

"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**



WISHING YOU A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!
WE'RE EXCITED FOR ALL THAT IS TO COME!

FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

Dr. Gilbert Gigliotti

Happy New Year!

The "Soracte Ode," or, more accurately, the ninth poem of the first book of the *Odes* of Quintus Horatius Flaccus (65-8 BCE), begins on the frozen slopes of Mt. Soracte (about 20 miles north of Rome) where it is cold, still, and forbidding. By poem's end, some five stanzas later, we're watching a pair of young lovers giddily playing hide-and-seek in a corner of the city. The movement from a chilly, solitary, silence to a laughingly warm – and recognizably human – interaction, in many ways, reflects the transition from Winter Break to the beginning of Spring Semester. Under the quiet cold of break, there's not a little activity (like a mountain stream under the ice), but the happy bustle of returning students and faculty makes the campus heat up and come fully to life once again.

Odes I.ix is also apropos because it's another one of Horace's *carpe diem* poems, which entreat us to take full advantage of the opportunities each day presents us – and that's advice that, even more than 2000 years later, never gets old.

Welcome back, and have a great beginning to the semester!



In Case You Missed It



**GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
SYSTEM (GIS) DAY**



**CCSU CRIMINAL JUSTICE GRAD
SOCIETY SOCIAL**



**CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT
PIZZA STUDY BREAK**



**2025 SENIOR
DESIGN SHOWCASE**



**ART 265 CERAMIC SOUND &
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**



WINTER COMMENCEMENT!



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!

FEBRUARY CLUB MEETINGS & EVENTS!

Red Cross Blood Drive (sponsored by Maternal Health Advocacy Club): February 3

- **When:** 10:30am to 3:30pm
- **Where:** Alumni Hall

SGA Senate: February 4, 11, 18, 25

- **When:** 3:00pm to 4:00pm
- **Where:** RVAC Travelers Room (105)

Muslim Student Association: World Hijab Day February 2

- **When:** 10:00am to 3:00pm
- **Where:** Student Center Lobby

Political Science Club: February 2

- **When:** 3:00pm to 4:00pm
- **Where:** Clocktower Room (Std Cntr)

Spanish Club: February 10, 17, 24

- **When:** 4:00pm to 5:30pm
- **Where:** Clocktower Room (Feb 10 & 24), 1849 Room (Feb 17)

United Caribbean Club: February 5, 12, 19, 26

- **When:** 6:30pm to 7:30pm
- **Where:** Africana Center (Marcus White)

Winter 2026 Club Fair: February 5

- **When:** 12:00 pm to 2:00pm
- **Where:** Student Center, Alumni Hall

Africana Students Organization (ASO): February 2, 9, 16, 23

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

ASO Fashion Show Practice: February 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26

- **When:** 6:00pm to 10:00pm
- **Where:** Marcus White Living Room

Black Student Union: February 3, 10, 17, 24

- **When:** 6:00pm to 7:00pm
- **Where:** Africana Center (Marcus White)

Devil's Den @ 10: February 5, 12, 19, 26

- **When:** 10:00pm to 12:00am
- **Where:** Semesters Cafe (Std Cntr)

United Caribbean Club: Love is in the Hair February 19

- **When:** 6:30pm
- **Where:** Africana Center (Marcus White)

WELCOME ASSISTANT DEAN, DR. ANTONY WORMACK

Dr. Antony Wormack is an experienced Higher Education leader with 20 years of experience in student advisement, Career Services, and academic administration. He recently began to serve as the Assistant Dean for the **College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences** at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU).

Before joining CCSU, Dr. Wormack spent over a decade in various leadership roles at **CT State Naugatuck Valley**, serving as the Director of Career Services, Coordinator of Advising Services and Academic Advisor. His earlier career included a three-year tenure as a Program Advisor at the **University of Connecticut**.

A dedicated lifelong learner, Dr. Wormack holds a Doctor of Law and Public Policy from Northeastern University and a Master's degree from Eastern Connecticut State University. He is passionate about bridging the gap between academic success and career outcomes for all students. Dr. Wormack is eager to leverage his background in career readiness and academic advising to foster a student-centered environment that empowers CCSU students to excel both academically and professionally.



**WELCOME TO
CLASS!**

RECENT CLASS HIGHLIGHTS



Congratulations to Prof. Eilyn Lombard-Cabrera on receiving the NECLAS Multimedia Prize for her *Candela Review*!



Scan the QR code to read a review of Prof. Rob Dowling's book *Coyote* in The New Yorker



Congratulations to Prof. Helen Koulidobrova on being selected as the recipient of a Fulbright award to Ecuador!



Congratulations to the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures for having every full-time faculty member (and some part-time faculty, too) nominated for the Excellent in Teaching Award!

Faculty pictured left to right: Rocío Fuentes, Lourdes Casas, Simone Puleo, Jessica Rutherford, Matthew Chudnow, Noemi Martin Santo, Eilyn Lombard-Cabrera, Gilbert Gigliotti, Sam Zadi (not pictured: Aidan Mack)

CLASS LIVING & LEARNING COMMUNITY

CRIME MAY NOT PAY... BUT IT SURE IS ENTERTAINING

Here at Central, each college is tasked with creating a living and learning community to bring together departments, students, and faculty. For CLASS, the community provides resident students with a dedicated space to explore their creative passions with others who share a desire to immerse themselves in the world of arts. The Living and Learning Community also prioritizes exchanging ideas with your peers while understanding the cultural significance of artistic expression.

This Month's Living and Learning Community Event:

- **February 17, 7:30pm - 9:00pm - Murder Mystery Night**
 - **Where:** CLASS Dean's Office (Willard-DiLoreto D303)



THIS MONTH'S SPOTLIGHTS

By: Emma Farrow and Olivia Tuohy



FACULTY: DRAKE ANDERSEN

Assistant Professor of Music Dr. Drake Andersen is a composer, technologist, and scholar whose creative work and research focus on improvisation and the use of technology in the arts. Since joining Central in 2024, Dr. Andersen has taught courses in electronic music composition, audio production, and other topics in music technology, while also directing the Central iPad Ensemble. Recent highlights include performing with the Central iPad Ensemble at the Danbury Palace in celebration of Connecticut composer Charles Ives's 151st birthday and a collaborative project in which his students composed original music to accompany video work produced in Prof. Ted Efremoff's video art class. Recent and upcoming professional activities include a research presentation at the Pierre Boulez Centennial in Cleveland in November, a multimedia collaboration with percussionist Lisa Pegher at the Winnipeg New Music Festival in January, and the performance of improvised live electronic score for the film Metropolis with pianist Jenny Lin in February. Next fall, Dr. Andersen will host scholars and musicians from around the world on Central's campus for a centennial celebration of the American avant-garde composer Earle Brown. Stay tuned for more!

STUDENT: NICK ORANGE

Graduating senior Nick Orange is an Economics student at Central. After graduating high school, Nick enrolled at Central, where his dad works as a professor of Physical Education and Human Performance. Originally studying Mathematics, Nick decided to pursue an Economics degree after he enjoyed taking the principles courses (ECON 200 & 201). He is proud of the work that he's done in his courses, especially his research paper on Philadelphia's recovery from The Great Recession in 2008 and the subsequent housing issues in the area. Nick is also proud that he's been named to the Dean's List every semester thus far. Fascinated by numbers and business, Nick has been enjoying creating meaningful relationships with his professors and peers. Nick is a member of the Math and Economics Clubs on campus and is excited to see what the future has in store for him. Intrigued by his studies, Nick is considering pursuing graduate school, possibly researching historical economics.



ALUMNA: OLIVIA TUOHY

Olivia Tuohy is a recent alumna who graduated summa cum laude in May 2024 with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Psychological Science. During her time at Central, she was accepted into the Accelerated Master's Program in Criminal Justice, completing the program in May 2025 while also earning her Advanced Detective Certificate. Olivia held several leadership roles, including President of the Criminal Justice Club, founding President of the Zeta Kappa Criminal Justice Honor Society, and a key contributor to the establishment of the Criminal Justice Graduate Society.

Beyond her academic and leadership accomplishments, Olivia applies the skills she developed at Central in her full-time role at a law firm. She was also deeply involved in Success Central, the university's peer mentoring program, where she progressed from mentee to mentor, Senior Mentor, and ultimately Graduate Assistant. In this role, she contributed to research focused on student retention. Olivia remains an active member of the Blue Devil community through her work as a University Assistant in the CLASS Dean's Office. Most recently, she was recognized by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) for her participation in the Justice for Fraud Victims Project, sponsored through Central.



DEPARTMENT: HISTORY

The History department is a collection of 14 scholar-teachers. We are experts in all regions of the world, from Africa, Middle East, Latin America, and Asia to Europe and the United States. We are particularly happy to have a growing group of faculty who have joined the department over the last ten years. They include Juan Coronado (US LatinX history), Aimee Loiselle (US Women, Labor, and Capitalism), Tyler Kynn (Middle East), Camesha Scruggs (US African American history), Abigail Sargent-Loy (medieval Europe), and Karolina Kolpak (modern Poland and Eastern Europe). These scholar-teachers are bringing vibrancy, new initiatives, and new ideas to the department. Here are a few examples:

SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION - Led by Dr. Aimee Loiselle and in cooperation with the School of Education, the social studies education program is thriving. Dr. Loiselle has engaged in several activities that have benefitted our students. She has created an annual internship with the Hartford public school system that enables our students to work with Hartford middle school and high school teachers to develop, design, and pilot new curriculum, and she has helped our students to create a social studies education club, where students gather to share tips and advice about how to navigate the education program and to become a top-notch social studies teacher.

ORAL HISTORY – In an innovative Fall 2025 class, Dr. Coronado introduced students to the field of oral history. Students learned about the usefulness of oral histories as primary sources to fill historical gaps on events and/or people that have been often overlooked by traditional historical approaches.

GAME STUDIES – Dr. Tyler Kynn has singlehandedly created an interdisciplinary games studies minor and, within a year, close to 20 students have signed up for the minor. Thanks to Dr. Kynn's efforts, game studies is a definite growth area for CCSU!

POLISH STUDIES – The Polish and Polish American Studies at CCSU officially welcomed its new Endowed Chair—historian Dr. Karolina Kolpak—in October 2025, uniting community members and friends of the program around a vision of interdisciplinary collaboration and inclusivity. Just a month later, the Endowed Chair delivered her inaugural lecture as part of the Stanisław and Anita Milewski lecture series in Polish History, drawing in a broad audience which included many students from her two new history courses – A Roaring Interbellum: Poland Between the Two World Wars and A Jewish Metropolis: Warsaw Before the Holocaust. The Polish and Polish American Studies Program is excited for the multiple relevant events it will be organizing in spring 2026.

STUDENT CONFERENCE – Dr. Abigail Sargent-Loy has joined with Dr. Matthew Chudnow of World Languages to organize a conference on medieval studies in spring 2026. Both scholar-teachers are doing important work by training students to present their ideas to the public and to make the medieval past of interest to people in the present.

PUBLIC HISTORY – Dr. Camesha Scruggs has joined Dr. Leah Glaser as the faculty leading the department's longstanding and highly successful public history program. Dr. Scruggs brings to our students much needed expertise in museum studies and African American history and seeks to widen the purview of public history and its audience.

The History department is dedicated to helping students to understand the past as a complex and fascinating period worthy of study by college undergraduates today. **If you have any ideas about how we as a department can do that better, please email the chair Mark Jones at jonesm@ccsu.edu.**

scan to check
out the
department
online!



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