition to the Bod Pod, the center offers several options for screening measurements and body fat assessment, such as VO2 testing and anaerobic testing, utilizing a Wingate computerized stationary bicycle.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact Dr. Kostelis at kostelisk@ccsu.edu.
Community Rx
CCSU Nursing Students Provide Care at New Britain Clinic

On New Britain’s Main Street, a handwritten sign attached to a weathered, wooden stand reads: “FREE Health Screening and Blood Pressure Checks” signed with a smiley face by CCSU Nursing, and an arrow pointing to the adjacent health clinic. For hundreds of New Britain residents without proper health coverage or medical care, this simple invitation can be a lifesaver.

Providing free health screenings and preventative care to those in need, each year approximately 40 students and faculty from the Department of Nursing participate in two 10-week clinical sessions at the Community Health Center of New Britain.

“We have a unique nursing program with small class sizes, and a variety of clinical experiences for our students,” says Assistant Professor of Nursing Heather Hamilton. “Here at the New Britain clinic, they actually get to see the continuity of patient care.”

Diagnosis: Outreach
Housed in the School of Education & Professional Studies, the Department of Nursing offers two undergraduate programs: a traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing for Registered Nurses (RN/BSN). CCSU RN/BSN students staff the facility during the fall semesters, while CCSU BSN students handle spring semester duties.

Staffed by two nursing students, a faculty supervisor, and a graduate intern from the CCSU Office of Community Engagement, clinical sessions provide weekly care for about a dozen walk-in clients, the majority of which are low-income, unemployed, or homeless.

“We have patients who repeatedly come in every week,” says Hamilton. “Others may pass by just once or twice.”

With no client background medical records to review, nursing students must be able to quickly adapt, assess and provide care, being cognizant of several common ailments often associated with the clinic’s clientele, such as diabetes, hypertension, and health problems related to obesity.

“Before they walk in, we have no knowledge of them at all,” says RN/BSN student Jane Ventrell, a 12-year head nurse for the Department of Corrections, New Haven. “It’s almost like a MASH trauma unit.”

Depending on services rendered, a typical client assessment can last anywhere from 10 minutes to over an hour, with students providing basic nursing care, health screenings, wellness check-ups, and promoting preventative education, such as providing materials and resources on ways to stop smoking, maintain a healthy body weight, diabetes awareness, and warning signs.

“Our nursing students are well experienced, and excellent at teaching, and providing the level of service members of this community need,” says Hamilton.

Homecoming
Raised in New Britain, RN/BSN student and seven-year registered nurse Kelly Demetro says there’s nothing better than coming home with a helping hand.

“I do have that warm and fuzzy feeling being back in New Britain again,” she says. “I really like being in the community still—you don’t just leave that behind.”

Half the battle when providing care, according to Demetro, is simply informing and educating clients, or helping them to help themselves.

“One of the biggest challenges is they often don’t know what resources are available,” she says.

Whether providing care in a clinic, doctor’s office, or hospital, it’s all about building personal connections.

“You treat them with respect,” says Demetro. “You want them to know that you’re here to help them.”

— Keith Hagarty
Colonial Era Meets Digital Age
Historic Student-Museum Software Campaign

When an 18th-century museum embraces technology, history comes alive.

For their Fall 2014 semester project, Professor of Computer Science Stanislav Kurkovsky’s senior Software Engineering class (CS 410) worked with Stanley Whitman House to develop a new historical digital mapping software to be adopted into the museum’s website, Digital Farmington.

Tracing virtual, historical footsteps, the project required teams of students to work with an external customer. The goal, according to Kurkovsky, chair of the department of Computer Science, was to challenge students to apply the software developmental process into a final, deliverable product that meets customer requirements and satisfaction—under budget, and on time.

“Students are acquiring all of these skills and knowledge,” he says. “It ties it all together, looking primarily at the real world perspective.”

Digital Footprints
Providing a firsthand glimpse of Colonial American life, Farmington’s national historic landmark museum takes visitors back in time through its variety of experiential learning campaigns, living history program, tours, galleries, period gardens, and grounds.

“Our idea is to allow viewers to see how Farmington has changed over time by looking at a (digital) map that changes as you move the timeline,” says Professor of History Katherine Hermes, “from 1600 to the present day.”

Dedicated to the history of human captivity, the museum’s incorporation of the students’ digital map provides visitors with an interactive presentation of Farmington’s growth.

“To the side (of the screen) is a list of points of interest in several categories,” Hermes says, describing the digital mapping software interface. “People can observe changes in the natural landscape, development of businesses and trades, the growth and decline of slavery, the occurrences of epidemics, and so on.”

And the Winners Are …
Pointing to key features, such as its user interface, sliding timeline, and picture gallery potential, museum officials chose the winning software entry designed by graduate students Chad Tower, Sweta Mishra, and Trung Phung.

“As you go to different periods in time, the historical map will change to relate to that time,” says Tower, presenting a hands-on demonstration. “It’s a context-sensitive display.”

Regularly meeting throughout the project with Hermes and Stanley Whitman House Museum Executive Director Lisa Johnson, teams presented their software entries to a focus group of museum volunteers, independent historians, and board members. All entries were based on the same set of museum needs, requirements and preferences. However, how they developed and implemented their original software designs was entirely up to them.

“The map is the center feature,” Hermes adds. “We wanted the site to have a historic feel with a contemporary interface.”

Progress occurs when history, technology, and curiosity converge.

“I actually did do a little bit of historical research on my own, only because I’m curious to a fault,” Tower says, pointing to his team’s programming emphasis. “Most of our time was spent staring at the ones and zeroes on the screen. Curious, for sure, but we’re programmers to the core.”

Historic Possibilities
The winning software is currently being integrated into the museum website, Digital Farmington, which was developed with two purposes in mind.

“Primarily, it’s a website that’s going to be a tool for future research classes that Dr. Hermes is going to teach,” says Johnson. “Secondarily, it’s going to be a tool for researchers of all ages to learn about Farmington from a variety of viewpoints.”

Hermes’ history students will be populating the map with points of interest, based on class research projects.

“This semester we are studying Colonial Farmington, so we’ll be populating the map with small pox epidemics, Connecticut loyalists, like Moses Dunbar in the American Revolution, taverns, legal cases, women criminals, schools for colonists and Native Americans, and farming developments,” says Hermes. “In the summer, a new class will start populating up to the Antebellum Era, and in the fall, we’ll start doing the Gilded Age.”

— Keith Hagarty
The Magic of Physics

There’s science in magic, and magic in science.

Presenting scientific lessons with a flair for the dramatic, faculty and students from the Department of Physics & Engineering Physics welcomed 70 high school students to campus in November for CCSU’s Physics Day. Featuring a series of interactive workshops, the department’s inaugural event offered a front row seat to the wonders of physics, such as witnessing the power of magnetic levitation, or the eye-popping display of liquid nitrogen pennies and flowers shattered into thousands of pieces.

“Many of these experiments look like magic, but there are simple physics principles behind each ‘magic’ trick,” says Assistant Professor of Physics and Earth Sciences Anton Naumov. “For example, flowers consist mostly of water that turns into ice when frozen. Combined with liquid nitrogen, they can shatter just like ice. Students were amazed watching a clear liquid boiling in a kettle, only to find that its vapor was very cold.”

Coordinated by Naumov as an outreach to local high school students (New Britain High School and Nathan Hale High School), Physics Day was held under the direction of Department of Physics and Earth Sciences Chair Peter Lemaire; and facilitated by Professors of Physics and Earth Sciences Sadanand Nanjundiah, Nimmi Sharma, Luisito Tongson, and Rahul Singhal (Naugatuck Valley Community College).

With an extensive and rewarding array of career opportunities available to graduates with a degree in Physics or Engineering Physics, Lemaire says the event highlights physic’s pivotal role in society.

“Physics Day gives us the opportunity to showcase the great resources and excellent educational options CCSU has to offer,” says Lemaire. “We want to show what makes CCSU the college of choice, promoting our department’s new and exciting programs, such as our BS in Engineering Physics with concentrations in Aerospace, Photonics, Robotics & Mechatronics, and Materials, as well as our BS in Physics with concentrations in Biology, Biomolecular Sciences, and Finance.”

Participating in a series of physics-related activities, students created colorful liquid nitrogen ice cream confections, stood in awe watching atmospheric pressure crush metallic cans, and witnessed ultraviolet rays illuminate their drawings in the dark.

“Glow in the dark paper exhibits fluorescence when excited by ultraviolet light, just like the dial of some watches: you have to hold them under the sun, so they will glow in the dark,” Naumov explains.

“That is how students were able to write their names and draw pictures on the glow in the dark paper with ultraviolet laser pointers.”

Connecting high school students with CCSU Physics majors provides a wealth of engagement opportunities to learn about the field, investigate career opportunities, academic expectations, and gain an understanding and appreciation of life at CCSU. The department credits CCSU students, including Nick Lombardo, Jake Atkins, Hannah Hocutt, Caleb Maloney, Matthew Robinson, Michael Narijauskas and Remington Carle for their ongoing contributions.

“This was a fun and exciting event that we plan to do annually,” says Naumov. “We hope to interest some of the visiting students to consider coming to CCSU and pursue their undergraduate dreams in physics and affiliated areas of science, mathematics, and engineering.”

— Keith Hagarty
“Most Amazing” National Honor for Student Center

Central Connecticut State University’s Student Center is considered among the best in the US, according to Best College Values, a nationwide ranking service and college planning resource.

Their list of the “30 Most Amazing College Unions and Campus Centers” places CCSU #25, among prominent, heavyweight institutions, such as Cornell University, the Ohio State University, and the University of Nebraska.

Architecture and exterior appeal were the heaviest weighted factors in the evaluation, with a student center’s interior design, student services, contributions to student life, history, and tradition also considered.

“To receive this recognition as we celebrate our 50th anniversary is fantastic news,” says Center Director Otis Mamed, managing a dedicated staff of seven overseeing the Center’s full slate of events.

“Our Student Center serves as the living room of the campus for both resident and commuter students,” he adds. “This is where a necessary part of the college experience takes place. It’s more than just a hangout or entertainment venue, it’s a learning hub, too. We employ up to 60 students who learn about responsibility and other skills essential to succeed and thrive in the workplace.”

A brick and copper facade wraps the three-floor, 84,000 square foot building. Inside are lounges and study areas, offices and meeting rooms for student clubs and organizations, a food court, bookstore, mail services, game room, and student-staffed information desk.

“Student Unions are meant to be the hub of campus culture, which makes them a valuable resource for prospective students to understand the school they may attend,” article author, Kevin Shull, states when describing the ranking parameters. “An amazing student union not only serves as a beautiful landmark, but as a representation of the school’s attention to detail, and desire to make the school a place that students feel comfortable and can connect.”

— Janice Palmer

Crunching Numbers and Packing Heat

Finance, taxes—and firearms? Not the typical job description one thinks of when contemplating a career with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). However, after the hands-on experience shared by CCSU’s accounting students through the Adrian Project, they can now add IRS special agent as an intriguing, new career possibility.

Conducted annually at university campuses nationwide, the federal department’s Adrian Project is a special agent training program designed to open students’ eyes to alternative career possibilities in the field of accounting.

Returning to campus for the November event were Central alumni Robert LaBounty ’88 (BS, Accounting), special agent and program coordinator, and Amy Hosney ’89 (BS, Finance), special agent and public relations officer.

“Fall of ’86, I started exploring the co-op possibilities and I eventually got hired for the civil side of the IRS my spring semester,” says LaBounty. “After graduation, I worked in the examination division doing audits for over eight years. I then saw a posting, and got the job on the investigative side of the IRS as a special agent for the past 19 years and counting.”

With an early start to their day, 24 students were divided into four groups to participate in a series of interactive scenarios, such as: how to handle someone filing a false tax return; small business embezzlement; drug enforcement; a case of stolen identity; and perhaps the day’s most popular activity, a firearms computer simulation.

Through the simulation, students “wired up,” taking aim at a projection screen with a mock gun, playing out a virtual scenario, and seeing firsthand all the various factors involved in taking down the bad guys.

“Decide whether or not it’s a shoot situation, or a not-shoot situation,” says IRS Special Agent Richard Murray, (pictured, hat) advising the eager students.

Through the Adrian Project, students gained a rare opportunity to interact with special agents who were once sitting in their seats. Suddenly, accounting seems far more action-packed than Tax Day alone.

— Sintia Arelus ’15
CENTRAL ISSUES

Bridging the Gap of Income Inequality

Is the old adage true? Do the rich get richer, while the poor get poorer? Just one of the questions posed during Central’s Bridging the Gap event, a campus public forum highlighting issues of income inequality.

“Until we see better emphasis on helping people, and closing these inequality gaps, we’re going to end up having the same results,” said keynote speaker Douglas Hall, executive director of the National Priorities Project (NPP). With the motto of being the “people’s guide to the federal budget,” NPP specializes in using research development and data analysis to improve and inform public politics.

“We need to challenge the status quo,” Hall added, “because the status quo is hugely powerful and intentional.”

Bridging the Gap was a semester-long culmination coordinated by graduate and undergraduate students, examining both the long- and short-term consequences of income inequality. Held in December at the Constitution Room in Memorial Hall, the event featured an assortment of student projects (photographs, written pieces, and short films) reflecting various aspects of personal economic issues.

“It was a project that had been lingering out there for a while,” says Assistant Professor of Communication Ismael Lopez Medel. “I thought it would be a great opportunity for students to get hands-on experience.”

Divided into teams, students were tasked with creating an event name, overall setting, and informative activity. Some of the presentations included a series of short, heart-wrenching documentaries filmed by students from the classes of Professors of Communication Karen Ritzenhoff and Susan Campbell, who also serves as the Robert C. Vance Chair in Journalism and Mass Communication.

“This pioneering program about income inequality resonated deeply with our students because it hit so close to home,” says Ritzenhoff. “We listened to each others’ stories and then crafted video projects around people we knew, filling this abstract topic with concrete experiences. It was a tremendously gratifying, enriching, and moving project.”

Facing their own personal obstacles, the film imparts an underlying message of perseverance and determination.

“For some people, housing has never been an issue, and they’ve always had a warm and cozy house to call home. For others, the covers of a bridge or park bench are what they call home.”

— Barbara Gunterman (“Wealth and Income Inequality” blog)

In their short film American Poverty, students Spencer Raccio and Emily Bergeron shared their mutual struggle of attending college while facing financial difficulties with no family members to turn to.

“Our project set out to show the updated definition of what it’s like to live in poverty in the US,” says Raccio. “The notion of what it means to live in or near total poverty in our country is different for each person. It’s such a complex issue that any one person could have a different opinion for different reasons.”

“Poverty isn’t always something people can see,” says Bergeron. “There are everyday people who are going through their own struggles that may not show on the surface. Sharing our stories with so many people showed that it’s okay if you’re a ‘normal’ person going through some hard times — you aren’t alone.”

For Campbell’s Writing for Electronic Media course, student Barbara Gunterman wrote a series of blogs (www.inequality.comm.ccsu.edu) focusing on issues of social reformation and wealth disparity.

“It was quite eye-opening and inspiring,” says Gunterman, who has worked in the financial sector for the past 18 years. “I’ve helped people with very low income and very high income. Everyone manages money differently. The hardest part is denying a loan to someone that you know needs it, but won’t be able to repay it.

“Someone on the cusp of losing their home, shopping at the cheapest stores, making cuts on their wants and needs just to survive.

“The course ignited a spark within me to help make a change—a social change,” adds Gunterman, a volunteer for Hartford’s Point in Time Count - The CT Coalition to End Homelessness.

Education and awareness can help bridge the gap between our society’s haves and have-nots, according to Hall.

“Inequality is not something that occurs because of some magical source,” he said. “Inequality in this country has been strategically and very intentionally orchestrated. It’s being orchestrated by some very powerful interests.”

— Keith Hagarty and Sintia Arelus ’15
ITBD Director Named “Job Corps Hero”

Mullins, an HJCA executive board member, was honored for his ongoing support and promotion of student educational efforts and training through the CCSU/HJCA engagement partnership related to the Neighborhood Assistance Act.

Assistant Director of Admissions Carlos Soler ’04 was also awarded the HJCA “Outstanding Community Partner Award for Advanced Career Training.”

“Working with the Hartford Job Corps staff and students has been a very positive and rewarding experience,” says Mullins, calling it both an honor and a humbling recognition.

HJCA CEO and CCSU alumnus Tami Schweikert ’95 served as master of ceremony for the February festivities, which featured 150 attendees from business, industry, government and education. VIP attendees included US Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), US Senator Christopher Murphy (D-CT) State Representative: Brandon McGee (D), 5th District, and CT Department of Labor Commissioner Sharon Palmer.

Addressing students attending the ceremony, Mullins stressed the importance of education and development, saying success is often achieved through a combination of hard work, discipline, loyalty and commitment.

“Our students are the leaders of tomorrow—the future workforce,” says Mullins, describing them as “the role models of the generations behind them.”

For more information about ITBD and its services, visit www.itbd.ccsu.edu, or call (860) 832-0700. For additional information about HJCA, visit www.hartford.jobcorps.gov.
Now in their second semester, Murphy and O’Brien attend CCSU through the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Scholarship program. With no Marshallese students in the state of Connecticut, Sarkozy encouraged them to expand their boundaries, offering the universal selling point for any teen.

“Independence,” O’Brien says with a big smile. “Complete independence! Go for it!”

The easy part? Encouraging them to apply to his alma mater.

“I really love this school,” says Sarkozy, emphasizing CCSU’s supportive faculty and nurturing community. “It’s a relatively diverse population here, and the CIE program is huge.”

The tough part? Acclimating to the rigors of college while your family and friends are halfway across the globe.

“Academically it can be challenging, but I feel like that’s how it is for any freshman, whether you’re from Connecticut, or from somewhere across the world,” says Sarkozy. “They’re getting used to it, and figuring out what they have to do to succeed.”

Academic Guide

Serving as an academic guide and American cultural liaison, Sarkozy meets with O’Brien and Murphy every weekend to offer some comforts of home, take sightseeing field trips, and monitor their ongoing progress, both in and out of the classroom.

“They’re pretty grounded,” Sarkozy says. “They’ve done a really good job with remaining true to who they are.”

Difference-Maker

Both O’Brien and Murphy feel they would’ve been lost—figuratively and literally—had it not been for Sarkozy.

“It’s amazing,” says O’Brien. “He’s not a parent, but he’s there to guide us, taking us in for Thanksgiving and Christmas. It’s like he’s family here. He really helps us with moral support, and keeping us on track.”

Wherever life leads, Sarkozy lets his heart be his GPS.

“I really wanted to go there, and try to make a difference,” he says of his three-year Marshall Island adventure. “I feel like any amount of time isn’t enough until it’s complete. With these guys, three years with them was great, but I want to see them succeed, get their degrees at CCSU, and actually start making a difference in their own community.”

— Keith Hagarty
Oscar Perdomo continued from page 6

x^2 + x - 2 = 0 has solution x = 1 and x = -2. There is a formula that solves this type of equations known as the quadratic formula. An equation similar to the equation x^3 + x^2 + x - 2 = 0 is known as a cubic equation. I was very curious to find a formula that solved this type of equation, and I spent several hours a week over several years trying to find the solution of this equation. Even though I never came up with the formula, I discovered some other math results. I learned to love doing mathematics.

Courier. Sounds like you still get that same math-centric rush today.

Perdomo. When I see someone solving a Sudoku or a similar math-oriented puzzle, I realize that I am getting the same satisfaction when I think about a math problem, with the plus that when I finish solving the problem, I am contributing to a better understanding of science.

Courier. Do you have any advice for students looking to follow in your footsteps, or embark in the field of mathematics?

Perdomo. The main advice is try to understand everything quite thoroughly, especially the basic things. If you want to use a concept, it will be okay to just learn it, but if you want to improve it, or discover something similar or better, just learning is not enough, you need to perfectly understand everything that is behind the concept.

— Keith Hagarty

A. Pablo Iannone continued from page 9

Courier. What attracts you to the field of philosophy?

Iannone. I have been interested in philosophy before I knew what philosophy was; but the road that finally led me to it was quite circuitous. My first clear encounter with philosophy happened at the age of 13, when at catholic school, I had to write a paper. The paper I submitted questioned the divinity of Jesus Christ. After doing this, I was sure I would be expelled from the school. The next time the class met, the teacher started by calling my name. I stood up, ready to be sent to the principal’s office. The teacher asked me: What are you going to study? In response, I said what I believed: engineering. Yet, the teacher replied: no, you'll study philosophy, and asked me to sit down.

Courier. How did your interest in science and technology manifest into a lifelong dedication to the study of philosophy?

Iannone. It led me to pursue engineering studies for a couple of years in my country of origin, Argentina, where I also studied mathematics. This led me to be interested in the foundations of mathematics, hence to study logic, hence, also philosophy. These changes led my family to suspect that I was never going to graduate.

Courier. After leaving Argentina for the United States in 1967 (citing political upheaval), how did your studies help shape your career path?

Iannone. While at UCLA, I had numerous discussions with students about scientific and technological developments current at the time (from the 1966 cracking of the genetic code for 20 amino acids, through changes in US agricultural practices, to the growing use of motor vehicles in transportation). My major was philosophy; but my interests were, as they had been in the past and arguably still are, somewhat divided: my honors minor was Latin American studies. Soon after receiving a BA in philosophy in 1969, I started graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (MA/PhD). My areas of study reflected my interests in philosophy and technology as much as the available areas of study permitted—ethics, philosophy of science and, as a non-philosophical area, history of science. I pursued all of these with a significantly pragmatic focus. In fact, my logic teacher once quipped that I was trying to find my way back into engineering.

Courier. How did your multi-faceted academic aspirations converge?

Iannone. I received my PhD in 1975 and, before I left to teach as an assistant professor in Texas, my dissertation advisor asked me, “And now what?” I replied that I was particularly interested in problems of application. The opportunity to do this presented itself when I was invited to teach an environmental ethics course for the Department of Philosophy and Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison during the summer of 1977. In connection with that course, I started formally pursuing research on ethical aspects of technology and related areas of practical and theoretical ethics. And I never stopped.

Courier. Why CCSU for over three decades?

Iannone. CCSU has supported my research in many ways. First, for two years since my arrival, the Department of Philosophy’s library funds were exclusively spent on book and journals within my areas of expertise. Second, university research grants became available and I was able to take advantage of them. Third, I received other grants to gain access to the Yale libraries’ resources. Also, an important intrinsic reason was that I found CCSU students’ background familiar: like many of them, I was the first member of a family to attend college. And when I made clear that I expected their performance to accord with high professional standards, many of them came through.

To view the extended Q&A with Dr. A. Pablo Iannone, visit www.ccsu.edu/courier

— Keith Hagarty
ALUMNI NEWS

The Connecticut Section PGA (Professional Golfers’ Association of America) presented its President’s Award to Kyle T. Hedstrom ’00 (pictured), head golf professional at Stanley Courses in New Britain.

Awarded annually each fall, the honor reflects Hedstrom’s individual contributions to further enhance the standing of the PGA within the community, and his ongoing efforts to support the Connecticut Section PGA Foundation. A golf pro at Stanley Courses for 11 years, Hedstrom’s initiatives include: coordinating a 100-hole golf marathon for the past eight years, raising more than $10,000 for the foundation, and hosting the Travelers Championship PGA TOUR Player Clinics for junior golfers.

Three-time All-American golfer Shawn Baker ’85 will be competing in the 2015 Senior PGA Tournament, May 19-24. The 76th annual tourney takes place in French Lick, Indiana, on Pete Dye Course. Baker, who turned pro at the age of 30, previously won the CT state amateur title five times, and the New England amateur title in 1989. Baker will compete against legendary golfers, including Tom Watson, Fred Couples, Kenny Perry, Colin Montgomerie, Davis Love III, and Vijay Singh.

Sarah Bellefleur ’01, a strategic project professional at SCAN Health Plan, has been named one of ten healthcare executives nationwide participating in the second cohort of Practice Change Leaders for Aging and Health. The national program is designed to develop, support, and expand the influence of organizational leaders committed to achieving transformative improvements in the care for older adults. Bellefleur, of Huntington Beach, California, was selected from a highly competitive pool of applicants, each holding leadership roles in healthcare delivery organizations or community-based organizations impacting elder care.

Jeremy Jordan ’09 was profiled in The Daily Voice for the opening of Muse Paintbar in Norwalk. Jordan is manager and resident artist of the establishment, which provides a unique and creative nightlife alternative by combining painting instruction with a restaurant and bar atmosphere.

The image of alumnus Ebenezer D. Bassett 1853 could soon be immortalized across the country as Congresswoman Rosa L. DeLauro (D-3rd district) introduced the Ambassador Ebenezer D. Bassett Commemorative Stamp Act, calling for the creation of a stamp to honor the nation’s first African American diplomat (Ambassador to Haiti, 1869) and native son of Derby.

Speaking in her capacity as director of the Luddy/Taylor Connecticut Tobacco Museum, Brianna Dunlap ’13 recently appeared as a special guest panelist on WNPR News’ Colin McEnroe Show to discuss the historical perspective and influence of tobacco farming in Connecticut over a century ago.

Kristine Garofalo ’13 has been named principal of Nayaug Elementary School in South Glastonbury. Earning her sixth-year degree in Educational Leadership at CCSU, Garofalo had previously served as assistant principal for the Hartford magnet school, Capitol Region Education Council’s Discovery Academy.

Olympic Steel, Inc., a leading national metals service center, announced the promotion of Gerry Phillips ’79 to general manager of the company’s facility in Milford. Phillips has been with Olympic Steel since 1992, where, prior to his recent promotion, he served as materials manager.

IN OTHER ALUMNI NEWS:

After more than 30 years of civil service, Mary Finnegan ’70 announced her retirement as senior administrator for the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly. The committee has jurisdiction over all state matters relating to finance, revenue, capital bonding, fees, and taxation. During her tenure, Finnegan’s support functions included overseeing billions of dollars in financing for municipal schools, colleges, and universities, as well as roads/highway funding, and major capital projects.

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IN THE NEWS

Professor of English Robert M. Dowling was featured in several publications (state and nationwide), including The Washington Post, for his internationally acclaimed biographical work Eugene O’Neill: A Life in Four Acts (Yale University Press, 2014). According to the publisher, Dowling’s biography fully captures the intimacies of the playwright’s turbulent life and the profound impact of his work on American drama. By innovatively recounting O’Neill’s life in four acts, Dowling demonstrates how O’Neill’s stories for the stage complementary interweave through his own organic life, uncovering how his stories intertwine with, and were galvanized by, the culture and history of his time. Dowling has authored several books and articles on the legendary American playwright (including “Was the Unabomber a Eugene O’Neill Fan?” recently published in The Daily Beast); is a featured speaker; a member of the editorial board, Eugene O’Neill Review; and actively serves on the board of directors for the Eugene O’Neill Society.

IN OTHER NEWS:

Directed by Professor of Music Drew Collins, CCSU’s University Singers took center stage during the “Holiday Wishes” special produced by FOXCT. Appearing by special invitation, the singers put their own unique a cappella twist on several timeless holiday classics, including “Jingle Bells,” “Lo-How a Rose Eer Blooming,” and their signature R&B spin on “Deck the Halls.” Student performers included: Grace Chattin, Sierra Manning, Kaitlyn D. Passons, Samantha Peck, Corinne Prudente, Claire Wheeler, Michelle Gara, Mary Gorry, Anna Hilbie, Alexa Jacobs, Marney Pollack, Michael Hughes, Antonio La Rosa, Alexander O’Neil, Ethan Sadoian, Andrew Sayasith, Kevin Schneider, Andrew Choi, Ray Jackson, Michael Leona, Keanii Muñoz, Brendan Sunshine, Kendall Swan, and Brandon Useforge.

Seniors Dillon Milardo (Fine Arts) and Dave Ambrose (Accounting) were featured in the Middletown Press for their entrepreneurial mojo and fashion savvy. Through a unique combination of talent and charisma, Milardo, of Middletown, created the unisex clothing line, First Twelve Clothing, Main Street, blending his love of fashion and design to help stamp his hometown as a burgeoning fashion-forward hub. Home to their e-commerce business, firsttwelveclothing.com accepts orders and provides for domestic and international shipping. In addition, the clothing line has already sold designs to retailers in Hong Kong, Detroit, and SoHo, New York.

Students from Assistant Professor of Economics Nara Mijid’s class, Gender and the Economy, were featured in the New Britain Herald for turning theoretical practices into real-life business. Studying several area small businesses (several of which were former CCSU Institute of Technology and Business Development incubators or members of the state-sponsored Disadvantaged Business Enterprises) students interviewed proprietors and presented their findings in the hopes of understanding what makes a business a success in a tumultuous economic landscape.

Calling higher education “a privilege and gift to be shared,” student Oliver Ward (Communication) was awarded the Student-Veteran Excellence Award during Central’s Veterans Day ceremony. Featured in the New Haven Register, Ward, a Vietnam veteran from New Haven, says upon completion of his undergraduate degree, he plans to continue his studies towards an advanced degree at CCSU. He hopes to become an English language teacher and return to Vietnam as both an educator and goodwill ambassador. Ward embarked to Vietnam in 1967 as a private in the US Army, serving with the 268th Combat Aviation Battalion and the 129th Assault Helicopter Company.

President Jack Miller (left) honors Oliver Ward with the 2014 Student-Veteran Excellence Award.
EXTRA CREDIT

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L. McCullough Award at the National Association of Student Activities (NACA) Northeast conference in Hartford. The Donald L. McCullough Award is NACA’s highest honor, bestowed each fall to an individual who dedicates his or her time and talent to contribute significantly to NACA Northeast and the field of student activities.

Presenting his talk “Archaeological Odysseys: 50 Archaeological Sites in America Everyone Should Visit,” Professor of Anthropology kenneth feder was the featured speaker at the Archaeological Institute of America conference in November at Trinity College, Hartford.

In the Nov. 2014 edition of Inc. magazine, Professor of Finance joseph farhat teamed up with fellow researchers for the article “The New Startup Math,” presenting their findings on success rates, challenges, and overall outlook facing privately owned startup companies.

Associate Professor of Political Science jerold duquette was cited as an expert political commentator in the USA Today for their coverage and analysis of the Massachusetts’ state senate election.

Associate Professor of Anthropology warren perry was guest speaker at the Derby Historical Society Thanksgiving reception. As director of the Africana Studies Archeology Lab at CCSU, Perry discussed his findings at the Freeman site, the former Derby home of Black Governor Roswell Freeman. First appearing in Massachusetts in the 18th century, before coming to Rhode Island and Connecticut, the formation of the Office of Black Governor was intended to serve as a means of mediation between the white establishment and black communities.

Professor Emeritus of Psychology laura levine recently co-authored the textbook Child Development from Infancy to Adolescence: An Active Learning Approach (SAGE Publications, Inc., 2015) with Joyce Munsch of California State University Northridge. Written in two editions, the authors’ debut textbook is presented as a chronological approach to child development, taking readers through stages (chapters), such as Infancy, Early Childhood, Cognitive Development, Emotional Development, etc.

Assistant Professor of Economics nara mijid presented her paper “Student Effort and Learning Outcomes in Introductory Microeconomics Course” at the 2015 American Economic Association Annual Conference in Boston, Massachusetts.

Associate Professor of Teacher Education barbara clark authored Hearts and Minds Without Fear: Unmasking the Sacred in Teacher Preparation (Information Age Publishing, 2014), recently selected as the inaugural book for Information Age Publishing’s new series of contemporary research from The Center For PAInT Series on Arts-Integrated Education. Clark’s book is the first of its kind to focus on the critical urgency of integrating creativity, mindfulness, and compassion into teacher preparation, placing social and ecological justice at the forefront.
Responding to concerns over the deadly Ebola epidemic, CCSU held a “Conversation on the Ebola Virus Disease” to inform, educate, and attempt to curb the spread of rumors, and misinformation. CCSU Director of Health Services Christopher Diamond moderated a panel, featuring: Fumilayo Showers (pictured), assistant professor of Sociology at CCSU; Peter Kyem, professor of Geography at CCSU; Adia Benton, assistant professor of Anthropology at Brown University; and John Nwangwu, MD, assistant clinical professor of Medicine at Southern Connecticut State University and Yale University.

Topics discussed at the November forum included: the genesis of the disease, risk factors at home and abroad, and media coverage and responsibility. While the media has communicated Ebola-related risk factors, Showers, believes they may also fuel public tension by presenting broad generalizations of affected regions of Africa, essentially lumping them all together.

“The media often overdramatizes and frames the crisis in a somewhat negative way,” says Showers. “The media talks about Africa as if it is just one place, instead of talking about the small, affected places in comparison to its large geography.”

Additional Notable Programs:
Offering a helping hand to those less fortunate, students from Professor of Management and Organization Daniel Miller’s Management class participated in Homeless Connect. Hosted in November by the YMCA of New Britain, Homeless Connect provides over a hundred of the city’s destitute with a variety of free services, including health and dental screenings, warm clothing, haircuts, personal hygiene supplies, and a welcome meal. Students Michael Stengel, Courtney Margavich, Nicolas Collins were the team behind the event, with a total of 21 students donating their time and services, under the supervision of Miller and CCSU Coordinator of Community Engagement Jessica Hernandez. The annual event is made possible through a partnership with the Mayor’s Work Plan to End Homelessness in New Britain, with additional financial assistance from Webster Bank.

CCSU Art Galleries presented Art Educators 2014 in December, showcasing the original artworks of graduating students: Rachel Berube, Michael Bucci, Leah Coloske, Kaitlin Kudziel, Taylor LePage, Anna Mastropolo, Maxine Pelligr, Kylen Perrone, Alex Strongin, Elizabeth Uryase, and Michelle Wingreen.

The Connecticut Poetry Circuit presented acclaimed poet and memoirist Brian Turner for a discussion in the Marcus White Living Room. Turner’s poetry and essays have been published in The New York Times, National Geographic, Poetry Daily, The Georgia Review, Virginia Quarterly Review, and was featured in the documentary film Operation Homecoming: Writing the Wartime Experience, nominated for an Academy Award. His most recent book of poetry, Phantom Noise, was short-listed for the T.S. Eliot Prize in England.

The CCSU LGBT Center and the PRIDE student club coordinated efforts for the 2014 Transgender Day of Remembrance @ CCSU. Highlighting the ongoing oppression and violence faced by the trans community, Transgender Day of Remembrance (November 20) serves as a global call to action against transphobia and intolerance, honoring the lives of transgender and gender non-conforming people targeted because of their gender identity and expression.

CCSU Center for Africana Studies presented “Policing the Black Community” at the Nutmeg Room in Memorial Hall. Recorded for broadcast on National Public Radio’s (NPR) Where We Live Now, the November forum was moderated by NPR host John Dankosky, and featured panelists: Tim Black, professor of Sociology at Case Western Reserve University, LaReese Harvey, director of Strategic Relations for A Better Way Foundation, Roderick Anderson, PhD candidate in Anthropology at UMASS Amherst, and Agnes (Aggie) Kurzyna, New Britain community activist.

Celebrating a holiday classic, the CCSU Theatre Department presented It’s A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play in December, with a cast of five portraying over 50 characters in the style of a live 1940s radio show. Written by Joe Landry, and directed by Assistant Professor of Theatre Jan Mason, the play celebrates the timeless tale of George Bailey, whose life is saved by an angel on Christmas Eve, demonstrating the lasting impact each individual has on another. The department sponsored a food/clothing/toy drive at the event, with all proceeds going to the Friendship Center of New Britain.
ON THE WRITE PATH — Making a difference in first grade literacy skills, Teaching Education student Kelsey Hegarty guides a student’s writing development at Holmes Elementary School, New Britain, as part of Associate Professor of Teaching Education Barbara Clark’s Elementary Methods course. The course encourages teaching candidate students to integrate the arts (aesthetic education methods) into language arts lesson plans.