



"Juno was the wife of Jupiter and Queen of the Gods. Iris, The Goddess of the Rainbow, was her attendant and messenger." – Thomas Bulfinch



# IRIS



HAPPENINGS IN THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
AT CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

## IMPORTANT ACADEMIC DATES!

- **December 1** - Spring 2026 Registration begins for Non-Matriculated Students
- **December 7** - Last Day of Classes
- **December 8-14** - Final Exam Period
- **December 13** - Winter Commencement
- **December 14** - Winter Commencement (Inclement Weather Date)



# Happy Holidays

FROM THE CLASS DEAN'S OFFICE  
& ADVISING TEAM



Pictured: Drs. Steve Cohen, Carolyn Soper, Caleb Bragg, Gil Gigliotti, & Kate McGrath, *Advisors* Rachael Davis, Cynthia Mena & Leah Skinner, and *Support Staff* Courtney Rehmer, Olivia Tuohy, Emma Farrow, & Ashley Carter

# In Case You Missed It



**STUDENT AUTHOR WRT JAM**  
**OCTOBER 29, 2025**



**CLASS LLC SOUND SCAVANGER HUNT**  
**NOVEMBER 5, 2025**



**NATIONAL FIRST-GENERATION**  
**COLLEGE CELEBRATION DAY**  
**NOVEMBER 6, 2025**



**THE SOPHOMORE TEA PODCAST**  
**INTERVIEW WITH DR. SIMMONS**  
**NOVEMBER 19, 2025**



**THE MISANTHROPE THEATRE**  
**PRODUCTION**  
**NOVEMBER 20, 2025**



**WILCOX TECH VISIT & AI BUTTON**  
**WORKSHOP**  
**NOVEMBER 24, 2025**



## INTERESTED IN GIVING TO CLASS?

**TEXT 3300 TO 41444 OR  
SCAN THIS QR CODE!**



Your donations support students' attendance to various conferences and events, fund scholarships, and supports classroom equipment needs. We are grateful for your support!

## DECEMBER CLUB MEETINGS & EVENTS!

### Africana Students Organization (ASO):

December 1, 8, 15, 22

- **When:** 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
- **Where:** Africana Center (Marcus White)

### Africana Students Organization (ASO)

#### Weekly Fashion Practice:

December 2,4

- **When:** 6:00 pm
- **Where:** Marcus White Living Room

### Political Science Club:

December 1 (Jeopardy)

- **When:** 3:00 pm
- **Where:** Blue & White Room (Student Center)

### Pre Law Society:

December 2

- **When:** 4:30 pm
- **Where:** Clock Tower Room

### Black Student Union (BSU):

December 2

- **When:** 6:00 pm
- **Where:** Clock Tower Room

### Latin American Student Organization (LASO):

December 4

- **When:** 4:45 pm
- **Where:** Clock Tower Room

### Muslim Student Organization:

December 4

- **When:** 6:00 pm
- **Where:** Marcus White

### SGA Senate:

December 3

- **When:** 3:00 pm
- **Where:** RVAC 105 (Travelers Room)

### Psychology Club:

December 3 (Movie Night)

- **When:** 8:30 pm
- **Where:** Sprague Carleton Room

### Japanese Culture Club:

December 4 (Jeopardy)

- **When:** 7:30 pm
- **Where:** Blue & White Room (Student Center)

### Spanish Club:

December 2

- **When:** 4:00 pm
- **Where:** Willard-DiLoreto (W306)

### Criminal Justice Club:

December 3

- **When:** 3:15 pm
- **Where:** RVAC 209

### Sustainability Club:

December 2

- **When:** 2:00 pm
- **Where:** Bassett Hall 408

### Anthropology Club:

December 2

- **When:** 2:00 pm
- **Where:** Bassett Hall 408

## PROFESSOR VICENTE GARCIA, ART & DESIGN

After 31 years of teaching, mentoring, and inspiring at Central Connecticut State University, Professor Vicente Garcia is retiring. An artist with an unmatched passion for creativity, Professor Garcia's artistic journey began more than 40 years ago with clay and steel, and over the years, he's worked with everything from metal and glass to feathers—and even his own hair.

Beyond his impressive artistic talent, Professor Garcia's greatest gift has been his ability to inspire others. His enthusiasm for the arts, his dedication to his craft, and his genuine care for his students have left a lasting impact on our Blue Devil community. Through his teaching, he's shaped the lives of countless students, helping them discover their own creative potential and pushing them to explore new possibilities.

Professor Garcia, your influence here at Central will never be forgotten. The memories, the friendships, and the knowledge you've shared with us will continue to resonate long after you've retired. Thank you for everything you've given to this university, and to all of us who have had the privilege of learning from you.

Congratulations on your retirement! We wish you all the best as you step into this exciting new chapter. Enjoy every moment—you've certainly earned it. You'll always be part of the Blue Devil family!



scan to check out a mini  
doc on Professor Garcia's  
incredible work!

# OUR FUTURE EDUCATORS

By: Emma Farrow and Olivia Tuohy



## ENGLISH: AVA LEBLANC

Ava LeBlanc is a Senior majoring in English Education, the Editorial Director of the Central literary magazine, The Helix, an undergraduate tutor at the Writing Center, and a member of the Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society. Ava embodies a deep passion for reading and writing which has led her to her decision to teach Secondary English. Ava has been given the opportunity to participate in the CSCU English Undergraduate Conference for two years. In her time at Central, she has studied abroad twice, to Spain and Japan. Ava is very excited by the opportunity to study abroad again for two weeks in Japan in the Spring 2026 semester. In addition to her commitment to Central, Ava works at her family's antique store in New Hartford, CT on the weekends. As Ava is diligently working to become certified to teach 7-12th grade, she is very excited to announce she will begin her secondary education student teaching at Avon High School next semester!

## HISTORY: ELIZABETH (LIZ) CARROLL

Elizabeth (Liz) Carroll is a dedicated and determined Central Senior majoring in History Education. Liz personifies a hopeful, excited, and optimistic future history educator. From a young age, Liz has always loved learning about history and sharing that with others. So, for her, a career as a history teacher made sense. She began studying at a university in Boston, but something wasn't quite right, so she transferred to Central where she has found a home in the Department of History. Beginning in the Spring 2025 semester, Liz has been working to establish a Social Studies Club at Central, in the hopes of creating a space for other History Secondary and Elementary Education students (and History students) to learn about the possibilities that education offers. This semester, she is also in the midst of her student teaching journey at Middletown High School where she is learning how to captivate her students and open their minds to her love of history. Liz is proud to come from a family of teachers, and she is looking forward to becoming not only a High School History Teacher, but also a mentor for students. Liz's joy and care for students' growth is what makes a dedicated student an even better educator.



## WORLD LANGUAGES: MARISSA VICENTE

Marissa Vicente is a hardworking and enthusiastic Central Senior studying Secondary Spanish Education. Marissa has had the pleasure of solidifying her love and passion for Spanish culture through studying abroad in the summer of 2024 and 2025. This experience not only allowed Marissa the chance to explore life in Spain, Spanish culture and history, but it also led her to meeting new people- experiences she is excited to translate to her teaching and lesson-planning in the future. She is grateful for the opportunity to expand her horizons, become more culturally aware, and find a more authentic version of herself, and she encourages others to do the same when they have the chance! Although she won't begin her student teaching at East Hartford High School until the spring, she is filled with excitement considering what is to come. While this can be scary for all education students, Marissa is hopeful that this experience will be pivotal in her teaching journey, and she can't wait to learn new ways to foster deep and meaningful relationships with her students. Inspired by her AP Spanish teacher in high school, Marissa decided to pursue a degree in secondary education in the hopes of becoming a role model for her students. Marissa is both excited for graduation and proud of her accomplishments thus far. Coming from a family of teachers, Marissa is deeply motivated by her pride in her Hispanic and Peruvian heritage and is most excited to share that joy with her students.





# FUTURE EDUCATORS

Continued



## ART & DESIGN: SARAH HOFMANN

Sarah Hofmann is a Central Senior studying Art Education, who also serves as an Admissions tour guide on campus. Sarah is involved in the Color Guard, of which she has been captain for 3 years. She has also created her own club on campus, The Winterguard Club, which performs both on and off campus during spring semesters. As for her academics, she is currently doing fieldwork in Bristol Public Schools, where she will begin her student teaching in the Spring. Sarah is very excited about teaching full time, and she is especially excited to meet her students! Additionally, Sarah's been working hard to put together her senior capstone, which is going to be in the Chen Gallery on campus. The showcase will be comprised of her and her classmate's incredible work in the Art Education program. Getting involved in leadership and extracurriculars at Central has allowed Sarah to realize her passion for teaching, and it has encouraged her to grow tremendously. She is filled with excitement and can't wait to explore what her future holds.

## MUSIC: BRYNN KELLEY

Brynn Kelley is a senior Music Education major at Central Connecticut State University. Brynn's love for music came at a young age as her mom, grandma, and great-grandma are all musicians. Continuing this legacy, Brynn is currently in multiple ensembles in the music department including Chorale, University Singers, Vocal Jazz Choir, Wind Ensemble, Marching Band and Pep Band, along with features in the Big Band. She also participates in a collegiate scholar program singing in the chancel choir at Immanuel Congregational Church. With the CCSU chorale, she has taken the opportunities to sing three times at Carnegie Hall with National Concerts and last year with the CCSU chorale as the featured ensemble. Brynn was also honored this past year with being one of the Drum Majors for the CCSU Marching Band. In her free time, Brynn also enjoys singing jazz and performs gigs as often as possible. Brynn is beginning her student teaching next semester and is very excited for the future. Her hope is to share her passion of music to elementary and high school students.



# CONGRATULATIONS!!

**We would like to send a huge congratulations to the CLASS students who are graduating! We are so proud of your accomplishments and look forward to seeing what you do next!**

**We also congratulate *all* CLASS students on the incredible work they continue to do each semester!**

## DEPARTMENT: PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

Central's **Department of Psychological Science**, home to some of the most popular programs in CLASS, offers a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses, a 5-year Accelerate program, and three M.A. tracks. The Department offers unique courses like Introduction to Psychotherapy, Psychology of Happiness, and Personality Psychology, in addition to required Research Methods, Sensation and Perception, and more!

The Department of Psychological Science is excited to welcome some new faces: please join us in welcoming **Dr. Kubra Tor-Cabuk** and **Dr. Nana Yao Marfo**! Dr. Tor-Cabuk joins us from the University of Massachusetts-Lowell with a Ph.D. in Applied Psychology and Prevention Science. Dr. Marfo joins us from the University of Connecticut with a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology.

Not only is the Department heavily involved in teaching a diverse group of students, but the Psychological Science faculty also support students in attending various Psychology research conferences. In November, Dr. Carrie Andreoletti, Dr. Andrea June, and Dr. Helena Swanson attended the **Gerontological Society of America** annual meeting in Boston, MA, along with 6 students (Erica A. Dewey, Yein Cho, Cailee Sheehan, Isabella Krumm, Sage Vavolizza and Alicia Desrosiers).

At this conference, Dr. Andreoletti chaired a symposium called "Generative AI in Gerontological Education: Innovative Approaches and Emerging Tools". Additionally, Dr. Helena L. Swanson, Dr. Andrea June, and MA students Erica A. Dewey, Yein Cho, Cailee Sheehan, & Isabella Krumm presented a research paper, "**Utilization and Experience of an Older Adult Tuition Waiver Program**," which was part of a larger symposium: Leveraging the Age-Inclusivity Domains of Higher Education Model for Personnel and Community Engagement.

Yein Cho was also a recipient of the competitive Academy of Gerontology in Higher Education **James McKenney Student Travel Award**. Congratulations, Yein!

The Department is proud to offer Psychological Science **Peer Tutoring** for students in a wide variety of classes including Research Methods I & II, Social Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, and more. Students can book an appointment to meet with a peer tutor to work on specific assignments or to ask questions they may have about their class or topic. If you're interested, you can go online through the department's website by scanning the QR code on the right or you can find the **Tutoring Center** in Marcus White Room 360.

**"The Department of Psychological Science is a wonderful community of learners and scholars. We are a big department with a broad range of interests and expertise, but all share a common goal of making the world a better place through the science of human behavior. I'm constantly inspired by my colleagues and our amazing students."**

- Dr. Carrie Andreoletti,  
Department Chair & Professor



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out the  
department  
online!



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