

Central *focus* spring 2007

the magazine for alumni & friends of central connecticut state university



**Congressman Larson's
Road to Washington**

John Larson '71



John W. Miller



Congratulations to the men's basketball team on its amazing championship season and trip to the NCAA Tournament! This year's squad played with a certain heart and relentless determination that has made the entire CCSU community proud.

While we still bask in the glow of this feel-good story, it is just one of a myriad of faculty, student and alumni successes in which the University is taking great pride. A sampling of the intriguing work of Central faculty engaged in diverse fields of exciting research and publications bringing distinction to the University includes: the work of Dr. Sylvia Halkin, professor of biology and a specialist in animal behavior and ornithology, who has published a groundbreaking study on the behavior of squirrels; the writings of associate professor of history Dr. Matthew Warshauer '90, whose recently published book on Andrew Jackson is the centerpiece of an article in the January 29, 2007 issue of *The New Yorker* (see inside); and a new book, *America Beyond Black and White: How Immigrants and Fusions are Helping Us Overcome the Racial Divide* from the University of Michigan Press, by Dr. Ronald Fernandez, professor of criminology and criminal justice, which provides a riveting discussion to add to the national dialogue on race.

Dedicated students who work for the annual phonathon informing alumni of the critical need for support are among our student champions. CCSU's outstanding Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo both finished in second place at the prestigious Villanova Jazz Festival. Additionally, sophomore saxophonist Andrew Lefebvre won the Outstanding Soloist Award for the Big Band competition, while Dennis Alex, A'Lvaro Maldonado, Dana Russo, John Anderson and Weena Walton won the award for Best Trombone Section.

Alumni, too numerous to cite here, are yet another group of champions who continue to bring great distinction to the University. This cadre of achievers includes leaders in education, business, industry, the military and service professions. There is no question that alumni play a pivotal role in advancing the mission of CCSU in Connecticut, across the nation and around the world.

Dr. Jack Miller

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive.

President

Sea of blue

Blue Devils fans packed the house and raised the roof this past season, cheering the Central men's basketball team on to the Northeast Conference title and its third NCAA tournament appearance in seven years.





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FROM US TO YOU John Larson's life has taken him from the neighborhoods of East Hartford to Capitol Hill, but some of his fondest memories are of his undergraduate days at Central. In this edition, we take a look at the prominent CCSU alumnus' accomplished career and just how, 36 years removed from campus, he has emerged as one of Congress' most influential Democrats.

Larson studied in the Department of History, which itself has evolved. We offer an overview of some of this dynamic department's most noteworthy recent accomplishments. Also, you'll enjoy the profile of Ebenezer Don Carlos Bassett, who used his State Normal School education to become the nation's first African-American diplomat.

Nearly a century after Bassett's graduation, Barbara and Bill Detrick attended the Teacher's College of Connecticut. Both would become lifelong educators; Barbara as an elementary school teacher, Bill as the legendary coach of CCSU basketball. The Detricks talk of their love for all things Central in our donor profile on the back cover.

Go Blue Devils!

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Central Focus is published by Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT 06050 for alumni and friends.

Central Connecticut State University is an AA/EQ institution and a campus of the Connecticut State University System.

from “The Hock” to “The Hill”

CENTRAL ALUMNUS **JOHN LARSON** FINDS HIS STRIDE IN WASHINGTON

It sits just off Burnside Avenue in East Hartford, a drop kick from the venerable Marco Polo Restaurant, hard by “The Hock” (local-speak for Hockanum River) and up the street from the now-abandoned Molinski’s Garage. The Community Center still stands, as does Labor Field, the playground dedicated to the union laborers who called this village home and worked, in round-the-clock shifts, at the massive Pratt & Whitney plant off Main Street.

It is Mayberry Village, an unassuming community of 600 or so modest, weathered single- and multi-family homes that, like Pratt & Whitney and East Hartford itself, has experienced both prosperity and pain.

And it is the boyhood home of John Barry Larson ’71, son of Raymond and Pauline, Central alumnus – and Connecticut’s 1st district congressman, vice chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives’ Democratic Caucus and the House’s fifth-ranking Democrat behind Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.

How it is that this gregarious, self-described “chubby Irishman” – a former high school history teacher and insurance executive whose political career appeared derailed after a crushing 1994 Democratic gubernatorial primary loss – today stands as one of Washington’s rising House Democrats is a story inextricably tied to his East Hartford roots.



During a recent visit to campus, Congressman Larson debates economic theory in Vance Academic Center’s Financial Technology Room with Dr. John A. McDonald, associate professor of finance, and student Marcus Buffaloe.

Andy, Opie – and the Larsons

“We used to say there were two kinds of kids in East Hartford,” says Larson’s boyhood pal and later campaign organizer Craig Jordan. “Those who grew up in Mayberry Village and those who wished they did.”

To know Mayberry Village in the 1950s and ’60s is to know John Larson. Not to be confused with the fictional television nirvana of Andy and Opie, Mayberry Village was nonetheless a little slice of heaven for the families who grew up there back in the day. It was not unlike thousands of government-subsidized housing developments across the country in the wake of World War II;



History Alive

at CCSU

victorious vets were coming home, and with them came the prospect of good jobs, economic prosperity – and the need to house the by-product of these glad tidings, America’s baby boomers.

“It was a wonderful place to grow up,” says the 58-year-old Larson, the oldest son in a large Irish-Catholic family of five boys and three girls. “We didn’t have much money, but we never lacked. My parents were of the Greatest Generation; they placed sacrifice and family above all else.

“The neighborhood was full of large families,” he continues. “We played in the streets all day, and if we weren’t doing that we were putting cement tubs on ‘The Hock’ and paddling around – against the will of our parents, of course.”

Making friends, influencing people and perfecting the fine art of compromise – particularly in a household with eight children and one bathroom, as Larson says, “the size of a pay telephone booth” – were skills Larson learned early in life. He would use these skills to become a star athlete and senior class president at East Hartford High School. Today, some of Larson’s closest friends and advisors remain people he played with in Mayberry Village.

“Guys from that neighborhood learned to survive,” says Bob Carlson ’70, who grew up with Larson and would become his roommate at Central. “John has the strongest people skills of anyone I’ve ever known. He just knows how to treat people, respect them and listen to them.”

Central Days

Carlson remembers when Larson, a year younger, joined him at then-CCSC in 1968. They shared an off-campus apartment on Allen Street and became members of the athletic fraternity Omega Kappa Delta. Carlson, a biology major, would go on to a 35-year teaching career ►

When John Larson studied Jacksonian democracy at CCSU under the tutelage of Dr. Peter Tolis, he no doubt learned a historical lesson in Manifest Destiny. As though realizing a manifest destiny all its own, Central’s Department of History and faculty are earning notice thanks to a variety of diverse initiatives.

A \$1 million U.S. Department of Education grant – secured in part with assistance from Congressman Larson – has made possible a groundbreaking teaching partnership with six local school districts, the state’s technical high schools and the Connecticut State Library. HISTORY is CENTRAL aims to raise student achievement in U.S. history by connecting participating teachers to the best in history scholarship, local historical resources and an ongoing network of colleagues. Dr. John Day Tully MA ’95, assistant professor, is academic director of this enterprising project.

Another CCSU history professor, Dr. Matthew Warshauer ’90, was recently featured prominently in *The New Yorker* magazine. In a feature story examining the lessons and legacy of Andrew Jackson’s use of martial law during the Battle of New Orleans, Warshauer’s 2006 book *Andrew Jackson and the Politics of Martial Law* (University of Tennessee Press) is cited as “lucid and well-researched.” Warshauer’s book engages the age-old controversy over if, when and who should be able to subvert the Constitution during times of national emergency.

Dr. Warshauer, not incidentally, is also the editor of *Connecticut History*, the state’s only professional journal devoted to the history of Connecticut. The journal is integral to the entire department, including the HISTORY is CENTRAL project.

Meanwhile, the Department of History’s new master’s degree program in public history is using the entire state of Connecticut as its “field lab” to prepare graduates for work as public historians, front-line interpreters who bring historical knowledge to a broad public audience through their work at museums, historical societies and the like. Dr. Briann Greenfield, associate professor, is coordinator of this innovative program.

For more information on all the happenings in CCSU’s dynamic Department of History, call (860) 832-2800 or visit www.history.ccsu.edu.



Congressman Larson at a November, 2005 education lecture sponsored by CCSU's Department of Political Science.



at Rockville High School, while Larson studied history. (Larson would eventually teach for about six years in Farmington and East Hartford before entering the insurance business and, later, politics.)

Having been the star quarterback in high school, Larson had designs on playing football for then-CCSC coach Bill Loika. “When John didn’t make the football team, it was a disappointment,” Carlson says. “It was a pivotal moment in his life.”

“I thought about transferring, but I had so many friends here,” says Larson. “My goal was to teach and coach. I was fortunate to have great professors like Dr. (Peter) Tolis ’54 and Dr. (William) Winter. I still have notebooks from Dr. Tolis’ class.

“I don’t think I could have met any more decent, fun, caring, good people than those I met at Central,” he continues. “People who went here came from blue-collar backgrounds. We had a lot of similar experiences; maybe we had to work a little harder. I’m proud to be a Central grad and very proud of the school’s growth and accomplishments.”

Dr. Tolis, retired and living in Old Saybrook, fondly recalls Larson.

“John was a very sincere, very bright student,” says Dr. Tolis. “He was a voracious reader, and wrote very well. We had a rapport between us.

“John always had what I call a very public personality,” he continues. “I can recall discussing John’s future with other professors and saying, ‘We are going to hear from John Larson.’”

A Public Life

Larson put his “public personality” to work in local East Hartford politics before being elected a state senator in 1982. He quickly – and surprisingly according to veteran State Capitol observers – rose through the ranks, achieving the position of President Pro Tempore of the State Senate in 1987 while only in his second term. Larson’s upset victory over then-Senate minority leader and odds-on favorite Cornelius O’Leary was a precursor to his unexpected rise in Washington 20 years later to the caucus’ vice chairmanship, a bruising, intra-party battle in which he began as a lightly regarded third candidate only to end up with the big prize.

“I never saw someone so determined and tireless,” says Joe Harper ’78, MS ’99, who chaired the General Assembly’s Appropriations Committee during Larson’s eight-year run as Senate president. “John was always the kind of guy who, if he didn’t endear himself to you the first time around, he kept coming back until he found a common thread that won you over.”

Between 1987 and 1994, the Central alumni troika of Larson (Senate president), Harper (Appropriations) and Bill DiBella ’67 (Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, Senate majority leader and a Larson fraternity brother at Central) wielded extraordinary power at the Capitol.

“We were respected and we were resented. But we got things done,” says Harper. “John provided leadership that was new to that institution. He was bold enough to say that we are not just going to react to what the governor wants. The whole paradigm changed under John.”

“I don’t think I could have met any more decent, fun, caring, good people than those I met at Central.”
John Larson

While in the Senate, Larson authored the nation’s first family leave law. And he – and the troika – was instrumental in the legislature’s reworking of how the state funds the Connecticut State University system, of which Central is part.

“The CSU system had always been the stepchild of UConn,” says Larson. “We changed the formula by which these schools received

funding. We wanted to make sure that CCSU got what it so richly deserved.”

Adds Harper, “John and I are products of these schools. We are fervent believers in public higher education. The stage for UConn 2000 (the state’s major infrastructure funding initiative for UConn as well as CSU) was set with our move to increase funding for the state’s universities.”

“I think sometimes you have to lose to know how to win.”
John Larson

Washington Bound

Larson’s rise took a decided detour in the 1994 governor’s race. The Democratic front-runner, he dropped a bitter primary battle with Bill Curry that stunned his camp and placed his political career in limbo. He’ll be the first to say he looked too far ahead to the November election.

“I think sometimes you have to lose to know how to win,” he said afterward.

His youngest brother Tim, a former mayor of East Hartford, remembers the disappointment.

“He felt terribly about it,” says Tim Larson. “But it was good for him from the perspective of taking it on the chin, dusting yourself off, learning from your mistakes and getting back on the horse.”

That “horse” arrived in 1998, when 1st district Congresswoman Barbara Kennelly’s failed run for governor opened the door to her coveted House seat. In a political resurrection of historic proportion, Larson put to good use the lessons learned from his defeat four years prior; he won handily.

During his 10 years on Capitol Hill, Congressman Larson has found his stride. In addition to his plum Democratic Caucus assignment, he currently serves on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee.

Among his legislative initiatives, he has championed a decrease in dependence on foreign oil; the government’s negotiation of lower drug prices for the nation’s 40 million Medicare beneficiaries; and incentives for technology partnerships between community colleges and four-year institutions.

But it is the nation’s growing disenchantment with the war in Iraq, Larson’s fervent



Congressman Larson and family clockwise from left: daughter Carolyn, wife Leslie (Best) '80, daughter Laura and son Raymond.


opposition to it and the nationwide Democratic victory last November that have helped raise his profile. He has spoken passionately on the House floor during Congress’ debate over the war, and on his home turf he has conducted a series of public forums on the war throughout the 1st district.

Larson today is one of Pelosi’s most trusted allies. The high-profile California Democrat has even been a guest at Larson’s infamous annual summer bocce tournament for friends, family and colleagues at his East Hartford home, which he shares with wife Leslie (Best) '80, teenage daughters Carolyn and Laura, and son Raymond.

Dare it be asked if the House speakership might be in his future?

“How can you not have aspirations for Speaker of the House when you are fifth in line in your own party?” Larson asks rhetorically. “People even ask me if I’d like to run for governor again. Listen, these are jobs that anyone who likes to look at big issues and effect change would want.

“If you work hard, if you are diligent, if you have the enthusiasm, then opportunity will present itself,” he adds. “My mother said to me after I lost the governor’s race that when one door closes, another opens; that the hard work I did will serve me well in another capacity.”

Larson’s political rebirth is compelling evidence that his mother may have been on to something. Those days long ago on the streets of Mayberry Village have provided, perhaps, much more than nostalgia. The cement tubs on “The Hock” may be a distant memory, but John Larson’s political career remains buoyant, sailing forward to a port to be determined. 



From Tikrit in northern Iraq, seven CCSU alumni salute the Blue Devils men's basketball team. From left to right: CPT Derek Musgrave '92, battalion S-2; CPT Steve Landry '02, battalion senior battle captain; CPT David Nutt '87, battalion chaplain; 1LT Regina Grant '00, daytime battle captain; CPT Cory Olmstead '93, battalion S-3; CPT Christian Gutierrez '96, MS '03 garrison liaison officer; and SPC Jason Cruz '04, SPO transportation specialist.



Peg (O'Brien) Meotti '50 and George Gustin '50 at February 2007 Florida Reunion in Boca Raton.



Norm Feitelson '51 and Lois Dwyer at 2007 Florida Reunion.



l-r: Russ Marcotte '62 and Peggy and Rick Lantz '64 at 2007 Florida Reunion.



l-r: Al Pelligrinelli '64, Gretchen (Anderson) '64 and Nick DelRosso '63 at 2007 Florida Reunion.



l-r: Maryalice (Ward) Sundberg '55; Dave '64 and Carmay (Santoro) Monti '64; and Carol (Ward) '64 and Bob Lanese at 2007 Florida Reunion.



Joan and Mike Perrone '59 were celebrating their 46th wedding anniversary the day of the 2007 February Reunion.



I-r: CCSU football coach Jeff McNerney, Ray and Janet (Sinkiewicz) Sola '57 enjoy alumni networking happy hour in November, 2006 at Eli's on Whitney in Hamden.



I-r: Judi (Proto) Starno '71 and Helen (Jacobs) Morrissey '74 at alumni networking happy hour at Eli's on Whitney in Hamden.



Terri Savino '96, dressed as Cat in the Hat, with son, Kyle, a 1st grader at the Kathleen Goodwin Elementary School in Old Saybrook, where Terri was a volunteer reader on Read Across America Day.



Darren Sweeney '98, WFSB Channel 3 weekend meteorologist and honorary co-chair of the CCSU Alumni Association Read Across America program, reads to 4th graders at Wolcott Elementary School in West Hartford.

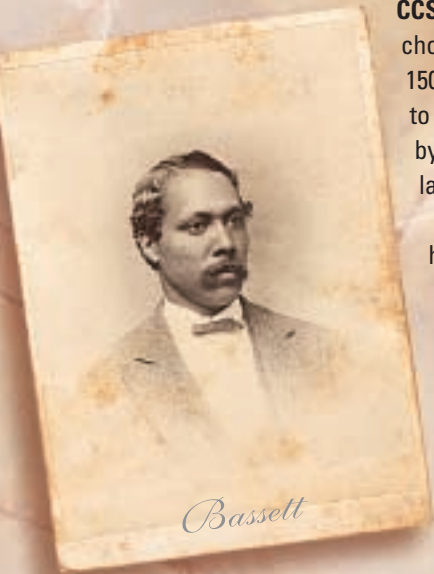


Donald M. Casey Jr. '86, special education teacher, and 10 students at Stepney Elementary School in Monroe performed an original play entitled Dr. Seuss Characters Come Alive for the entire school population to celebrate Dr. Seuss's 103rd birthday and promote the love of reading and learning.



CCSU president and honorary co-chair of the CCSU Alumni Association Read Across America program, Dr. Jack Miller, reads to students at Chamberlain Elementary School in New Britain.

Ebenezer Don Carlos Bassett



CCSU's long and proud history is chock full of distinction. Over its 150-plus years, it has been home to distinguished scholars, visited by international luminaries and lauded for educational excellence.

This tradition of distinction has its roots in the State Normal School's earliest days.

Among those in the fourth graduating class of 1853 was one Ebenezer Don Carlos Bassett. Bassett's graduation was noteworthy not only because of his academic achievement (he graduated with honors), but because

he was the first graduate of African-

American heritage in school history.

Appropriately, Bassett immediately became an educator. He was principal of Whitney Street School in New Haven (while continuing studies at Yale), and from 1857-69 — through the Civil War years — Bassett was principal of The Institute for Colored Youth in Philadelphia.

Bassett also played an important role in the emancipation movement. He was an active member of Connecticut's Convention of Colored Men, and was a powerful voice in Connecticut's movement to free black slaves.

In Philadelphia, Bassett befriended renowned abolitionist Frederick Douglass. It was Douglass' recommendation that helped secure Bassett's appointment in 1869 as the nation's first minister to Haiti; he was, in fact, the country's first African-American diplomat.

Wrote Douglass to Bassett upon his appointment: "Your appointment is a grand achievement for yourself and for our whole people. It forms an important point in the history of our progress and upward tendency."

Bassett would serve in the post for eight years, and would later serve another nine years as American consul general for Haiti in New York. He passed away in his adopted hometown of Philadelphia in 1908.



The original State Normal School in New Britain.

Dr. **John B. Bulman**, a member of the CCSU faculty for more than four decades and the first chairman of Central's Department of Physics and Earth Science, died February 5, 2007, at age 86. A recipient of the CCSU Distinguished Service Award in 1984, Dr. Bulman retired in 1989. The Copernicus Hall room which houses the University's Van de Graaf Accelerator bears his name.

Donald B. Clerkin, CCSU's first full-time sports information director and later the University's assistant director of public affairs, died February 23, 2007, at age 79. A World War II U.S. Navy veteran, he enjoyed a four-decade career in sports and public service. The former *Hartford Times* sportswriter and two-term president of the Connecticut Sports Writers' Alliance retired from the University in 1988.

Dr. **Elizabeth R. Cunningham**, associate professor of elementary education, emeritus, died September 3, 2006, at age 91. She had a long association with CCSU, then known as Teachers College of Connecticut, retiring in 1977, and was an award-winning amateur photographer.

Dr. **Francis J. Glasheen**, professor of English, emeritus and a Fulbright scholar and linguist, fluent in Dutch, French and Italian as well as English, died September 27, 2006, at the age of 96. Dr. Glasheen is perhaps best remembered for his lively Shakespeare classes.

Carl B. Holgerson Jr., adjunct professor of psychology at CCSU until his retirement in 1981, died January 27, 2007, at age 78. Mr. Holgerson devoted his entire professional career to the education of young people in the Wethersfield and West Hartford school systems.

Peter W. Peterson, former director of publications at CCSU before retiring in 1988, died February 1, 2007, at age 85. A distinguished journalist, Peterson was a veteran *Hartford Times* copy editor before joining the University Relations staff at CCSU in 1968.

Dr. **Arnaldo C. Sierra**, a founding member of the Connecticut Association of Latinos in Higher Education and CCSU associate professor of modern languages, emeritus, died October 27, 2006, at age 76. In addition to Dr. Sierra's more than two decades on the CCSU faculty, he was published extensively in area Spanish newspapers and served for many years as an interpreter in the Connecticut judicial system.

Dr. **Joanne K. Walker**, interim associate dean in the School of Education and Professional Studies, died on October 25, 2006. A respected educator, a teacher of teachers, Dr. Walker had been an associate professor in the Department of Special Education at CCSU since 1999.

Dr. **William J. Waskowitz**, who served as CCSU's team physician for more than three decades and earned membership in the CCSU Alumni Association's Athletic Hall of Fame, died December 4, 2006, at the age of 75.

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Steve Addazio '81

Blue Devil Pedigree on National Stage

Steve Addazio's introduction to the world of college football happened on the CCSU campus; it was "love at first sight." He attended many games as a child with his father, the late Dr. Louis Addazio, a popular history professor at Central and a Blue Devils fan. As a player he progressed from a stellar scholastic career at Farmington High School to become an outstanding CCSU lineman and brilliant student who won several awards before graduating in 1981.

Professionally Addazio has coached at almost every level, culminating in this past year's national championship for the University of Florida, where he's responsible for offensive linemen and tight ends under head coach Urban Meyer. He launched his career more than 20 years ago at Western Connecticut State University, later moving on to Cheshire High School (where he won three state Class L championships) and Syracuse University.

Addazio left Syracuse in 1999 for Notre Dame, where Meyer was also an assistant. Five years later when Meyer was named head coach at Florida, he wasted no time in calling on Addazio, who by that time had moved on to the offensive

coordinator post at Indiana University; in a matter of days, the CCSU graduate was added to the Gators' brain trust. The collaboration has resulted in a 22-4 record over two seasons and a national championship.

The "kid" from Farmington, who resides in Gainesville, Fla., with his wife Kathy (Donoghue) '81 and three children, has become one of the most respected position coaches in the country. Will he stay at Florida? Will he take an assistant's job in the NFL? Or might he become a collegiate head coach himself? Only Steve Addazio knows what play comes next, but with his track record of success, one thing's for sure – it's his call.



Linda Sagnelli

For Sagnelli, a Very Good Year

Any way you look at it, Linda Sagnelli had a great year.

CCSU's volleyball coach saw her team finish the past season with a 19-10 record and reach the semifinals of the Northeast Conference tournament before bowing to Long Island University. Along the way, she was inducted into the C.W. Post Athletic Hall of Fame.

A three-time C.W. Post captain and MVP, Sagnelli helped her alma mater finish in the top 10 nationally as a senior. The 47-5 Pioneers also made their first NCAA volleyball tournament appearance.

In 21 seasons, including seven at Central, Sagnelli has 242 wins. She is the only 100-game winner in CCSU volleyball coaching history.



Celebrating another NEC title.

Central Dominates NEC Awards

CCSU's domination of the Northeast Conference in men's basketball this past season was so stunning and so complete that for the first time in the league's 26-year history, three players from the same team were named to the All-Conference starting five.

In a virtual sweep of the league's top awards, senior Javier Mojica was named NEC Player of the Year; junior Tristan Blackwood earned Co-Defensive Player of the Year honors; and head coach Howie Dickenman '70, MS '75 won an unprecedented fourth Coach of the Year designation.

Mojica, the walk-on-turned-team-captain and emotional leader, is the fourth Blue Devil in the past eight seasons to be named the best player in the NEC. He was joined on the All-Conference squad by teammates Obie Nwadike and Blackwood.

The team also made its mark in the classroom. Senior Ingo Beaudet is a Dean's List scholar with the highest GPA among male student-athletes, and graduates with honors in May.

Central finished 16-2 in league play, winning both the regular season and NEC tournament championships to earn its third trip to the NCAA "Big Dance" in seven years.

36 Ruth (Perkins) Gibson and her husband of 67 years, John, have been enjoying cruising all of their married life and have plans to cruise the Rhine River in May.

55 Robert F. Skinner, a recognized leader in the insurance industry, and **Frances L. Mainella MS '75** have been collaborating for years on a mutual passion — the preservation of natural areas and the establishment of parkland in Florida. Both have been committed environmentalists for more than 40 years and became allies and friends when Fran, former director of the National Park Service, served for 12 years as director of Florida's Division of Recreation and Parks overseeing the management of 155 state parks from the Florida Keys to Pensacola Bay.

61 The United States Tennis Association has ranked **Raymond A. Brodeur #7** in singles and #2 in doubles in the age 65 bracket for New England. **Jeanette (Mitchell) Church** is enjoying retirement after 40 years of teaching at Brookside Elementary School in Norwalk.

64 Diane (Zabicki) Crannis was a “stay-at-home” mom and active volunteer. An avid reader, knitter, skier and golfer, she enjoys “retirement” in the western mountains of Virginia, continues to volunteer, belongs to an investment club, and sees her college roommates at least once a year.

68 Richard C. Langer MS '73 retired from Haddam-Killingworth High School after 38 years of teaching, but continues to coach the girl's volleyball team.

69 Beth (Moreland) Ardaiole MS '75 retires in June after serving 19 years in the Prince William County, VA, school system as a teacher and reading specialist. She and husband, **Jim '70**, will remain in Manassas, VA, where Jim owns a financial planning firm.

70 Patrick M. Clow is director of the Southfield Children's Center, an inter-faith initiative by Newington churches and synagogues for pre-school education of children of all faiths, races and special needs from infant to kindergarten. **Robert H. Hartley** recently retired after 34 years of teaching Spanish and serving as head of the foreign language department at Seekonk High School in Seekonk, MA. **Frank P. Naczi** retired after teaching business education for 36 years.



Michael P. Starkowski '74, a 31-year veteran of the Connecticut Department of Social Service and one of the architects of Connecticut's HUSKY health care plan, was appointed commissioner of the department, one of the state's largest public agencies and the agency having the largest annual operating budget. He is a charter member of Rho Kappa Sigma fraternity.

Mary Loftus Levine accepted a position with the Connecticut Education Association in Hartford after representing Fairfield County CEA members for 18 years.

71 Retired educator **Margaret B. Morse (MS)** has published her third book, *A Matter of Perception Breaking Through*.

72 Gary J. Blanchette MS '75 is retiring after 35 years of teaching, and was re-elected to a fourth four-year term on the Ellington Board of Education.

73 Thomas F. Callinan, who was Connecticut's first official state troubadour in 1991, released his 12th solo CD entitled *Connecticut Sampler*; 17 of the 20 songs on the album are Tom's original compositions. **Sharon (Golden) Katz** is a project manager for UnitedHealth Group in Hartford. **Robert J. O'Connor**, physical education teacher at West District Elementary School in Farmington for 28 years, was selected as Farmington's Teacher of the Year. O'Connor's teaching skills were recognized by his peers and he has been lauded in the community for promoting physical fitness and mentoring young athletes. Robert credits spouse, **Christine (Kenyon) O'Connor '72, MS '80**, who teaches physical education at Irving A. Robbins Middle School in Farmington, as his inspiration, saying she's “an awesome teacher.” **Sylvia (Andreasen) Person** is the director, and teaches, at Immanuel Lutheran School in Danbury.

74 Susan (O'Brien) Lebeck MS '79 is chair of the social studies department and teaches American government, psychology and sociology for the Simi Valley Unified School District in Simi Valley, CA.

75 Alan D. Friedman joined Colliers Dow & Condon, commercial real estate consultants, as vice president of operations for the firm's Hartford and New Haven offices, managing the strategic growth of the company and its business development and operations. **John W. Kukulka** is the director of housing development for New Neighborhoods Inc., a nonprofit bricks and mortar affordable housing developer dedicated to building and preserving rental and ownership housing in Stamford for growing families, graduates entering the workforce and retirees. CCSU Alumni Association secretary **Fernando G. Rosa**, as committee chair, delivered the welcoming message to the attendees of the Portuguese American Leadership Council of the United States annual gala in New York City on October 13. Fernando is deputy director of the Hartford Economic Development Corporation and a long-time activist in the Portuguese-American community. **David A. Scavotto** is a principal in the Chicago, IL office of Tatum LLC, an executive services and consulting firm. He and his wife, Laurie, reside in Wheaton, IL.

76 Sharon J. Gemza is a project manager at IBM in Southbury. **Michael R. Martin MS '79** is a technology

Marriages

Teresa Diaz-Faes & Brett M. Joly '91 7/21/06

Jodi Kissinger & Ryan E. Carrigan '98 10/7/06

Erin E. Naugle '98 & Brian L. Scozzafava 6/30/06

Judy F. Wisnefsky '00 & Andrew Foreman 10/8/06

Taryn N. Miller '04 & Earl S. Grey III 9/26/06

Quinn E. Wazorko '04 & Theodore Christopher 11/24/06

education instructor at George C. Marshall High School in Falls Church, VA. **Jane McGill** teaches AP economics and contemporary history at Key West High School in Key West, FL.

77 Joseph P. Wolnick is managing general partner and chief investment officer for Halcyon Asset Backed Advisors LP in New York City.

79 James R. Haslett is vice president of operations and partner for Perlmart ShopRite located in Toms River, NJ. **Barbara L. Iversen** is director of aquatics K-12 and women's varsity basketball head coach for Stephen S. Wise Temple Schools in Los Angeles, CA.

80 Terrence M. Milka joined MassMutual's broker/dealer, MML Investors Services Inc., as second vice president responsible for the investment products due diligence team.

81 Thomas F. Laske is director of distributor relations for Novartis Medical Nutrition. **Mark A. Suprin** is a professional development manager for Aetna in Middletown and is involved in Aetna's information systems college recruiting programs.

82 Karen (Wunsch) Ferranti joined Prudential Connecticut Realty in Glastonbury as sales executive.

83 Cindy-Lee (Zaleski) Corriveau works in human services for the Connecticut Department of Mental Retardation, eastern region, and has authored an Images of America book about the history of Salem, CT. **Christa A. Sterling** was appointed program manager at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Hartford. **Katherine (Pellerin) Sweetland MS '91**, a physical education teacher at Eric G. Norfeldt Elementary School in West Hartford, was chosen as the Elementary School Physical Education Teacher of the Year for 2006 by the Connecticut Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. **Jill Knight Weinberger MA '87** discussed her new book, *Vienna Voices: A Traveler Listens to the City of Dreams* at CCSU's Central Authors monthly series. Formerly associate professor of English teaching creative writing and American literature at CCSU, Dr. Weinberger retired in June, 2006.

85 Leigh M. Fitzgerald BS '94 was promoted to senior account executive at Cronin and Company Inc. in Glastonbury. **William G. Nemer** is vice president of client services for Weichert

New Arrivals (Births/Adoptions)

Judith (Wheeler) '87 & Craig C. Baker: a daughter, Aja Margaret Ann & **James V. Fatsi '90**: a son, Thaddeus
Pamela (Izzo) '93 & Dana Giammatteo: a daughter, Natalie Claire
Jill (Andrews) '93 & **Steven Van Voorhis '87**: a daughter, Katherine So-Yun
Heather (Davis) '96 & James Hiebner: a son, Tyler James
Sheila (Reilly) '96 & **E.J. Howard '96**: a daughter, Addison Mairead
Jennifer (Hill) '96 & Eric Thompson: a son, Gage Lloyd
 Anne & **Daniel Lynch '97**: a son, Brendan Daniel
Christina (Mobilio) '99 & John Carmon Jr.: a daughter, Juliana Christina
Allison (Rolls) '99 & Colin Delaney: a son, Nevin Scott
Karen (Gaylord) '01 & Mark Benson: a daughter, Alexa Kathryn
 Emilie & **Jeremy Bergh '01**: a daughter, Ava Gray
Christine (Distasio) '02 & Jeffrey Wiesner Jr.: a daughter, Gabriella Makenzie



Donna M. Fiedorowicz '80, vice president of champions, tour business affairs, was promoted to senior vice president, tournament business affairs, the PGA Tour.

Relocation Resources Inc. in Morris Plains, NJ. **Leslie (Nowacki) Traver MSOM '88**, a teacher of business, computer science and civics at Lyme-Old Lyme High School in Old Lyme, was named the 2006 Connecticut Business Educator of the Year by the Connecticut Business Education Association.

87 Judith (Wheeler) Baker is a product manager for Accu-Med Services in Anacortes, WA. **John E. Brymer III** is a meter representative for Southern Connecticut Gas Company. **Michael T. Cotnoir** received his Six Sigma Black Belt and Green Belt certifications and earned ASQ's Certified Quality Auditor certification. He is a project director at UnitedHealth Group in Hartford. **Mary (Corraro) Griskewicz** is director of ambulatory information systems at the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society in Madison. **Patricia L. Levandoski** is director of

finance for the New Britain Museum of American Art. **Lori (Toback) Lubetkin** was named director of human resources for Arbors of Hop Brook, Manchester Manor, Vernon Manor and Fenn-Woode. **Helen M. Moriarty** is a product consultant for MetLife.

89 Former Hartford Public Schools administrator **Kathleen (Conlin) Greider MS '94** was appointed deputy superintendent of Greenwich Public Schools. Kathy was also honored by the Connecticut Board of Education as Educational Leader of the Year for 2006. Dr. **Pamela A. McMullin-Messier** is assistant professor of anthropology and sociology at Kutztown University in Kutztown, PA. **Scott J. Nolan** is a bioanalytical scientist for Envivo Pharmaceuticals in Watertown, MA.

90 Stephen M. Emirzian is busy freelance writing for several magazines and newspapers in the Hartford area and producing videos.

91 Suzanne Wargo (MS) is director of media services at Millbury Memorial Junior/Senior High School in Millbury, MA and was recently elected to the executive board of the Central Massachusetts Regional Library System.

92 Justine A. Dougherty is a curriculum and assessment English language arts specialist for Measured Progress, an organization that provides customized assessment products and educational services. **Joseph F. Krocheski Jr.** was named a security analyst in the core/value equity team at Turner Investment Management. **Aaron J. Steinberg** is co-owner of Provident Estate Jewelry in Naples, FL.



George W. Hermann '80 was appointed to the position of president and CEO of The First National Bank of Suffield in Suffield, CT.

93 Mark T. Danaher (MS), educator and guidance counselor for career services for Manchester schools, was chosen as the district's Teacher of the Year. **Michael L. Kocsis**, owner of

Unlimited Changes Inc., a personal fitness and performance center in Easton, PA, is a personal fitness trainer and the #1-ranked national bodybuilder in the nation.

94 Elia V. Acosta MS '97 is head of the surgical technology department for the Connecticut Technical High School System. **Craig T. Sollose** is a chiropractic physician in Brookfield. **Robert T. White II, MSgt. USAF**, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron since 1987, completed a tour of duty in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle and Iraqi Freedom while stationed at Westover Air Reserve Base in Massachusetts, during which time he was also deployed to Southwest Asia where he served as a passenger service representative.

95 Kristen F. Bloom received a masters degree in publication design from the University of Baltimore in 2003 and spent eight months traveling through Asia. She presently works in

consumer marketing for *Smithsonian* magazine. **Heather C. Giordanella** is an attorney shareholder in the law firm of Miller Alfano & Raspanti in Philadelphia, PA specializing in commercial law, employment law and qui tam litigation. **Kimberly A. Roman MS '05** is a literacy teacher for the Torrington Board of Education.

96 E.J. Howard began a new career in advertising sales with the *Hartford Business Journal*. **Jennifer (Hill) Thompson** is a licensed social worker and started her own business, DFW Home Study, completing adoption home studies in the Dallas-Fort Worth, TX area. **Toni (Silano) Villines** and **Kenneth R. Villines '97** moved to Meriden after 10 years living outside of Boston. Toni volunteers for the Connecticut chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and is a member of the Nutmeg alumnae chapter of Gamma Sigma Sigma. Ken is a senior software engineer at CBS Corporation in Shelton, and an independent web development consultant.

In Memoriam

1924 Dora Greenbaum 12/20/06	1949 Elsie Schmitt Bray 2/28/06 Anthony P. Menditto 2/15/07	1966 Adelaide Visconti Herbert 2/27/07	1979 Mary Wohlfarth Corcoran 2/14/07
1926 Elizabeth Poppel Johnson 10/12/06 Bernice Weiant Strant 2/8/07	1950 Kenneth I. Beatson 7/4/06 June Mathewson Fava 2/23/07	1967 Robert W. Mulconry 1/10/07	1980 Jeffrey S. Carabetta 11/27/06 Reinhold R. Helm 3/4/07
1931 Ethel Hayes Reuber 3/12/07	1951 Raymond Gregson 1/1/07	1968 Richard J. Femc 2/17/06	1981 Edward T. Borowski 1/5/07
1934 Nora Fauls Merusi 11/10/06	1952 Alphonso Napoli 11/7/06	1970 William C. Eller, Jr. 12/28/06 Flavia Aust O'Rourke 11/13/06 Paul Scheinblum 11/27/06	1985 Ralph H. Gioscio 10/23/06
1937 Esther Holman Anderson 12/14/06 Rosalie Chromik Mondani 2/17/07 Constance Greco Smith 1/19/07	1954 Myldred Brink Long 2/16/07 George C. Springer, Sr. 12/19/06	1971 Thomas N. Bussiere 9/16/05 Paula Holmes Rice 1/13/07	1986 Carol Salisbury Wordell 1/14/07
1939 Harry Cohn 12/14/06	1956 Joyce Mowry Kelly 11/9/06 Susan Holmes Spear 2/16/07	1972 Carolyn Carson Diamond 9/14/06 Ronald H. Flocke 1/8/07 Jo-ann Ferrero Joanis 12/13/06	1988 Debra Segaloff Fargo 1/14/07
1940 Mona Parkinson Clough 1/16/07 Robert C. Wason 12/27/06	1959 Carl P. Statchen, Sr. 2/13/07	1974 Gregory H. Martin 12/17/06	1992 Vivian DiSabato Ksiazkiewicz 11/22/06
1941 Emily Conklin Case 11/22/06 Dorothy Welch Korn 2/12/07	1961 Shirley Degi Jennings 2/14/07 David A. Shipman 1/26/06	1975 William A. Foran 8/9/06	1994 Matthew D. Arace 10/21/06
1942 Irene Myrene Recktenwald 3/12/07	1963 Alice Berman Sokoloff 3/17/07	1976 Marvin L. Carter 10/13/06	2001 Christopher R. Needham 11/1/06 George F. Stevens 2/5/07 Katharine M. Wilks 12/28/06
1943 Ellen M. Hippeli 9/27/06 Alice Nasthoski Vail 9/26/06	1964 James R. Lusk 4/29/03	1977 William J. Turner 12/3/06	2002 John T. Crowley 3/1/07
	1965 Joanne Civizzio Reddick 12/31/06	1978 Anita Eager Beckwith 2/28/07 James B. Woodson 10/3/06	

97 Jermaine R. Evans is a network coordinator for ESPN in Bristol. **Salvatore LoGiudice** is a financial sales specialist for TD Banknorth in West Hartford. **Rachel (Vizner) Pac** is a computer teacher for Newington Public Schools. **Erin (Naugle) Scozzafava** is a science teacher and tennis coach at Seymour High School in Seymour. **Paul J. Sutera MS '99** is associate athletic director of development at Rice University in Houston, TX. He and wife **Jennifer (Kaufman) Sutera '98** and son live in Manvel, TX. **Jennifer M. Welch** is founder and director of The Dancer's Image Dance Academy in Cromwell. **Sheng-Fu Yang** is a radio frequency engineer for Huawei Technologies Inc. in Dallas, TX.

98 Rebecca N. D'Agostino was named a group insurance account executive at Dill, Joyce & Thresher Insurance. **Maureen A. Nadeau** is the new owner of the Developing Artist Institute in Manchester which serves more than 100 students ages six and up.

99 Joseph R. Avitable, a doctoral candidate in the Department of History at the University of Rochester, was awarded a research fellowship by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. **Christine (Bedard) Tardette** is a family relations counselor for the State of Connecticut.

00 Sonny Gamboa is employed as an art director at Mintz & Hoke Communications Group in Avon. **Elizabeth C. LaMontagne (MS)**, a first grade teacher at Orchard Hill Elementary School in South Windsor, earned the teaching profession's top credential by achieving national board certification through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that measures what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do. **Duane P. Pierre** works for Cox Communications Inc. in Cheshire as a producer and public access coordinator.

01 Karen (Gaylord) Benson is director of latency services at YOU Inc./Wetzel Center in Worcester, MA. **Mary Maciulewski** is a teacher and coach for the Shelton Board of Education. **Barrie Thibodeau, SPHR**, is human resources manager at McDonald Bradley Inc., an information technology solutions provider to the government marketplace with headquarters in Herndon, VA.

02 In a February 2 ceremony at Kanoeha Marine Corps Base in Oahu, HI, First Lt. **Stephen J. Boada** was awarded the silver star, the



Dr. Matthew S. Warshauer's '90 recently published book, *Andrew Jackson & the Politics of Martial Law*, was reviewed in *The New Yorker* (January 29, 2007). Matt is an associate professor of history, completing his 10th year at CCSU. He returned to Connecticut after completing graduate work at St. Louis University, and he and his wife, Wanda, are raising their family of three little girls in West Hartford.

country's third-highest medal of valor, for his actions in combat in May, 2006 against insurgents in a mountainous region of Afghanistan. **Susan M. Wichrowski MS '04** is a paralegal with Kernan & Henry LLP in Waterbury. **Christine (Distasio) Wiesner** is an outside sales representative for Ganz. **Maxwell Ziegler** has joined Standard-Knapp, a manufacturer of innovative packaging machinery, as a technical writer and will be lead author of the company's internal and client-based manuals.

03 Daniel J. Grabowski (MBA) is a program manager for the Connecticut Judicial Branch in East Hartford. **Jennifer S. King (MS)** has joined the U.S. Department of State following her participation in a highly selective leadership curriculum known as the Presidential Management Fellows Program, and is currently a grants administrator for South and East Asia. Attorney **Michael C. Markowicz** earned his J.D. at Harvard Law School and joined Murtha Cullina LLP in Hartford, specializing in labor and employment law and litigation. **William S. McCarey** is a business analyst for Pioneer Investments in Boston, MA. **Christopher B. Slater** is a residence director at Keene State College in Keene, NH.

04 Fernando F. Mendoza is a residence hall director at Stony Brook University in Stony Brook, NY. **Taryn (Miller) Grey** is an assistant project manager at Education Station and is pursuing a master's degree in education at Loyola College.

06 Kara R. Perreault is a court liaison in New Haven for The Connection Inc., a Connecticut-based nonprofit human services and community development agency.

CCSU Alumni Association-Sponsored UPCOMING EVENTS

Football Season Kickoff Dinner

Tuesday, August 28, 2007

6:00 pm

Memorial Hall, CCSU campus

Gridiron Update Lunch

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

12:00 noon

Angelico's Café

New Britain, CT

Ted Owen Invitational Meet

Recognition of CCSU Track and Cross Country All Americans

Saturday, September 15, 2007

11:00 am

Stanley Quarter Park

New Britain

CCSU Alumni Day Trip to Boston

CCSU faculty-led tour of

John F. Kennedy

Presidential Library & Museum

Historical Walking Tour of Boston

Afternoon at Quincy Market

Saturday, September 29, 2007

HOMECOMING

Saturday, October 13, 2007

Reservations / Information

phone: (860) 832-1740

e-mail: alumnidept@ccsu.edu

website: www.ccsu.edu/alumni

Please check website and e-news for latest event updates.

Barbara (Ferguson) Detrick '50 William H. Detrick '50

Teachers, Fans, Donors



At the NCAA men's basketball Final Four in Atlanta in March, Barbara and Bill Detrick felt the tingle in their very souls that any true-blue CCSU alumni would feel as they approached the Georgia Dome.

No, their beloved Blue Devils would not be playing that day, having exited valiantly at the hand of Ohio State in Round 1. But the Detricks' Blue Devil pride emerged nonetheless, as they gazed upon the arena's exterior. There for all to see, featured among the names of all 64 tournament teams, were those four magical words: Central Connecticut State University.

"I said to Bill, 'Gee, look at that. We've got to get a picture,'" laughs Barbara. "It meant an awful lot to anyone associated with Central. It was truly something to see."

Nearly 20 years retired from his legendary career as CCSU head basketball coach, Bill Detrick's life transformation is

complete. He and Barbara, who met in their first class at then-Teacher's College of Connecticut back in 1946, are unabashed Central fans.


A charter member of the CCSU Alumni Association's Athletic Hall of Fame, Bill was a three-sport athlete at the University and coached the Blue Devils — then a Division II New England power — from 1959-1988, amassing 465 career victories. He was instrumental in the program's move to Division I, and the William H. Detrick Gymnasium stands today in his honor. At 79, he is still coaching, leading the men's golf team at Trinity College in Hartford.

Barbara, a New Britain native, retired in 1989 after a near 30-year career as an elementary school teacher in the city's school system. Their children Barbara, Deborah and Scott '80 are all Connecticut public school system educators, and all live in Wethersfield — which affords the couple plenty of opportunity to enjoy their six grandchildren ages 3-19.

The Detricks' love of Central — and dedication to supporting it through the William Detrick Athletic Scholarship — is rooted in much more than Bill's years of coaching. It has as much to do with the students and friends they have met through the years, and the couple's respect for the value of a public higher education.

"The people of New Britain and Central have always been so hard-working and friendly, like members of your family," offers Bill. "They were doctors, lawyers — and factory workers. Many of the people going to games today are some of the same people who came when I was coach."

"We believe in public education. It's important that students can afford to go to college," adds Barbara.

"We want to give and we wish we could give more." 



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