

“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 DATES & EVENTS!

- **March 4 - April 10:** *Tangled Roots: Echoes of Herstory in Environmental Justice* (Chen Art Gallery, M 12-4 & T-F 11-4)
- **March 5-7 @7pm, March 8 @2pm:** Theatre Department’s Black Box Production - *Webster’s Bitch*
- **March 10 @4pm:** The Art of Political Dissent - Andrzej Wajda Symposium & Film Screening (Torp Theater)
- **March 10 6-8pm:** CLASS Graduate Open House (Chen Art Gallery, Maloney Hall)
- **March 11 @7:30pm:** Wind Ensemble Concert - *Sounds of Community and Civil Rights* (Welte Auditorium)
- **March 16-22:** Spring Break, No Classes
- **March 19-20:** Connecticut Digital Humanities Conference (Elihu Burritt Library)
- **March 20 & 21:** CT 1776 - A Revolutionary Event (Student Center, Alumni Hall)
- **March 23 - April 2:** Fall 2026 Academic Advising
- **March 24:** Midterms
- **March 25:** Summer 2026 Registration begins
- **March 30-April 2:** Accelerate Central Week (see page 4)
- **March 31:** Criminal Justice & Public Safety Fair



Scan to register



Scan to register  
(by March 16)

## FROM THE DEAN’S DESK

Dr. Gilbert Gigliotti

I recently gave a talk about “The Valiant,” a one-act play co-written by New Britain native Robert Middlemass. The play, first produced in 1922, was subsequently made into a 1929 film with an Oscar-nominated performance by Paul Muni (and, in 1945, a radio production starring Humphrey Bogart). In the drama, a convicted murderer in the Wethersfield State Prison refuses to reveal his identity to the chaplain or warden, and not even when visited by his sister who was very young when her much older brother left home.

The audience finally learns of his deep, and loving, connection to his family and his past through two quotations from Shakespeare. The first, which the young woman still recalls verbatim, is an exchange between Juliet and Romeo that our protagonist recited to her each night before going to sleep (Act II.ii: 200-203):

Good night, good night. Parting is such sweet sorrow  
That I shall say “Good night” till it be morrow.

Sleep dwell upon thine eyes, peace in thy breast.  
Would I were sleep and peace so sweet to rest.

The second, from *Julius Caesar*, is repeated slowly by the prisoner while being led to the electric chair (Act II.ii.34-35):

Cowards die many times before their deaths;  
The valiant never taste of death but once.

I recount this to you (not simply because of the photo from our LLC “Murder Mystery Night” last month) but also since, without a doubt, language evokes memories, and the well wrought language of literature can make those memories all the more vivid, all the more alive. So, sometime during Spring Break, find yourself a good book, or play, or essay, or poem; read it carefully and thoughtfully now. There’s a good chance that some of those words will stick with you forever.



# In Case You Missed It



**DESIGN TRIP TO NORWICH  
TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL**



**CLASS LLC  
MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT**



**MLK SYMPOSIUM &  
DAY OF SERVICE**



**NYC iHEART RADIO STUDIO TOUR  
(WFCS E-BOARD & WAVING ALUMNA)**

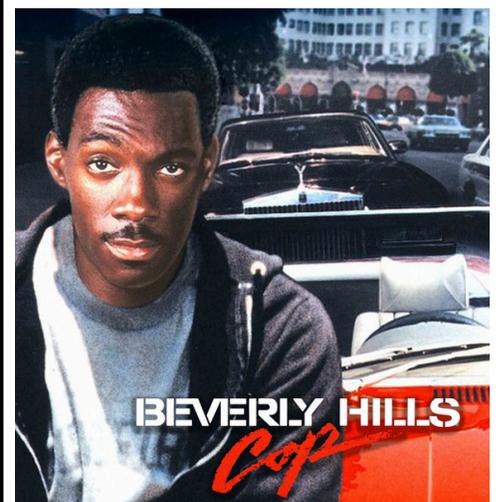
## CLASS LIVING & LEARNING COMMUNITY

### 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:

- **March 24, 7:30pm - Beverly Hills Cop (1984)**  
introduced by Dr. Jennifer Hedlund
  - **Where:** James Hall 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Community Room



## 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!

## MARCH CLUB MEETINGS & EVENTS!

**Africana Students Organization (ASO) Meeting:** March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

- **When:** 7:00pm to 10:00pm
- **Where:** Africana Center (Marcus White)

**ASO Fashion Show Practice:** March 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26, 31

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

**Asian American Pacific Islander Association General Meeting:** March 9 & 23

- **When:** 6:00pm to 7:00pm
- **Where:** AAPI Center (EB Library 205)

**Black Student Union Meeting:** March 3, 10, 24, 31

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

**Breakers Game Night with Albanian Student Union (ASU):** March 25

- **When:** 4:30pm to 6:00pm
- **Where:** Breakers Game Room (Std Cntr)

**Criminal Justice Club Meeting:** March 9 & 23

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

**Devil's Den @ 10:** March 5, 12, 26

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

**Dominoes & Dominos (LASO):** March 12

- **When:** 4:00pm to 7:00pm
- **Where:** Latin American, Latino, Caribbean Center (EB Library 408)

**Find Your Calm (Yoga & Meditation):** March 12

- **When:** 1:00pm to 2:00pm
- **Where:** Office of Wellness Education

**History Club Meeting:** March 11 & 25

- **When:** 3:00pm to 4:00pm
- **Where:** History Hub (Bassett Hall, Room 208)

**Justice in Action Meeting:** March 5

- **When:** 3:30pm to 4:30pm
- **Where:** Travelers Lecture Hall, RVAC 105

**Kalye Fest (Filipino Student Association):** March 12

- **When:** 6:00pm to 7:00pm
- **Where:** AAPI Center (EB Library 205)

**Latin American Student Organization (LASO) Meeting:**

March 3, 10, 24, 31

- **When:** 1:00pm to 4:00pm
- **Where:** Latin American, Latino, Caribbean Center (EB Library 408)

**Loteria Night (LASO):** March 5

- **When:** 4:00pm to 7:00pm
- **Where:** LALCC (EB Library 408)

**Muslim Student Association General Meeting:** March 26

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

**Paws & Relax:** March 5, 12, 26

- **When:** 2:30pm to 3:30pm
- **Where:** Office of Wellness Education, Willard 101

**Philosophy Club Meeting:** March 4, 11, 25

- **When:** 3:15pm to 4:15pm
- **Where:** Willard-DiLoreto Hall, W207

**Political Science Club Meeting:** March 2, 30

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

**Pre Law Society General Meeting:** March 9 & 23

- **When:** 3:00pm to 4:00pm
- **Where:** 1849 Room (Std Cntr)

**Resume & CV Workshop (with Dr. Fallahi & Psychology Club):** March 4

- **When:** 4:30pm to 5:30pm
- **Where:** Sprague Carleton Room (Std Cntr)

**SGA Senate Meeting:** March 4, 11, 18, 25

- **When:** 3:05pm to 4:05pm
- **Where:** Travelers Lecture Hall, RVAC 105

**Sociology Club Meeting:** March 4, 11, 25

- **When:** 2:00pm to 3:00pm
- **Where:** Bassett Hall, Room 318

**South Asian Students Association Meeting:** March 10 & 24

- **When:** 5:30pm to 6:30pm
- **Where:** Philbrick Camp Room (Std Cntr)

**Spanish Club Meeting:** March 3, 10, 24, 31

- **When:** 4:00pm to 5:30pm
- **Where:** Clocktower Room (Std Cntr)

**Spill the Tea on Women's History Month:** March 2

- **When:** 10:30am to 11:30am
- **Where:** Willard-DiLoreto Atrium

**Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) Meeting:** March 5

- **When:** 4:00pm to 5:00pm
- **Where:** Philbrick Camp Room (Std Cntr)

**United Caribbean Club:** March 5, 12, 19, 26

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

## WELCOME ASSISTANT DEAN, DR. LAURA MINOR

Dr. Laura Minor most recently comes to CCSU from Trinity College in Hartford, where she was a lecturer in Public Policy and Law and the Director of Academic Programs at their Center for Hartford Engagement and Research. However, Laura is a familiar face at CCSU, since prior to Trinity she was a CLASS academic advisor and instructor/facilitator for CCSU's minor in Community and Civic Engagement for 10 years. Laura has a Master's in Educational Psychology from the University of Texas at Austin, and a PhD from Clemson University in International Family and Community Studies. She has a passion for experiential learning and community engagement in higher education, as well as for the importance of the liberal arts as a foundation for meaningful careers for our CCSU graduates - she has taught career readiness courses at CCSU for many years. She looks forward to helping our state university students make the most of their higher education experience in partnership with the deans, advisors, and faculty in CLASS. Laura lives on a lake in New Hartford and loves kayaking, paddle boarding, hiking, and fostering cats from her local animal rescue, and is reliably unable to resist mocha lattes and most forms of cheese. She looks forward to working with the great people at CCSU again!



**WELCOME BACK  
TO CLASS!**

## ACCELERATE CENTRAL WEEK!

### HAPPENING MARCH 30 THROUGH APRIL 2

*Thinking about graduate school? Accelerate Central Week* is your chance to learn how you can earn your bachelor's and master's degrees faster through Central's Accelerate Pathways.

Here are the events, sponsored by Graduate Studies at Central:

**Monday, March 30 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

#### **Kickoff Event – Student Center Circle**

- Stop by for food trucks and a general information table to learn what Accelerate Central is all about and how accelerated programs work.

**Tuesday–Thursday, March 31 – April 2 | 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

#### **Program Tabling – Willard–DiLoreto Atrium**

- Meet faculty and Graduate Studies staff from accelerate pathways across all schools. Ask questions about eligibility, timelines, and next steps.
- This is a drop-in event – come anytime during the tabling hours.

#### *Why Attend?*

- Save time by starting graduate coursework early
- Reduce overall tuition costs
- Get a head start on your career
- Explore programs across multiple disciplines

CLASS Accelerate  
Pathways:

- Criminal Justice, MS
- English, MA
- Psychology, MA

# THIS MONTH'S SPOTLIGHTS

By: Emma Farrow and Olivia Tuohy



## FACULTY: AIDAN MACK

"Teaching is at the heart of everything I do. My greatest passion is helping students succeed and preparing them for the realities of the professional world. In my Deaf Studies and ASL courses, I witness students undergo a profound transformation. Many arrive hearing-centered, focused on words and sounds, and gradually discover that meaning lives in every movement, gesture, and facial expression. Their hands, faces, and posture become instruments of communication. I watch their awareness expand as they grasp the full depth of visual language, realizing that communication is not confined to sound and that every part of themselves has power and purpose. Teaching constantly challenges me to grow. Each class stretches me to communicate more clearly, think more creatively, and deepen my understanding of both my subject and my students. Surrounded by passionate and innovative colleagues, I am reminded that learning is never one-way; education is a shared journey. I do not only teach; I learn, adapt, and discover alongside my students and peers every day. I am grateful to be part of CCSU, where I am inspired daily by diverse students and colleagues who challenge and expand my perspective. My mission is simple but enduring: to equip students not only with knowledge, but with confidence, resilience, and the courage to embrace their full potential. When they leave my classroom, carrying new skills, new understanding, and a stronger sense of themselves, I know I have done more than teach—I have helped them step into their own power."

- Aidan Mack, Instructor and Coordinator, the ASL and Deaf Studies Program

## STUDENT: MARCUS SAUNDERS

Marcus Saunders is a graduating senior who will earn his Bachelor of Arts in Journalism with a minor in Sports Studies. Marcus, who grew up playing basketball, came to Central to pursue his passion for news media and sports. He is the co-editor-in-chief of *The Recorder*, the student newspaper. Additionally, Marcus traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend the Society of Professional Journalists' conference, where he was able to make connections and learn from journalists from around the country. Notably, Marcus was selected for the 34th class of the Sports Journalism Institute, where he will be part of the highly competitive 2026 cohort alongside students from prestigious universities around the country. From this, he will have the opportunity to attend a training program for students pursuing careers in sports journalism and intern with *The Providence Journal*. Marcus will also be participating in the journalism study abroad program this summer, taking in the sights and culture of Florence and Tuscany, Italy. Marcus is especially proud of his passion project that he completed alongside Professor Aimee Crawford in her Longform Sports Journalism course. His project, titled "From Overlooked to Undeniable: How Two Transfers Helped Revive CCSU Basketball", describes the journeys of two Central students who quickly became central to the team's success. He is filled with excitement for new opportunities and adventures that he will explore after graduating in May.



## ALUMNA: OLIVIA GRELLA



Olivia graduated from CCSU in 2022 with a Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature as well as in Spanish Language with a minor in Strategic Communication. After a summer studying abroad in Italy post-graduation, Olivia returned to CCSU in 2023 to pursue her master's degree in public history and graduate certificate in Cultural Resource Management. Olivia's studies have focused on local history, labor history, historic preservation, as well as environmental history. Olivia is on track to graduate this May! She currently works as the Marketing & Communications Manager for Connecticut Landmarks, a nonprofit historical organization which owns and operates a state-wide network of 11 historic properties. Olivia is also the Subscription Manager for the nonprofit magazine of Connecticut history, *Connecticut Explored*. Olivia says she is enthusiastic about mission-driven work where she can leverage her skills in writing and marketing with her passion for storytelling to create compelling narratives, strengthen branding, and elevate consumer experience. Outside of work, you can find her at the Hartford Dance Collective, experiencing live music, and traveling! Connect with Olivia on LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/oliviagrella/>) - she would love to chat about her CCSU experience, the events at Connecticut Landmarks' historic house museums, and *Connecticut Explored's* upcoming special magazine issue!

# DEPARTMENT: ECONOMICS

The **Department of Economics** is a proud member of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. Central's economics program offers a range of study options for students, including a Bachelor of Arts in Economics, a minor in economics, and a minor in community engagement. The department is currently pursuing new interdisciplinary initiatives that will give students even more opportunities to pursue their career and educational goals. The department offers courses that emphasize critical thinking, policy evaluation, quantitative analysis, and technical skills with computer software.

In summer 2025, the Economics Department moved to its **new home in Bassett Hall**. The department is excited to work more closely with their colleagues in the social sciences. This new space will enhance the work of both students and faculty in economics, as there is a common area for collaboration, meetings, and labs for the quantitative course offerings.

Following their summer move, the Department of Economics has welcomed **Dr. Ferdous Sardar** as a new Assistant Professor! Dr. Sardar's areas of expertise include applied microeconomics (including health, development, education, labor, and behavioral economics), econometrics, machine learning, and data analytics.

With this new addition, economics faculty will continue to prioritize learning outside the classroom. **Experiential learning** - such as service learning, faculty-student research, internships, and study abroad programs - is often incorporated into courses and offered to students. Additionally, economics faculty are working on new teaching and research projects on contemporary issues, such as artificial intelligence, inequality, inflation, and international trade.

In addition to various academic opportunities, many of Central's Economics students are members of the **Omicron Delta Epsilon Honors Society** (ODE), an international honors society in economics. Some students within the department have participated in the University Research and Creative Achievement Program (URCAP) with faculty in their area of expertise.

In other news, in January Drs. Jared Ragusett and Alfredo Rosete both presented their ongoing research at the Allied Social Sciences Associations (ASSA) conference. Dr. Ragusett presented his work on political economics and artificial intelligence, while Dr. Rosete presented his work on labor empowerment and environmental protection. The Department of Economics is also proud to announce, Dr. Carlos Liard-Muriente, Dr. Brian Osoba, and Dr. Ferdous Sardar were selected for the **Honor Roll** of the 2026-27 **Excellence in Teaching Award**.

**"Our work in the classroom and our research are current and address the profound issues of society today, such as climate change, inequality, inflation, international trade, and technological change. Although we are all active professionals in our field, we are first and foremost teachers. Our energy source is always the classroom and the interests of our students. Economics is an exciting field that provides students with a wide range of skills and career opportunities, which is critical in a rapidly changing world."**

- Dr. Jared Ragusett,  
Department Chair & Professor



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