

IRIS

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

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

FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

In his poem "Little Gidding" (1942), composed and published amid the turmoil of the Second World War, T.S. Eliot writes, "What we call the beginning is often the end / And to make an end is to make a beginning. / The end is where we start from."

I've been thinking about these lines for the past few weeks as I have contemplated the excitement of the start of a new school year and the challenges of a significant ongoing transition in leadership on our campus. I am impressed by the vitality and resilience of our students, faculty, and staff as we have come together once again to engage in our shared work of teaching and learning, discovering and creating.

We'll wrap up an outstanding student-curated exhibition, "*Perspectivas: In Honor of Gilberto Cárdenas*" at the Chen Gallery on October second, and we look forward to a probing discussing of the changing landscape of journalism when we observe News Engagement Day on October sixth. Our campus production of Sophocles' *Antigone* will open on October eighth, and on October ninth we'll celebrate the legacy of the composer Earle Brown with concerts, scholarly presentations, and a roundtable discussion. *That's just the first week of a very busy month of programming!*

I hope to see many of you at events and activities on campus in October! Please feel free to reach out to me at any time (d.macey@ccsu.edu, 860.832.2625) or to stop by the dean's office (Willard-DiLoreto Hall D303) if you would like to learn more about the exciting work that Liberal Arts and Social Sciences students, faculty, and staff are doing.



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COMING UP IN CLASS...

- **October 3, 10, 24, 31: Marching Band Performances**
 - 12:00p; Arute Field
- **October 6: 16th Annual CCSU Drive Electric Showcase**
 - 10:00a - 2:00p; Student Center Parking Lot
- **October 6: News Engagement Day**
 - 6:00 - 7:30p; Founders Hall
- **October 7: CT Student Loan Workshop** (sponsored by the Dept. of Sociology & CLASS Dean's Office)
 - 11:00a - 12:00p; Connecticut Room, Memorial Hall
- **October 8-11: Antigone Production** (adapted by Asst. Professor Nick Roesler) [Tickets available here!](#)
- **October 9: Perspective on Earle Brown at 100** (Music)
 - All day; Founders Hall <https://earlebrown100.carrd.co/>
- **October 12: Guest Speaker, Dept. of Philosophy**
 - Tyrique Mack-Georges, "From Disalienation to Decolonization: Fanon's Double Process"
 - 3:15 - 4:45p; WD W304
- **October 14: Central Authors - Dr. Eilyn Lombard Cabrera** (WLLC), *En el invierno, el pan*
 - 12:15p; Central Bookstore
- **October 19: Writing Center Workshop**
 - 12:00 - 1:00p; Writing Center WD W314
- **October 20: Jazz Big Band Performance**
 - 7:30p; Welte Auditorium
- **October 27: University Singers/Chorale Performance**
 - 7:30p; Welte Auditorium
- **October 28: Central Authors - Kelly Jarvis (English),** *Sea and Stars*
 - 12:15pm; Central Bookstore

IMPORTANT DATES

- **October 6: Fall Career & Internship Fair | Alumni Hall, 1-4pm**
- October 8-10: Homecoming 2026!
- October 19: Midterms
- **October 19-30: Spring 2027 Academic Advising Period**
- **October 30: Spring 2027 Registration Begins** (for matriculated students)

OCTOBER CLUB MEETINGS

Black Student Union Meetings: October 13, 20, & 27

When: 6:00p - 7:00p

Where: Africana Center - Marcus White

AAAPI Association Meeting: October 12 & 26

When: 6:00p - 7:00p

Where: AAAPI Center - Library, Second Floor

Africana Students Organization: October 5, 12, 19, 26

When: 7:00p - 9:00p

Where: Africana Center - Marcus White

Spanish Club Meeting: October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

When: 5:00p - 6:00p

Where: Student Center - Blue & White Room (133)

SGA Senate Meetings: October 7, 14, 21, 28

When: 3:00p - 4:30p

Where: RVAC - Travelers Lecture Hall, Room 105

Filipino Student Association Meeting: October 1

When: 4:00p - 5:00p

Where: AAAPI Center - Library, Second Floor

South Asian Student Association: October 7, 8, 21, 22

When: 4:00p - 5:00p

Where: Student Center - Philbrick Camp Room

United Carribean Club Meeting: October 8

When: 6:30p - 7:30p

Where: Africana Center - Marcus White

Philosophy Club Meeting: October 5, 12, 19, 26

When: 3:15p - 4:15p

Where: Willard DiLoreto - D406

Political Science Club Meetings: October 7 & 21

When: 4:30p - 5:30p

Where: Student Center - 1849 Room

Albanian Student Union Game Night: October 5

When: 4:30p - 6:00p

Where: Student Center - Clock Tower Room (134)

Criminal Justice Club Meeting: October 7 & 21

When: 3:15p - 4:15p

Where: RVAC 209

SGA Senate Voting Lobby Table: October 5, 6, & 7

When: 11:30a - 2:30p

Where: Student Center Lobby

Pre-Law Society General Meeting: October 12 & 26

When: 3:15p - 4:15p

Where: Student Center - Clock Tower Room (134)

UPCOMING CLASS LLC EVENTS

The CLASS Living Learning Community (LLC) is located in James Hall, and brings together first-year students from across the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences to build connections, explore academic interests, and make the most of their time at Central!



Human Bingo | October 8, 3-4pm in Willard-DiLoreto Hall room D-313

Murder Mystery Night | October 20, hosted by CLASS alumna Olivia Tuohy

Contacts: Cristina Conte or Monica Rivera

ADVISING & REGISTRATION FAQ

STUDENTS, OCTOBER IS THE TIME TO MEET WITH YOUR ACADEMIC ADVISOR!

Be prepared for the spring 2027 semester and register ASAP to get a seat in the classes you need. Questions? Don't be afraid to reach out. We're here to help!

»» [CLICK HERE TO FIND YOUR REGISTRATION TIME!](#)

✓ HOW DO I REGISTER FOR COURSES?

You'll register from [CentralPipeline](#) -> Student Records & Registration -> Registration & Schedule Planner **after you discuss courses with your advisor.**

Here is a video guide: [Course Registration & Schedule Planner](#)

Other videos you might find helpful: <https://www.ccsu.edu/registrar/instructional-videos>

★ WHO IS MY ACADEMIC ADVISOR?

Your advisors are listed at the top of your Degree Evaluation. You can find that through the new [CentralPipeline](#) -> Student Records & Registration -> Student Self Service -> View Degree Evaluation

Contact your primary advisor first!

🎓 HOW DO I CHANGE MY MAJOR?

Our records indicate that your major is currently within the [College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences \(CLASS\)](#). If you would like to change your major, you can do so using this form: https://docs.ccsu.edu/Change_of_Major.pdf

»» *Tip: You can also use this form to **declare a minor** without changing anything else.*

📝 WHY IS THERE A HOLD ON MY ACCOUNT?

The Registrar's Office can tell you more about which hold is preventing you from registering. If you know it's related to a bill, please contact the Bursar's Office. If it's related to FAFSA or scholarships, please contact Financial Aid.

Registrar: regstaff@ccsu.edu, (860) 832-2236, WD D-202

Bursar: billing-bursar@ccsu.edu, (860) 832-2010, WD W-212

Financial Aid: finaid@ccsu.edu, (860) 832-3200, WD W-208

Please feel free to contact us when you need assistance - student or faculty!

CLASSAdvising@ccsu.edu, CLASSDeanOffice@ccsu.edu

October IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Submit a suggestion: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/2dXGMzVaLD>

Faculty Spotlight: Jeanne Criscola

Jeanne Criscola, MFA, is a Professor of Graphic/Information Design here at Central, where she has taught since 2015. A practicing designer, curator, educator, and publisher, she was the recipient of Central's Excellence in Teaching Award in 2017 and 2024. Some of her recent books published through OctoberWorks, her imprint, include *Herbert Matter: Artist Magician*, created with author John T. Hill, and *The Perch Journal: Social*, with contributors from Yale, Wesleyan, and Central. Both received 2026 national and regional design recognition including a UCDA Silver Award and Judges Honor for *Herbert Matter* and Excellence Award for *The Perch*. Central Design students were awarded Silver for *Barbenheimer*, an exhibition created in collaboration with Communication faculty. *Herbert Matter* also received a Silver Award from CADC.

Criscola teaches across the Design curriculum, from foundations and design history to advanced professional practice, interdisciplinary study, internships, and study abroad, while helping shape an updated curriculum that reflects how designers work today. Through Criscola Design, she continues to work directly with clients, bringing research, critical thinking, and visual communication together to make complex ideas accessible, meaningful, and engaging to their audiences. She brings this active studio practice directly into the classroom.



Dept. of English, Monster Reads Project

Monster Read Debuts with Award-Winning Book

Written by Ethan Bazinet

Author Sasha Hom launches the new Monster Community Read initiative from the Central Writing Minors. This week-long event aims to connect the writing minors in a new and interactive way. "A project that involved all eleven classes in the minors has been a goal of mine for many years," said project organizer Prof. Jotham Burrello. "Sasha's novel is a perfect match. The students engage with the novel in multiple forums."

The event will include four book discussions, a group reading of *Sidework* led by the students, and two conversations with the author herself! The novel won the 2025 Vermont Book Award for fiction.

I spoke with Hom about her inspiration for the novel. "I was really inspired by some work by the writer Stuart Dybek. He had these short little pieces, and I was like, okay, I can do that. I can manage writing something new and do it in these kind of bite-sized chunks."



Sidework follows its narrator through a day shift at her waitressing job, but it also includes selections from the perspectives of other characters. I asked Hom about this decision. "One of the things I was trying to create in the restaurant part was this sort of sense of a polyphonic environment. Like the actual experience of being in a really busy restaurant, you're hearing so many voices, and I really wanted to make space for other voices and experiences."

Central students are invited to take part in four book discussions on October 19 and 20 in the Lit Pit of the English Department [WD W-401]. On Wednesday, October 21, Writing Minor students will read the novel aloud in the English Atrium from 1–4 p.m. The campus community is invited to a reading and conversation with Hom on Thursday, October 22, in Barnard Hall, rooms 101/102 at 10 a.m. and 1 pm.



DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

»» COMMUNICATION »»

The **Department of Communication**, located on the third floor of Vance Academic Center, houses two undergraduate majors (and minors) in **Media Studies** and **Strategic Communication**, and a **Master of Science** degree in Strategic Communication, and a new Official Certificate Program in **Public Relations and Social Media Strategy**. Courses in our department also contribute to the new major in **Integrated Multimedia Production**, a major in International Studies, and minors in Cinema Studies; International Studies; Sports Studies; and Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies. New this Fall is our **Accelerate Central** degree program: students can earn their BA and MS degree in Strategic Communication in as few as 5 years. A similar program tied to the BA in Media Studies is currently being developed.

The department has a long history with **course abroad**, having traveled to such diverse places as New Zealand, southwest Africa, Italy, Spain, Cuba, Paris, London, and Edinburgh, Scotland. Over Spring Break 2027, **Profs. Ritzenhoff** and **Pudlinski's** course abroad to **Pompeii** and the **Amalfi Coast of Italy** will explore our Roman past through a mediated lens. Prof. Ritzenhoff's June 2027 course abroad is future-focused, exploring the culture of gaming and AI with students and faculty at the University of Konstanz, a partner university in **Germany**.

This Fall, we **welcome two new faculty**: **Dr. Nina Kelly**, with a background in organizational communication and urban planning; and **Dr. Erin Ortiz**, with a background in public relations. They join a group of full-time and part-time faculty who are active scholars and/or practitioners. **Profs. Jeff Teitler** and **Brad Heck** are both award-winning documentary filmmakers, with Prof. Teitler receiving 7 Awards for short form content, PSAs and sound design at the 2026 regional Emmy's. Recently, **Drs. Carolyn Condon Jacobs, Anna Young and Karen A. Ritzenhoff** published an anthology, *Barbenheimer Syndrome: The Creation of Cultural Spectacle at the Box Office*. A faculty-student conference on that topic, arranged by Dr. Young, was held in Spring 2026. A hybrid **international conference** on "Mediating a Hybrid Techno-Society: Gender/Technology/Power" is planned for October 2027; it is modeled on a successful hybrid international Squid Game conference in April 2023.

We hold two annual April events: our **Lambda Pi Eta honor's society** induction, and a **department showcase**, which will highlight student course work and capstones from the 2026-2027 academic year. Recent **alumni accolades** go to Rashad Frett, a 2009 graduate of our department, who won Best Director at Sundance in 2025 for his feature film, Ricky; and Austin Beaulieu, a 2026 graduate, who received two Honorable Mentions at the regional Emmy's for his capstone short film project, SOLACE.

Despite its 2500+ year history, *Communication remains one of the most sought-after skill areas by employers*. The ability to speak and write well, listen, develop meaningful relationships, and craft, produce and interpret messages across a wide range of media and audiences is vital to success in the 21st century and applicable to a wide variety of careers.

Assistant Chair, Professor Brad Heck notes:

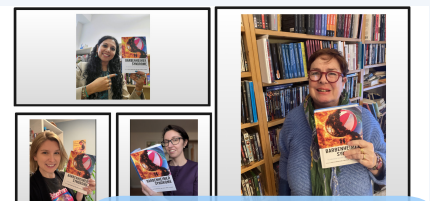
"One of the things that excites me the most about the Communication department in this moment is the **innovative intra- and interdisciplinary collaboration**. Within our department, we are on the precipice of redeveloping our curriculum to better integrate Strategic Communication and Media Studies with a series of courses that exist at the nexus of content creation. Additionally, the launch of the Integrated Multimedia Production BA has acted as a catalyst for collaboration between Art & Design, Communication, Journalism, and Music."



Jeffrey Teitler [left] 7 Emmy Award Wins



Scotland Study Abroad Trip, July-Aug. 2026



Barbenheimer Syndrome Authors



Lambda Pi Eta Honor Society Induction

You can check out the department showcase in Willard-DiLoreto Hall Room D303 until the end of October!

Second Annual
CLASS AUCTION

»» November 2-6, 2026 »»

Our second annual auction will again raise funds for scholarships supporting CLASS students. We welcome your participation!

Donate!

We are accepting donations through October 20.

Please email courtneyrehmer@ccsu.edu about your donation and drop it off to WD/D-303. Donations might be something handmade, new or gently used, offer an experience or expertise, etc.

Feel free to reach out to discuss your ideas!

Bid!

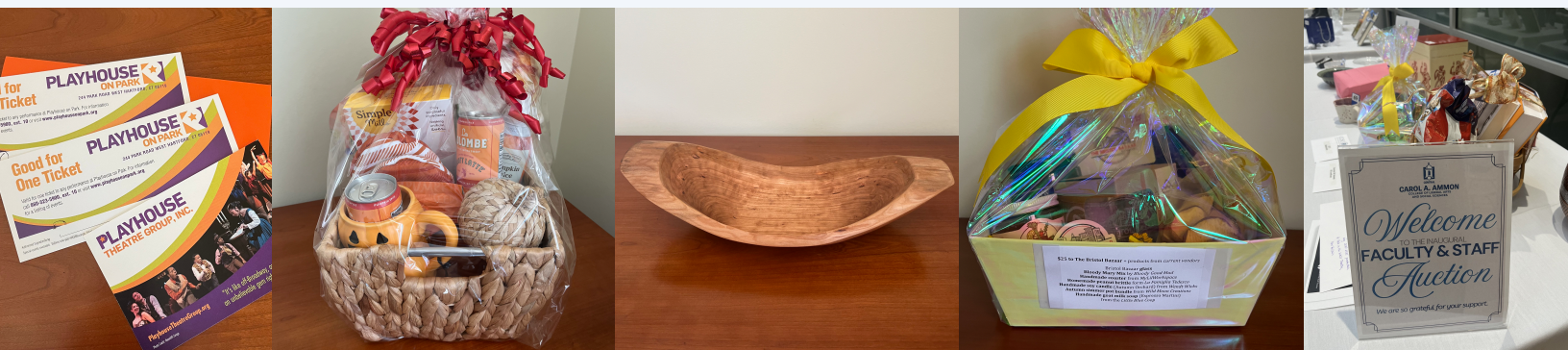
The auction will be open for online bidding November 2-6, 2026.

You'll get a text if someone outbids you and you decide whether to bid again.

Stop by our in-person event on November 5! More info to come.

Spread the word!

Participation is open to all faculty & staff. Thank you for supporting our students!



Photos from the Fall 2025 auction.

INTERESTED IN GIVING TO CLASS?

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



scan to donate!