



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

The beginning of November raises the curtain on 2026's final act, as we prepare to close out both the semester and the calendar year. Nocturnal festivities on Hallowe'en, the end of Daylight Savings Time, and the various harvest celebrations that culminate on Thanksgiving invite us to reflect on what we have achieved – and on what we have failed to accomplish, yet – over the past twelve months. I arrived on the Central campus in July, but since then I feel as though I've lived through more transitions, some of them ongoing, than in several previous years.

We've been busy, we've been challenged, and we've been working hard on the events that will round out our year of CLASS programming. Our annual CLASS Auction, which raises money for scholarships, will take place during the week of November second. Harpsichordist Faythe Vollrath will be our special guest on November fifth for an *America at 250* recital featuring work by our student composers; on November twelfth, we'll be hosting a screening of *No Place to Grow Old* as part of our college's year-long focus on inequality; and we'll mount a production of Simon Henriques and Skylar Fox's comedy *The Grown Ups* on the weekend before Thanksgiving.

"So dull and dark," the English poet John Clare wrote two centuries ago, "are the November days, // The place we occupy seems all the world." I hope that our November days will not be too dark, and I feel certain that they will not be dull. May they be full, in every good way, with the work we do with and for our students – and with hope for the coming year.



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COMING UP IN CLASS...

- **November 4: Central Authors - Ron Farin** (alumnus), *In Sha Allah/If God Wills It*
 - 12:15p; Central Bookstore
- **November 5: Faythe Vollrath Harpsichord Forum + Concert**
 - 3:05p & 7:00p; Founders Hall
- **November 10: Vocal Jazz Performance**
 - 7:30p; Welte Auditorium
- **November 11: Central Authors - Kassandra Manione** (alumna), *Coffee Mug Rings*
 - 12:15p; Central Bookstore
- **November 12: A Screening of No Place to Grow Old**
 - 1:40 - 2:55p; Torp Theatre
- **November 13: CSU Undergraduate English Conference**
 - 10:00a - 3:00p; Location TBA
- **November 17: Student Music Recital (#1)**
 - 3:05p; Founders Hall
- **November 19: Student Music Recital (#2)**
 - 3:05p; Founders Hall
- **November 19-22: The Grown-Ups Production**
 - Show times vary. [Tickets available here!](#)
- **November 21: Marching Band Performance**
 - 12:00p; Arute Field
- **November 23: Percussion Ensemble Concert**
 - 7:00p; Welte 019
- **November 24: Student Music Recital (#3)**
 - 3:05p; Founders Hall
- **November 30: iPad Ensemble**
 - 7:30p; Founders Hall
- **November 30: Art Educators Student Exhibition**
 - Details TBA

IMPORTANT DATES

- **November 2-6: 2nd Annual CLASS Auction**
 - Online bidding: [CLASS Auction / Powered By GiveSmart](#)
- **November 3: Election Day**
- **November 11: Veterans Day Ceremony | Alumni Hall 11a-2p**
- **November 25-29: Thanksgiving Recess, No classes**

NOVEMBER CLUB MEETINGS

AAAPI Association Meeting: November 9 & 23
When: 6:00p - 7:00p
Where: AAAPI Center - Library, Second Floor

Africana Students Organization: November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
When: 7:00p - 9:00p
Where: Africana Center - Marcus White

Black Student Union Meetings: November 3, 10, 17, 24
When: 6:00p - 7:00p
Where: Africana Center - Marcus White

Book Club Meeting: November 16, 23, & 30
When: 4:30p - 5:30p
Where: Marcus White Living Room

Criminal Justice Club Meeting: November 4 & 18
When: 3:15p - 4:15p
Where: RVAC 209

Debate Society Meeting: November 2 & 16
When: 5:30p - 6:30p
Where: Student Center - 1849 Room

Philosophy Club Book Swap Event: November 2
When: 3:15p - 4:15p
Where: Willard DiLoreto - W207

Philosophy Club Meeting: November 2, 16, 23
When: 3:15p - 4:15p
Where: Willard DiLoreto - W207

Political Science Club Meetings: November 4 & 18
When: 4:30p - 5:30p
Where: Student Center - 1849 Room

Pre-Law Society General Meeting: November 9 & 23
When: 3:15p - 4:15p
Where: Student Center - Clock Tower Room (134)

Psychology Club Meeting: November 4 & 18
When: 5:00p - 6:00p
Where: Student Center - Philbrick Camp Room

SGA Senate Meetings: November 4, 11
When: 3:00p - 4:30p
Where: RVAC - Travelers Lecture Hall, Room 105

South Asian Student Association: November 5, 19
When: 4:00p - 5:00p
Where: Student Center - Philbrick Camp Room

Spanish Club Meeting: November 5, 12, 19
When: 5:00p - 6:00p
Where: Student Center - Blue & White Room (133)

UPCOMING CLASS LLC EVENTS

The CLASS Living Learning Community (LLC), which is located in James Hall, 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!



Pack with Purpose: Welcome Home Kits for New Britain Housing Authority
 November 2, 4:30-6:30pm in Midcampus Multipurpose Room

LLC Potluck provided by faculty & staff
 November 18, 5:00-7:00pm in Midcampus Multipurpose Room

Contacts: Cristina Conte or Monica Rivera

SUPPORTING SUCCESS THROUGH...

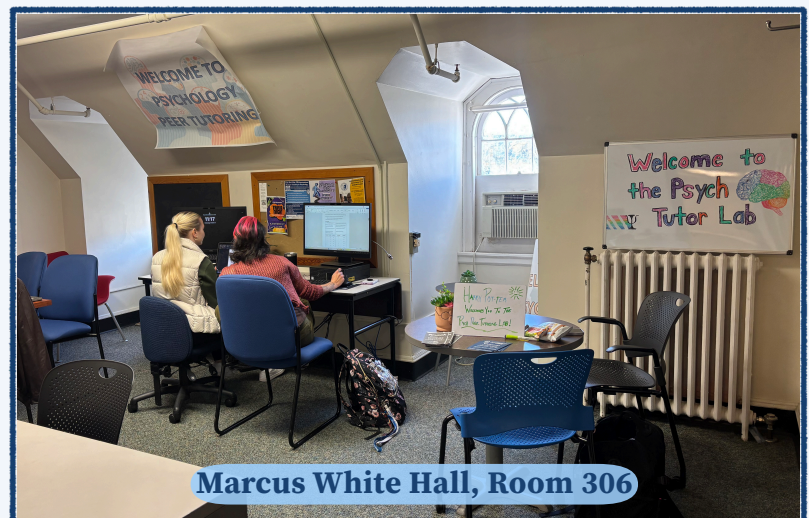
Psychological Science Peer-Tutoring

At Central Connecticut State University, the **Psychological Science Peer Tutoring Center** provides students with a welcoming and collaborative environment to receive individualized academic support. Located in Marcus White Hall, Room 306, the center is under the guidance of Dr. Helena Swanson (Faculty Coordinator) and Gialena Cruz (Lead Peer Tutor) to support the center's focus on promoting academic success and independent learning.

Peer tutors assist students across various psychology courses. We provide support for PSY 215 (Introduction to Psychological Statistics), PSY 301 (Research Methods I), PSY 302 (Research Methods II), and more. Assistance ranges from understanding statistical concepts and interpreting SPSS outputs to developing research skills and preparing for exams. Having experienced these courses firsthand, tutors offer a supportive environment where students feel comfortable asking for help and building confidence in their abilities.

Beyond academic support, the Psychological Peer Tutoring Center also provides tutors with opportunities for leadership, communication, and mentoring skills. Through training and hands-on experience, tutors strengthen skills valuable for careers in psychology, research, education, and more. Tutors can also pursue a Level 1 Certification through the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA).

All students are welcome! Appointments can be scheduled through Knack, and walk-ins are accepted through Monday to Thursday 9am-6pm during the Fall 2026 semester.



Marcus White Hall, Room 306

NEED PSYCHOLOGY TUTORING?

Get **FREE** help from your peers!

TUTOR PROFILES

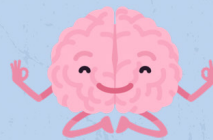


View tutors profiles and find one that matches your courses & availability!

TUTOR SCHEDULE



Check the tutoring schedule & book your session through Knack or walk-in!



ACCESS THROUGH BLACKBOARD

left-side menu, click Tools →
Knack



VISIT IN PERSON

Marcus White Hall 306



TUTORING HOURS

Monday-Thursday
9:00am-6:00pm
(Fall 2026)

For more information,
contact Dr. Helena Swanson
(hwanson@ccsu.edu) or
Gialena Cruz
(gialenac@my.ccsu.edu).



DEPARTMENT OF
**PSYCHOLOGICAL
SCIENCE**

CENTRAL

THIS MONTH'S SPOTLIGHTS

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

Student Spotlight: Rosie LaRoche

Rosie LaRoche is a junior honors student currently studying **Strategic Communication** with a minor in Human Resource Management. She proudly supports student success through her work in **the Writing Center**, which offers free one-on-one tutoring to students. She also works as a Development Assistant at Love146 - a nonprofit focused on ending child trafficking and exploitation. Throughout her time at Central, Rosie has enjoyed immersing herself in her classes and the rugby team, which have allowed her to build a community. Rosie describes her joy for learning with the utmost respect and hopes that future generations of students can enjoy learning in the same way she has. She plans to take the skills, communities, and relationships that she's built at Central with her as she moves into the next phase of life beyond college. After graduation next year, Rosie is excited to begin applying the skills she's learned at Central to the workforce. Her hope is to begin working in HR, further her education at the graduate level, and travel out of the state to explore new opportunities.



Faculty Spotlight: Nick Roesler

Nick Roesler has been teaching with Central Connecticut State University for nearly **four years**; first joining as an adjunct before becoming Assistant Professor of Performance and Directing in the fall of 2024. He earned his BA in Theatre Studies and English Literature from Connecticut College, studied at the Moscow Art Theatre, Second City Conservatory, and National Theatre Institute, and earned his MFA from Northern Illinois University. Recent project highlights include acting in the American premiere of *The One Good Thing* with 7 Angels Theatre, an award nomination from the Connecticut Critics' Circle for Best Featured Actor for the roles of Karl/Steve in *Clybourne Park* with the Music Theatre of Connecticut, and acting several times with Valley Shakespeare Festival in Shelton, CT. Currently he is working with his Theatre Department colleague, Christie Maturo, on acting in and producing a series of short films called *Tingles*, the first episode of which was shot over the summer of 2026 and is in editing. He's also a proud member of Actors' Equity Association and as a professional actor has tried to further the mission of recognizing and celebrating identity in performance.



Alumnus Spotlight: Ryan Hayes

"I'm incredibly honored to be chosen as CLASS's Alum of the Month! When I look back on my time at Central, I'm filled with tremendous gratitude, especially for the professors, mentors, and classmates who challenged me, believed in me, and helped me grow. During my time at Central, I helped produce and anchor an award-winning television program in Brazil. That experience, along with the countless other opportunities I had there, helped me develop my skills for a career in broadcast journalism. After graduating in 2024, I began my career as a Multimedia Journalist in Duluth, Minnesota. Our team at Northern News Now earned an Upper Midwest Emmy nomination for breaking news coverage during the 2025 Minnesota wildfires. I later moved to Gainesville, Florida, serving as Weekend Anchor/Multimedia Journalist at WCJB. This fall, I decided to return home to WFSB as a producer to continue growing as a journalist with the talented team at Channel 3. I'm beyond grateful for all of the opportunities I've had so far, and I'm excited for whatever comes next! I take tremendous pride in representing Central, and I hope I can provide others with the same encouragement and mentorship that have made such a difference for me in my own life." - Ryan Hayes, B.A. Journalism '24



DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

» PHILOSOPHY »

The **Department of Philosophy** at Central Connecticut State University is committed to fostering a vibrant intellectual community in which students and faculty learn from one another, pursue meaningful questions, and grow together as thinkers and scholars. Central to this commitment is the belief that **philosophical education extends beyond the classroom** and is strengthened through close mentorship, collaborative inquiry, and meaningful relationships among students and faculty.

Located on the third floor of Willard-DiLoreto Hall, the department offers a Philosophy major with two tracks, **General Philosophy** and **Social Justice, Ethics, and Law**, along with **interdisciplinary minor programs** in **African-American Studies, Peace Studies, Social Justice, and Religious Studies**.

One of the department's greatest strengths is its commitment to students' intellectual and personal growth. Faculty work closely with students to develop their interests, pursue research, and prepare for graduate study, law school, and other professional opportunities. Students' questions and interests also help shape course offerings, independent studies, reading groups, and extracurricular activities. Faculty regularly collaborate with students through the **Philosophy Club** and **Pre-Law Society**, while also organizing discussions and reading groups on works ranging from Spinoza and Hegel to Frantz Fanon.

The department's commitment to undergraduate scholarship is what motivated **Drs. Ricardo Friez** and **Tara Weese** to organize the first annual **Undergraduate Philosophy and Political Theory Conference** in April 2026. Nine Central students presented papers and commentary, gaining valuable experience participating in scholarly exchange. Faculty have also accompanied students to the **Eastern Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (APA)**, with another trip planned for January 2027. Dr. Weese has offered free LSAT practice sessions and organized a law school preparation workshop this October.

Faculty regularly contribute to academic scholarship while organizing lectures, conferences, public discussions, and educational workshops that connect philosophical inquiry with contemporary challenges. Recent highlights include lectures by **Dr. Lewis Gordon** and **Dr. Benjamin Foster**, hosted by **Dr. Felton Best** as part of the Carter G. Woodson Lecture Series. In the spring, **Dr. Audra King** organized several talks, including *The World After Gaza* with Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Chris Hedges. Similarly, Dr. Friez has hosted a number of speakers; including Tyrique Mack-Georges who spoke on his work on Frantz Fanon. **Faculty have also contributed to public and campus conversations about academic freedom, civil liberties, immigration, racial justice, and international human rights.**

The department's scholarly accomplishments have also continued to grow. **Dr. Cameron Brewer** published "Publish or Perish in the Era of ChatGPT." Dr. Friez's article "Contesting Power and Building Pluralist Solidarity" was accepted for publication, while Dr. Weese had three articles accepted for publication. Faculty members also continue to receive nominations for the university's Excellence in Teaching Award.

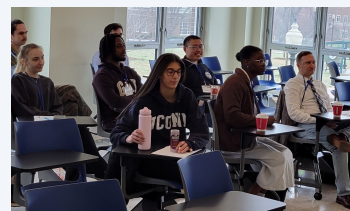
Looking ahead, the department is pleased to **welcome Dr. Ricardo Friez** into a tenure-track position following his service as a Visiting Professor. Dr. Friez has also assumed coordination of **Latin American Studies** and is planning a series of talks on social justice and artificial intelligence for spring 2027. Dr. Weese is working on revitalizing the Peace Studies program, as well as playing a key role as a pre-law advisor. And both Dr. Friez and Dr. Weese have begun preparing for the second annual Undergraduate Philosophy and Political Theory Conference in the Spring.

Across these varied activities, **the department remains committed to building an intellectual community grounded in rigorous inquiry, meaningful relationships, student participation, and a shared commitment to learning.**

Check out the department showcase in WD D303 until the end of November!



2026 APA Trip



Undergraduate Philosophy and Political Theory Conference

IN OTHER NEWS...

The CLASS Dean's Office would like to congratulate Associate Professor of Theatre & Costume Design; **Raven Ong** [pictured right] on his most recent prestigious, international recognition!

His work for the production of *Into the Woods* last year in the Philippines was selected to be exhibited at the United States National Exhibit at the 2027 Prague Quadrennial next summer.

Congratulations, Professor Ong!



Scan the QR code to learn more about the incredible work of Central Art & Design

The CLASS Dean's Office would also like to recognize the Art and Design department for being recognized by *Ed Outlook* as one of the Top Art and Design Colleges of 2026!

The publication covers developments across education and professional learning, with attention to institutions shaping creative education; and offering specialized training; and career-focused learning.

Ed Outlook's Art & Design profile will highlight Central's academic programs, design disciplines, faculty expertise, creative learning environment, practical training, and approach to preparing students for creative careers.

Congratulations to our incredible Art & Design faculty for this recognition!

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!