



"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

CLASS FACULTY & STAFF AUCTION RECAP



**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED,
HELPED, AND PARTICIPATED. WE RAISED OVER
\$2,600.00!**

BOOK SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



**APPLICATIONS DUE
NOVEMBER 21, 2025**

LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED

FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

Dr. Gilbert Gigliotti

Greetings from DiLoreto 303!

We've reached that point in Fall semester when, on the one hand, Summer seems not that long ago, but, on the other, we're already past mid-terms with no break until Thanksgiving -- at which point we'll be careening (or, at least, slouching) toward finals.

The activities of each of our 15 departments in the Carol A. Ammon College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLASS) are now coming fast and furious, as this newsletter makes clear, and in numbers that make deans (even interim ones) darned proud of what students and faculty are able to accomplish in their courses and research.

But I'm not surprised: We are, after all, the CLASS of Central.

Enjoy our second newsletter, and feel free to reach out with comments or questions:
gigliotti@ccsu.edu.

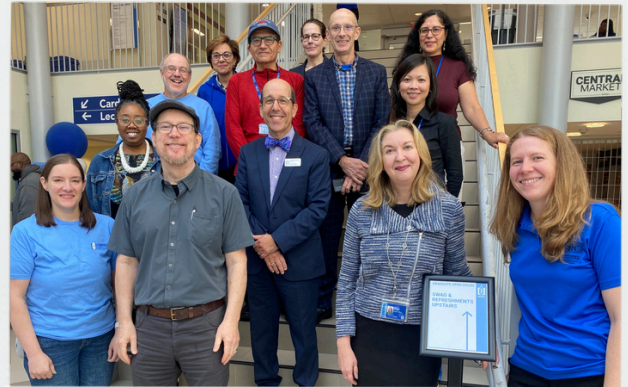


**Dean's Dinner for the Living and Learning
Community - October 29, 2025
P.F. Chang's, West Hartford**

In Case You Missed It



**AWARD-WINNING PAPER PUBLICATION IN
COLLABORATION WITH SUCCESS CENTRAL
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025
SEE STORY ON PAGE 5**



**GRADUATE OPEN HOUSE
OCTOBER 4, 2025**



**MURAL RIBBON-CUTTING WITH
DR. THOMAS ZACCHEO
OCTOBER 9, 2025**



**A CONVERSATION WITH STEFANIA
GERMENIA
OCTOBER 10, 2025**



**CLLC BUTTON LAB
OCTOBER 13, 2025**



**CENTRAL IPAD ENSEMBLE -
CELEBRATING CHARLES IVES
OCTOBER 18, 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!

NOVEMBER CLUB MEETINGS & EVENTS!

SGA Senate: November 5, 12, 19

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

United Caribbean Club: November 6, 13, 20

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

Japanese Culture Club: November 6, 13, 20

- **When:** 7:30pm to 9:00pm
- **Where:** CCSU AAPI Center

History Club: November 6, 20

- **When:** 4:30pm to 5:30pm
- **Where:** History Hub Bassett Hall Room

Political Science Club: November 3, 17

- **When:** 3:00pm to 4:00pm
- **Where:** Blue & White Room (Std Ctr)

Psychology Club: November 5, 19

- **When:** 4:30pm to 5:30pm
- **Where:**

Sociology Club: November 5, 12, 19, 26

- **When:** 3:15pm to 4:15pm
- **Where:** Bassett Hall Room 318

Spanish Club: November 4, 11, 18

- **When:** 4:00pm to 6:00pm
- **Where:** Willard-DiLoreto W306

South Asian Students Association: November 5, 19

- **When:** 5:30pm to 6:30pm
- **Where:** Sprague/Carleton Room (Std Ctr)

Commuter Breakfast: November 5, 12, 19

- **When:** 9:00am to 10:00am
- **Where:** Student Center Lobby

CAN Karaoke Night!: November 11

- **When:** 6:00pm to 7:00pm
- **Where:** Student Center

CT Geographic Information Systems Day: November 19

- **When:** 8:00am to 2:00pm
- **Where:** Alumni Hall

Africana Students Organization (ASO):

November 3, 10, 17, 24

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

ASO Fashion Show Practice: November 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25

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

Black Student Union: November 4, 11, 18, 25

- **When:** 6:00pm to 7:00pm
- **Where:** Clock Tower Room (Std Ctr)

Criminal Justice Club: November 5, 19

- **When:** 3:15pm to 4:15pm
- **Where:** RVAC 209

Philosophy Club: November 5, 12, 19, 26

- **When:** 4:15pm to 5:15pm
- **Where:** Willard-DiLoreto W309

Anthropology Club: November 13, 20, 27

- **When:** 4:30pm to 5:30pm
- **Where:** Bassett Hall 417
- **Paint Night:** November 6
 - 4:30pm in Bassett Hall Room 417

Muslim Student Association: November 6, 20

- **When:** 6:00pm to 8:00pm
- **Where:** Philbrick/Camp Room (Std Ctr)

Latin American Student Organization (LASO): November 4, 20

- **When:** 4:45pm to 5:45pm
- **Where:** Sprague/Carleton Room (Std Cntr)

Commuters & Careers Workshop: November 11

- **When:** 2:00pm to 4:00pm
- **Where:** Student Center Lobby Tables

Engaging AAPI Voices: November 13

- **When:** 11:00am to 12:00pm
- **Where:** AAAP Center in Library (Room 205)

scan for more
information on CT
GIS Day!



MEET OUR ADVISORS!



**LEAH
SKINNER**

**Anthropology
International Studies
Media Studies
Philosophy
Psychological Science
Sociology
Strategic
Communication
Undeclared (CLASS)**



**CYNTHIA
MENA**

**Climate Change
Studies (B.A.)
Criminology
Economics
Geography
Graphic/Information
Design
Tourism & Hospitality**



**RACHAEL
DAVIS**

**Art
English
French
History
Italian
Journalism
Music
Spanish
Theatre
Political Science**

Contact CLASS Advising: 860-832-2602, CLASSAdvising@ccsu.edu, Willard-DiLoreto Hall D313/317

CLASS LIVING & LEARNING COMMUNITY

CREATING A FIRST YEAR: A SEMESTER OF CREATIVITY

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 Events:

- **November 5, 4:00pm - 5:30pm - Sound Scavenger Hunt**
 - **Where:** James Hall Lobby



THIS MONTH'S SPOTLIGHTS

By: Emma Farrow and Olivia Tuohy



FACULTY: SILVIA CORBERA-LOPEZ

Since joining Central in 2016, Dr. Silvia Corbera López—Associate Professor of Psychological Science, Licensed Connecticut Psychologist, and Director of the Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience Lab—has worked to educate students while conducting research on social cognition in individuals broadly and particularly in those across the schizophrenia spectrum. In 2023, she began her most recent project, which has since been published in the journal *Frontiers in Psychiatry*. The project, titled "Underlying Neurological, Genetic, and Behavioral Mechanisms in Schizophrenia and Autism Spectrum Disorder," provides an integrative overview of the shared and distinct neurobiological, genetic, and behavioral mechanisms underlying these two conditions. For this project, Dr. Corbera López and her colleagues (Dr. Michal Assaf and Dr. Rafael Penadés) aimed to bring together contributions from the scientific community, examining shared and distinct endophenotypes within and between schizophrenia and autism spectrum disorder, particularly those offering insights to advance diagnostic tools and therapeutic interventions. The authors hope that the findings in this publication will stimulate further research and innovation in understanding and treating these complex neurodevelopmental conditions.

STUDENT: THOMAS STORY

Thomas is a senior Philosophy major and the President of the Philosophy Club, which is very active. The club currently has two reading groups that are focused on analyzing major philosophical works. The club will also be traveling to Baltimore, Maryland, for the annual conference of the American Philosophical Association. Currently Thomas is working on his senior thesis which focuses on the accuracy of relating real concepts to experiences. Specifically, he is focusing on "Is this what it's like?" questions, such as, "Is this what it's like to be in love?" or "Is this what it's like to be a nervous laugher?" Outside things philosophical, Thomas enjoys rock climbing, hiking, and playing the 90s arcade game "Dance Dance Revolution." Thomas is excited about his future. He is interested in pursuing graduate study in Philosophy in the hopes of becoming a college professor.



ALUMNA: VICTORIA WALLINGTON

Victoria Wallington graduated *summa cum laude* from Central in May 2020 with a Bachelor's of Arts in Psychological Science and a minor in Criminal Justice. She continued her education at CCSU, earning a Master's degree in Psychology with a specialization in Health Psychology. Victoria currently serves as the coordinator of Success Central's Peer Mentoring program, where she leads mentor onboarding, program development, and campus collaborations to support undergraduates through Success Central's College Life Coaching Model. Working with Dr. Reginald Simmons, the former chair of Criminology/Criminal Justice and founder of Success Central, Valentina Hernandez, and Emily Cardinale, both of whom are Central alumnae, Victoria recently published "Success Central: Examining the Relationship Between Peer Coaching and Success of Residential vs. Commuter College Students" in the *Journal of College Student Retention: Research, Theory & Practice*. Their work was also presented at the National Symposium for Student Retention Conference in San Diego, California, in October 2022, where it earned the prestigious 2022 Director's Award. As of fall 2024, Victoria has begun teaching in Central's Criminology/Criminal Justice Department, where her courses include "Research Methods" and "Ideology and Violence." Victoria says she looks forward to continuing her role as coordinator and further developing and expanding Success Central as a resource for undergraduate students.



DEPARTMENT: MUSIC

Central's Department of Music is entering a vibrant period of **growth, collaboration, and artistic excellence**. Dr. Heather de Savage, Assistant Professor of Musicology, is honored to serve as **Interim Department Chair**, working alongside Administrative Faculty, June Aino, whose tireless support keeps the Music Office running smoothly.

This fall, the Department of Music welcomed an outstanding group of students into the **Music BA** and **Music Education BS** programs. The BA concentrations include Performance, Theory & Composition, Jazz Studies, and Music Technology, plus flexible options for exploratory study and external minors. Under Dr. Drake Andersen's leadership, Music Technology continues to grow, including contributions to Central's new Integrated Multimedia Production program.

Our **ensembles** are thriving, with performances in Welte Auditorium, Founders Hall, and other venues on and off campus. Students prepare challenging repertoire with directors Dr. James Minnix (Wind Ensemble, Marching Band), Dr. Gaylon Robinson (Chorale, University Singers, Vocal Jazz), Dr. Carl Knox (Big Band), and Dr. Andersen (iPad Ensemble) and many participate in chamber groups led by our talented studio faculty. A highlight from last year was the **University Chorale's** performance at **Carnegie Hall**, and Dr. Robinson continues to build on that success.

Looking ahead, the department is excited to host the first **Connecticut Music Festival** this spring (featuring middle and high school students from the state) and to welcome back the **Women Composers Festival of Hartford** for its third year at Central. Their **annual Prism concert** will round out the year, showcasing all of their student ensembles in one dynamic performance in Alumni Hall. Please watch for information on these and other special events from Music!

Academically, students are immersed in core courses in music theory and aural skills (Dr. Sunny Knable), music history (Dr. de Savage), music technology (Dr. Andersen), and piano (Dr. Susan Cheng), among others. Private lessons are taught by an impressive roster of applied faculty, including new additions Katherine Whyte (voice) and Gonzalo Cortés (flute).

Central's Music faculty maintain active profiles in performance, scholarship, and creative work in their respective fields. They enjoy sharing these activities with our students as they look ahead to their own careers.

Central Music is energized, engaged, and growing, and they look forward to sharing more with you soon.

"At the heart of the Department of Music is a dynamic blend of community, creativity, and collaboration. Our dedicated faculty, exceptional student musicians, and innovative programs come together to shape a vibrant, forward-looking musical education. I am continually inspired by my colleagues and students, and appreciate all that they contribute to Central Music!"

- Dr. Heather de Savage,
Interim Department Chair & Professor



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out the
department
online!



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