

Educating for the Future

CENTRAL *focus*

Spring 2013

the magazine for alumni & friends of central connecticut state university

Teaching Excellence

“We want to instill in our students that they are going into the most important profession in the world.”

– *Dr. Karen Riem, Teacher Education*



Central's rich history of teaching excellence extends to its origins as the New Britain Normal School in 1849. It is a pleasure to report that the tradition is flourishing. In the past two years alone more than 40 CCSU-educated teachers and education leaders have been honored locally, regionally, and nationally for their exemplary teaching and leadership. The many alumni of this institution who teach in or lead schools can take great pride in their participation in this distinguished legacy.

During these turbulent economic times, however, for the University to advance that legacy, we must expand our vision. Our aim is not just to survive or, even, to thrive, as we have been, but to move to a higher academic level and join the company of other highly esteemed regional public comprehensive universities. As you will see in this issue, we are now staking out a bold new course to become exceptional. We aim to expand in size, in part, by expanding our presence (and our impact) in Hartford and New Britain. We will also build on and further diversify our academic strengths, creating a new school of education with a companion magnet school, as well as organize our Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics areas, among other measures. As you will read, we have already taken steps toward our goals.

Our legacy of preparing students for success and our continuing efforts to extend it to an even wider constituency of learners make it abundantly clear that Central remains, even in tough economic times, a vital resource for Connecticut.

I am sorry to conclude on a sad note, but mention must be made of the terrible tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School. As you may have heard, CCSU lost two "of its own": Sandy Hook Principal Dawn Lafferty Hochsprung '93 made the ultimate sacrifice in trying to protect her students and her teachers that day. And Ana Marquez-Greene, the precious daughter of CCSU faculty member Nelba Marquez Greene and WCSU professor Jimmy Greene, was a six-year-old student in the school. While we mourn their loss, the lives they led and their extraordinary promise should call us all to the highest standards of our educational enterprise. What we and our students do matters, and it matters enormously.

To pay tribute to this extraordinary sacrifice and testament of educational devotion the University will be annually awarding the Sandy Hook Memorial Scholarship to a deserving student, with special consideration given to students from Newtown, CT. Funding for this scholarship will come from the CCSU Foundation Scholarship Endowment Fund.

Those wishing to join us in honoring these members of our community may contribute online at www.ccsu.edu/giving, selecting "Other" and indicating Sandy Hook Memorial Scholarship. Donations may also be made by contacting the CCSU Development Office at 860-832-1740 or in Vance 009; or by sending a check/money order to the CCSU Foundation, Inc., using the postage-paid envelope in this issue.

I hope you will join me in supporting this enduring commemoration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack Miller".

Jack Miller,
President

in focus

Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters from our readers on topics in the *focus* or on other matters concerning your University. Letters may be edited for space and clarity. Anonymous letters will not be published. We encourage letters of 300 words or fewer.

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Central focus is published by Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT 06050 for alumni and friends. Central Connecticut State University is an AA/EQ institution and a university of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities System

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Teaching Excellence

School of Education & Professional Studies Alumni Winning Accolades as Top Teachers and Education Leaders

By Claire LaFleur Hall

Michael Foran's first job was as a truck driver, but the first job he loved was as a teacher. Named the 2012 MetLife/NASSP National High School Principal of the Year, Foran followed a winding road to become principal of New Britain High School. Along the way he took night classes at CCSU to earn his bachelor's degree, followed by a master's degree and 6th Year Certificate.

Now he has joined an impressive list of CCSU educator alumni who have been honored for their remarkable work by their colleagues, school districts, and national educational associations.

In the last two school years alone, more than 30 Connecticut teachers and education leaders with ties to CCSU have been named "teacher of the year" in their districts, including Plainville, Southington, Newington, Bristol, Torrington, Middlefield, and East Hartford.

Among the recent alumni honorees is Connecticut NAACP Excellence in Education Recipient, Zato Kadambaya, who earned his 6th Year Certificate from CCSU. He is chairman of the Department of Mathematics at Norwich Free Academy.

And the 2012 Connecticut Association of School's Middle School Principal of the Year, Sally Biggs, earned both her master's degree and 6th Year Certificate from CCSU. Biggs, principal of Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy, will represent Connecticut in a nationwide competition of top middle school principals.

Why are our alumni winning so many awards? Unparalleled teacher-preparation experiences, top-notch professors, and a passion for community leadership combine to give CCSU education students a tremendous career advantage.

Immersing Students in the Profession

People might say they are "born teachers," but that's merely a truism. Great teachers may have a knack for what they do, but no

one succeeds without a great deal of advice, mentoring, and practice.

That's where CCSU's School of Education trumps many other universities, where students have only one opportunity to student teach, typically at the end of senior year. CCSU students are immersed in public-school classrooms early and often.

In spring 2012 alone, teacher candidates were learning their craft in 60 different school districts throughout Connecticut. Before graduation, most CCSU teacher-candidates will have had four classroom experiences, in both urban and suburban schools.

And Central prides itself on its professional development schools—in Hartford, Cromwell, New Britain, and elsewhere—where students practice what they've learned under the careful guidance of a professor and a specially trained classroom teacher.

Unparalleled teacher-preparation experiences, top-notch professors, and a passion for community leadership combine to give CCSU education students a tremendous career advantage.

"Our students see us putting in the hours, rolling up our sleeves, and slogging through the pond with elementary school children," says Professor Karen Riem, the facilitator at the Naylor/CCSU Leadership Academy in Hartford, where hundreds of CCSU students get their early teaching experience each year. "We're not just talking about a theory, we are showing them how it works."

Professor Barbara Clark, who with Professor Joss French brought dozens of CCSU students to New Britain schools this year to practice their teaching techniques, agrees. "We are working in the schools with our students, watching them teach, supervising them. Student teachers get instant feedback about what went right and what needs work," Clark says.

CCSU Professor Sally Drew, professor-in-residence at Woodside Intermediate School, a professional development school in Cromwell, thinks the early and frequent field experience is a tremendous advantage. "Students need to connect what they learn in their courses and what they see in the classroom," she says.

"The kind of committed partnerships that CCSU has with neighboring school districts are rare because they take a great deal of work on both sides. But in the end they are very rewarding and meaningful."

Rebekah Wampler '11, a first-year teacher in Cromwell, has met graduates from other colleges who were anxious about teaching, while she felt confident. "I found myself offering them suggestions and ideas," she says. "At CCSU, each professor pushes you farther in his or her own special way."

Prestigious, Top-notch Staff Guide Program

Among many distinguished professors, the faculty boasts the likes of Professor Anthony Rigazio-Digilio, chairman of Educational Leadership at CCSU, who was named the 2011 Education Leader of the Year for the State of Connecticut. And Professor Helen Abadiano, chair of the Reading and Language Arts Department and recipient of the 2011 Distinguished Service Award at CCSU, has been a leader in many national and international education organizations that accredit teacher-preparation programs at universities nationwide.

"The entire CCSU community is strongly committed to our students, and the faculty is passionately devoted to them," Abadiano says. "We are a small university and we really get to know our students well. The students feel they belong to the University. The professors support, encourage, and inspire each other."

Curriculum Highly Responsive to State Workforce Needs

Another reason the School of Education at CCSU has a nationwide reputation for teaching excellence is its responsiveness



to workforce demands and opportunities. Introduced in 2008, the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program offers career-changing professionals the opportunity to earn a master's degree in teaching plus certification in just over a year. It was designed in response to the specific needs of Connecticut's public school systems, and targets secondary mathematics, science, Spanish, English, technology, and pre-engineering education.

The University also created a doctoral program in educational leadership in response to a statewide and regional shortage of principals and superintendents. Different from a PhD, the EdD degree in educational leadership is oriented toward practice. The program is open to teachers as well as school administrators, and builds on the experiences and issues they are tackling in their own districts. EdD dissertations do not die on bookshelves; instead, they frequently become action plans for area schools and districts.

Preparing Future Leaders to Serve Their Community

Uniting and guiding all that is the School of Education is a shared vision of purpose: to prepare leaders for service in their diverse communities.

Professor Kurt Love and Professor French provide support and professional development for teachers in the Environmental Sciences Magnet School in Hartford. "Working with children from Hartford and the surrounding areas, addressing environmental issues, and helping teachers develop their curriculum is, for me, the perfect triad," Love says. "People talk about education reform, but our belief is that the key to improving education is developing long-term partnerships and relationships with our neighboring school districts. That's our level of commitment. We have amazing school initiatives and we're already doing great work. At CCSU, that's who we are."

SNAPSHOTS OF EXCELLENCE



Michael Foran

Michael Foran, '86, MS '90, 6th Year Certificate '92; principal New Britain High School; 2012 MetLife/NASSP National High School Principal.

In the five years that he has been principal of New Britain High School, Foran has instituted a health sciences academy, reduced the drop-out rate, raised student test scores, added Advanced Placement classes, and much more.

"The opportunities here are tremendous. We've come together, the administrators, the teachers, the staff, the students and parents, and we're pulling in the same direction. Our goal is to have all students college- or career-ready when they graduate. There is still a lot of work to do. We are just scratching the surface of our true potential."

His Central Experience

"Central was a comfortable place for me. My teachers had tremendous experience and that was helpful."



Jessica (Maringola) Bruenn

Jessica (Maringola) Bruenn '99, fifth-grade teacher, Strong Elementary School; 2011-12 Southington Teacher of the Year

Bruenn is an advocate for her students — preparing them not only academically but also for other challenges in their lives.

"I wanted to become a teacher to make a difference in students' lives. My philosophy is never give up on your students. They all come with something special. Help them and guide them to develop those assets. I listen to them and try to make them feel they are important. No matter what they are going through, you can help them along."

Her Central Experience

"My teachers were so motivated. They made me want my lessons to be smooth and well-prepared."



John E. Girard, Jr.

John E. Girard, Jr. '98, MS '06, science teacher, Plainville High School;

Plainville 2010-11 Teacher of the Year

"Teaching is my passion. I love coming to school. I come in early and I stay late." The reward is to watch his students, many of whom are considering careers in science or medicine, prepare for their futures.

"I never want it to become stagnant. If I get bored, my students will get bored. I like my classes to be student-driven. My tests are very hard. I expect my students to know the information and to be able to answer higher-level thinking questions."

His Central Experience

"The biology department at Central was fantastic. We were learning about cutting-edge DNA fingerprinting 12 years ago. Those biology labs prepared me to teach my own students."



“We Walk Until Our Students Fall in Love with the Community”

By Claire LaFleur Hall

Naylor/CCSU Leadership Academy Dispels Myth That Urban Education Isn't Exciting, Important

When CCSU Professor Karen Riem welcomes new student-teachers at Naylor/CCSU Leadership Academy in Hartford's South End, the first thing she does is take them for a walk around the block.

They walk up and down Franklin Avenue and meet the merchants, see the elderly men playing dominoes, and step into the ethnic markets that serve the community.

Rain, sleet, and ice won't deter Riem from making her “rounds,” because, she says, until the CCSU student-teachers understand the fabric of this tight-knit, multicultural community, they can't understand how special their time here will be.

“In the South End, the community is very attached to its neighborhood school,” Riem said. “There is a sense of tradition here and a charming and wonderful pride. We walk until our students fall in love with the community.

“I want to make sure that they know this is a wonderful school, with phenomenal students, and, like any school, it has a few problems,” she said. “This is a vibrant, engaged community where 300 people



or more show up to most after-school events.”

The Naylor School and CCSU have had a strong partnership since 1998. Today, more than 300 CCSU students hone their teaching skills there each year. CCSU students from the counseling, social work, and nursing programs all do field work there. And each middle school student has a mentor buddy from CCSU to form a supportive relationship and learn more about college life.

The partnership has been so strong that last year the school was renamed the Naylor/CCSU Leadership Academy. By formalizing the partnership, the university and the Hartford school will retain their connection well into the future.

The Naylor and CCSU faculty collaborate on research and curriculum development for both Naylor and CCSU courses. They also share in the governance and decision-making, planning, fundraising, grant writing, professional development, and scholarly presentations.

The partnership has many practical applications, said Nancy Hines, school facilitator. The last seven teachers that were hired at the school have been CCSU grads. Professors have come in and talked to the staff about hot topics in education.

The formal affiliation between Naylor and CCSU is a big selling point to Hartford parents, who now select the school their youngsters will attend.

Naylor/CCSU Leadership Academy tries to bring students to the Central campus three times a semester. Although it is only 15 minutes away, many of the young students' parents don't have transportation, so it is a journey they might not otherwise make.

“I've been teaching for 30 years and I still love teaching,” said Hines, who graduated from CCSU in 1973. “To be able to work with the next generation of teachers is very exciting and very invigorating for me and for our staff.”

For student-teachers from the suburbs, the Naylor/CCSU experience dispels many myths about urban education.

“I want my (CCSU) students to come away having looked at people who are different from them in a new way. I want them to say, ‘Yeah, there are cool things about growing up in a city.’ I want them to know that urban parents do come to school, and do care passionately about their children's education,” Riem said.



Teaching Excellence:

Some of CCSU's Award-Winning Educators

Hope (Mansigian) Bellantuono '96, second grade teacher, Plymouth Center School; Plymouth's Teacher of the Year.

Sally Biggs, MS '89, 6th Year Certificate '95, principal, Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy, Hartford; 2012 Connecticut Association of Schools' Principal of the Year.

Jessica (Maringola) Bruenn '99, fifth grade teacher, Strong Elementary School; 2011-2012 Southington Teacher of the Year.

Jane Callery '92, MS '97, 6th Year Certificate '01; 2008 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Employed at Capitol Region Education Council.

Ann Carabillo, MS '79, 6th Year Certificate '00, EdD. '07, Director of Pupil Services, New Britain School District; 2011 National Innovation District Leader of the Year.

Leona Clerkin, BA '97, 6th Year Certificate '08, principal, Roosevelt Middle School, New Britain; 2011 New Britain Administrator of the Year.

Lucille Ditunno, MS '91, 6th Year Certificate '98, principal, Edna Stevens School, Cromwell; 2010-11 International Reading Association's Exemplary Reading Program.

Michael Foran '86, MS '90, 6th Year Certificate '92, principal, New Britain High School; 2012 MetLife/National Association of Secondary School Principals National High School Principal of the Year.

Lisa Galske '93, MS '11, physical education teacher, Greene-Hills and South Side schools; 2010 Teacher of the Year for Bristol Public Schools.

John E. Girard, Jr., '98, MS '06, science teacher, Plainville High School; 2010-11 Teacher of the Year for Plainville.

Daniel W. Grenier '97, MS '02, 6th Year Certificate '08, Technology Education, Daniel Hand High School, 2012 Connecticut Technology Education Teacher of the Year.

Tyler Hoxley '91, MS '98, SYC '01, biology teacher, East Hartford High; 2011 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Zato Kadambaya, 6th Year Certificate '10, chair, Department of Mathematics, Norwich Free Academy; 2011 NAACP Excellence in Education Recipient.

Tamika Knight '00 won the 2012-13 Milken Educator Award in January; Connecticut's only recipient this year. The fifth grade teacher at Annie Fisher STEM Magnet School in Hartford attended

CCSU on a full basketball scholarship. She has taught in Hartford for 12 years and also coaches basketball.

Stan Koba '73, supervisor of social studies, music, and Scholars Center for the Humanities, Howell High School, Farmingdale, NJ; Barnes & Noble National Teacher of the Year.

Deborah Lang-Beaudoin '92, art teacher, Canton Intermediate School; Canton Teacher of 2011

Victor Leger '94, MS '02, art teacher, Torrington High School; named Torrington's Teacher of the Year 2011.

Michelle Marion, MS '02, 6th Year Certificate '04, East Hartford High School; 2011 Connecticut Assistant Principal of the Year.

Timothy J. Maule '91, fourth grade teacher, Hubbard Elementary School, East Berlin; 2011 Teacher of the Year in East Berlin.

Jennifer R. Michalek, MS '01, eighth grade math teacher, Chippens Hill Middle School in Bristol; Bristol's Teacher of the Year 2011.

Robert Miller '01, math teacher, Newington High School; 2010-11 Teacher of the Year for Newington Public Schools.

Philip P. Moriarty '01, third and fourth grade teacher, John Lyman Elementary School, Middlefield; Middlefield Teacher of the Year.

Jamie Pitkin '01, MS '06, math teacher, East Hartford Middle School; 2011 East Hartford Teacher of the Year.

James Quinn, 6th Year Certificate '02, principal, Thomas Hooker School, Meriden, led school to a 2009 Blue Ribbon and 2011 Connecticut Association of School's Elementary School of the Year awards.

Pauline Reid MS '07; Principal of the Year in Jamaica.

Patrick J. Richardson '92, social studies, Torrington High School; District Teacher of 2011

Kelly (Bourgeois) Smith '95, physical education and health teacher, Har-Bur Middle School in Harwinton; named 2010 Elementary PE Teacher of the Year by the Connecticut Association for Health, P.E., Recreation and Dance.

Richard Therrien, 6th Year Certificate '06, 093 Certificate '11, and Doctoral Candidate is the 2011 Connecticut Outstanding Science Supervisor of the Year. He works in the New Haven School District.

Steve Wysowski, 6th Year Certificate '94, principal, Bristol Eastern High School; 2012-2013 Connecticut Association of Schools' Extraordinary Service Recipient.



Who Wouldn't Want Such a Dynamic, Joyful, Compassionate Teacher?

By Claire LaFleur Hall

Luis Martinez, 10, never liked to write. Not one word.

But something magical happened last November when his class was asked to sketch out, and then create, a burlap mask. Luis got so excited about the project that he designed more than 60 masks. Then he wrote a short story about each of the characters, and what its life might be like.

"I had fun with them," said Luis, then a fifth-grader at DiLoreto Magnet School in New Britain. "I want to write more now. I like it."

Luis is one of 170 New Britain fourth and fifth graders who took part in a program called "Echoes from a Child's Soul." With the guidance of future educators from CCSU, the youngsters wrote songs and poems, created dances, and made masks and murals that expressed their feelings.

In December, the students from DiLoreto and Gaffney schools, along with their CCSU mentors, proudly presented the program to family and friends at CCSU's Welte Auditorium. But what seems like an enormous talent show had two greater purposes.

First, it helped future educators get to know the elementary school students on a much deeper level. It is often easier for a child to express an uncomfortable memory, thought, or concern through a song, a dance, or a poem, than to speak of it directly.

A student who is fearful—because of poverty, homelessness, an incarcerated parent, or feeling bullied—can't focus on school, said CCSU Professor of Education Barbara Clark, one of the program organizers. Often the child with unmet needs will act out in class.

And, secondly, "Echoes" gave CCSU student-teachers a wealth of creative ideas they can use in a classroom. They can design a similar project to teach public speaking, to draw out potential class leaders, to evaluate learning without giving a traditional test, or to provide challenging teaching experiences in a classroom that has both whiz kids and slower learners.

"We are looking at the whole child, their hopes, their dreams, the things they wonder about," said Clark. "We can establish stronger relationships with them, both academically and socially, because we know who they are, not just how they perform on a test."

The project was funded by a \$13,000 Community Engagement grant. CCSU Professor of Education Joss French and Professor of Art Jerry Butler were also deeply involved in the program.

"The CCSU student teachers find themselves using journalism, dance skills, poetry writing, and other nurturing skills that they didn't even know they had, to draw these kids out and get them interested in school," Clark said. "These future teachers are thinking on their feet, and being dynamic, at 8 in the morning. Who wouldn't want their child to have such a dynamic, joyful, compassionate teacher?"

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When Britney Gengel sent her parents an exuberant, three-sentence text message during a mission trip to Haiti, she also, unknowingly, gave them a gift. A sophomore at Lynn University in Boca Raton, FL, Britney had traveled to Haiti with professors and fellow students in January 2010. She had hoped it would give her insight and direction as she debated changing her major from broadcast journalism to human services.

She spent her second day in Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital and its largest city, distributing food and caring for orphans. A vivacious college student on the verge of her 20th birthday, Britney was deeply moved by the experience.

"They love us so much and everyone is so happy," she texted her parents, Cherylann and Len Gengel '87. "They love what they have and they work hard to get nowhere, yet they are all so appreciative. I want to move here and start an orphanage myself."

Three hours after she had sent the text, Haiti was rocked by a catastrophic earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale. The epicenter was near Port-au-Prince.

When she heard about the earthquake, Cherylann was preparing dinner at home in Rutland, MA. She tried to call her only daughter. They had spoken just an hour before. No one answered. She waited, then called again. Still no answer.



The January 2010 earthquake near Port-au-Prince, Haiti, killed more than a quarter million Haitians, injured hundreds of thousands and left many homeless.

Fulfilling a Daughter's Dream

"Britney Gengel loved life and everyone knew it," said Megan Keane, Britney's freshman roommate and close friend. "If there was a dance floor, she was on it," Keane recalled. One night they were watching a local band perform. Suddenly, Britney was on the stage. "She was singing and playing the tambourine! She wanted everyone around her to have a good time."

Britney was also enormously loyal to her friends. She cherished her family, acting very much the protective older sister to her two beloved brothers, Bernie and Richie. She was also turning into a caring

adult. Born into a life of privilege, she nevertheless looked out for those who had much less.

At St. John's Catholic Church in Worcester, MA the Gengel family's parish, Britney ran the annual Christmas toy drive with passion. St. John's is a poor parish, and each year children put hundreds of requests on the Christmas giving tree.

"Britney did all the organizing. It was a big job. We were all working for her," said pastor Father John Madden with a chuckle. She made sure all the wishes were granted, the gifts were wrapped, and everything was easy for parents to pick up.

"She was a beautiful girl, a beautiful person," Father Madden said. "She had a real twinkle in her eye. Britney enjoyed life, was really deeply concerned about people, and had great compassion."

DEVASTATION

The earthquake devastated Port-au-Prince. The human tragedy is incomprehensible. Nearly 300,000 Haitians were killed, 300,000 more were injured, and more than a million were left homeless.



Britney Gengel was so enamored with the children of Haiti that she told her parents she wanted to move there and start her own orphanage.

With so much destruction, communications became virtually non-existent or, even worse, mistaken: 36 hours after the quake, Lynn University told the Gengels that Britney and two other students were safe and on their way to Fort Lauderdale. After arriving in Florida, the Gengels learned the identification was horrifyingly incorrect and their daughter was still missing.

The Gengels desperately rallied everyone they knew—from friends to government officials—to help find Britney. For the Gengel family, sleepless night followed sleepless night, hope contended daily with despair, and yet they summoned the strength, courage, and wisdom to press on and to leverage the media and the US government to continue the search for their daughter.

Then, 33 days after the quake, on Valentine's Day, Britney's body was found in the rubble of the Hotel Montana. In total, four students and two professors from Lynn University had perished; eight students had escaped.

Despite their lacerating grief, the Gengels were determined to do something to honor Britney and keep her memory alive. Compounding their sorrow, they also never lost sight of the

larger scope of the tragedy: the hundreds of millions of Haitians had lost their lives, the hundreds of thousands injured and homeless, and the virtual disappearance of the country's infrastructure.

Britney's text expressing her desire to build an orphanage fused their desire to honor her and to reach out to the people of Haiti. It "gave us a sense of purpose," Len said. "As parents, we wanted to finish her journey."

Len has more than 30 years of experience in the home-building business, constructing an estimated 350 homes and 12 neighborhoods. He is also a past president of the Massachusetts Homebuilders Association.

Within months he had committed to the biggest and most daunting building project of his life. He wanted to create a self-sustaining, earthquake-proof orphanage in one of the world's poorest nations on a piece of land accessible only by a footpath.

"It has been a labor of love," Len said. "For us as grieving parents, this has been a place to focus on. It is something positive and beautiful to honor our daughter's memory and to give 66 children a home."

Father Madden sums up the views of many. "What they've done in the face of a horrible tragedy is heroic," he said.

By the summer of 2010, just months after Britney's funeral, the Gengels had garnered support from the Haitian government to build an orphanage.

Len was determined to see this project through. In fact, he kept secret the emergency heart surgery he had in August, fearing the building team wouldn't let him travel. Just a month later he arrived in Haiti with the couple's son Bernie and a top-notch construction team. They trekked 1,500 feet up a narrow footpath to view some land in Grand Goave, two hours from Port-au-Prince.

As soon as Bernie saw the land he said, "This is it!" Len recalled. "It was just beautiful."

Set atop a hill overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, the property was home to wild horses and goats and was dotted with mango trees.

Getting supplies to the orphanage proved incredibly difficult. Concrete blocks, for instance,

were constructed on site, with workers mixing one yard at a time. And Len, who made 20 trips to Haiti in 2011 alone, once had a gun pointed in his face by a customs officer who wanted money in exchange for allowing him to bring plumbing supplies into the country.

The Gengels and their supporters have invested more than \$1 million in the orphanage—under the nonprofit name Be Like Brit. Cherylann is quick to point out: “We couldn’t have done this without tens of thousands of people donating, supporting us, praying for us. It has been incredibly hard work. We could have never done this ourselves.”

The orphanage is shaped in a “B” for Britney. It is 19,000 square feet—a tribute to Britney’s age when she died. It includes two courtyard/play areas, a dining area, kitchen, laundry, office and living rooms. It also features solar panels, a high-tech water filter, a backup generator, and a septic system. There will be an infirmary and dental clinic. And it will house 33 boys and 33 girls, representing the 33 days when Brit was missing.

The orphanage opened on January 12, 2013—the third anniversary of the earthquake with an emotional and hopeful ceremony. Through the orphanage, Len said, his daughter’s spirit will live on.

The Gengels are fully aware of the daunting challenges Haiti poses. In Port-au-Prince alone, there are an estimated 300,000 orphans, most who have lost parents to AIDS or the earthquake. “We want to help all these children. But we will only be able to do our small piece. We’ll do the best we can,” said Cherylann. “We want to give these children a good life—not just a building.”

CENTRAL CONNECTIONS

For his humanitarian and philanthropic efforts in Haiti, Len received the CCSU Distinguished Alumni Service Award in 2011. His connections to the University have been very important to him throughout his life and, perhaps most especially, during his family’s ordeal.

Len enrolled at CCSU as a junior, majoring in business, after graduating from Becker Junior College. As a Resident Assistant in CCSU’s Carroll Hall, he developed many long-time friendships. Several CCSU alums have been deeply involved in the orphanage, including Vinny Pugliese ’86, Ben Bryk ’86, and Tony Terzi ’88. Father Robert J. Lord, now retired from CCSU’s campus ministry, married the Gengels, baptized their three children, and gave them First Communion. He blessed the orphanage when it opened.

MOVING FORWARD

The Gengels remain focused on a country whose condition still astounds them. “Nothing prepares you for the poverty that is in Haiti,” Len said. “It is hell on Earth. So many people die senselessly from the lack of food or medical attention.”

Like their daughter, though, Len and Cherylann have fallen in love with the children of Haiti. Len’s face lights up when he talks about Chris, a youngster who frequently visits and has been known to take naps in the cool of Len’s office.

“With all the professional success that Len has had in Massachusetts, it doesn’t even come close to the satisfaction he and Cherylann felt when this orphanage opens,” said Terzi.

The Gengels have sold their home, and ultimately plan to live half the year in Haiti, the other half in Massachusetts. And many of Britney’s friends, nicknamed “Britsionaries,” travel to Haiti and volunteer. Megan Keane, Britney’s former roommate, hopes to make the trip soon.

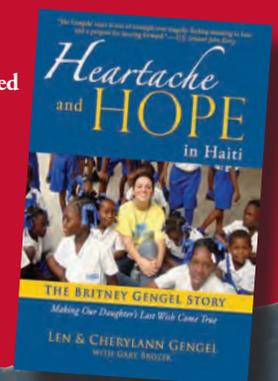
When Len and Cherylann were asked what Britney would think of the orphanage built in her honor, they respond almost in unison.

“She was always saying, ‘That’s fabulous, daaarling,’” Len said with a smile. Cherylann nodded, saying, “She would think it was fabulous.”
— By Claire LaFleur Hall



Construction of the orphanage in Haiti proved incredibly difficult, but opened with a moving ceremony in January of this year.

For more information, visit: www.BeLikeBrit.org or on Facebook.com/BeLikeBrit. The Gengels have written a book about their experience called *Heartache & Hope in Haiti* (Trimark Press). All profits will go to the orphanage’s endowment. The book can be ordered through their web site or at Amazon.com.



Britney, shown here with her Dad, Len, a CCSU alum was remarkably kindhearted. “She was a beautiful girl, a beautiful person,” Father Madden said. “She had a real twinkle in her eye. Britney enjoyed life, was really deeply concerned about people, and had great compassion.”



Historian Leah Glaser Garners Two Top Awards for Research

Associate Professor of History Leah Glaser, whose research is distinctive for shedding new light on the historical development of natural resource use and energy issues in the American West, garnered top awards in 2012: both the University-wide and the ConnSCU-wide Norton Mezvinsky Research Awards.

In her latest book, Glaser studies the process of electrification in three demographically diverse rural regions of eastern Arizona to detail how technology impacted these places, economies, and lifestyles. She concludes that a national goal of rural electrification may have been government supported and promoted as a tool for modernization and thus social and economic equality—but it was locally directed in terms of systems design and energy use.

Glaser says, “I wanted to focus on ethnically diverse communities, in the case of the West, those including Mexican and Native Americans, and see how each accessed, adapted to, and incorporated electricity and electrical systems. What I argued was that Native Americans as rural westerners had some degree of ‘agency’ in accessing the grid and using electrical power. They are part of and survivors of the complex history of the modern West, not just simply victims of American expansion and aggression.”

Her approach in *Electrifying the Rural American West: Stories of Power, People, and Place* (University of Nebraska Press, 2009) explores this topic in a new way. Her method, grounded in public history, was to look at the process on a local level and at diverse communities reflective of the regional characteristics of American Western communities. “I indeed found that rural electrification was not just a benevolent government New Deal program, as historians have often characterized it, but that the process was a locally initiated and directed

process where communities enlisted modern technology to sustain themselves in the twentieth century,” she said.

Andrew Gulliford of Fort Lewis College in the *American Historical Review*, writes, “Much history of the New West has focused on environmental issues, and recent American Indian history addresses cultural continuity and change, but the prosaic application of electricity, of ‘a light in every hogan,’ has not been comprehensively studied until the publication of Leah S. Glaser’s book, which is a synthesis of Western history, public history, and Native American history.”

Inspiration for her research interests in public history, historic preservation, and the American West stems from Glaser’s graduate studies at Arizona State University, where she earned a master’s in public history and a doctorate in American history. She has published steadily in a variety of journals, written a chapter for a book entitled *Indians and Energy* with the Clement Center for Southwestern Studies at Southern Methodist University, and helped organize professional conferences on these subjects.

Glaser joined the History department at Central in 2006 to help build the growing Public History program, specifically in historic preservation. She had taught at Quinnipiac University, Arizona State University, and in the Maricopa County Community Colleges. Her public history experience includes work with the New Haven Preservation Trust, Virginia Center for Digital History, the United States Bureau of Reclamation, and the National Park Service.

In her current research, Glaser continues to be interested in how people of the past have enlisted natural resources for development (specifically in Connecticut), and how public historians can

interpret those practices within this modern concept of environmental resource use known as sustainability.

Further, this research hooks into the idea of Eastern industrialization influencing Western expansion and settlement in the American West. “In Connecticut, a lot of the people who initially made the decisions about the development of the state forests and parks also helped shape policy on a national level and in the national parks and forests of the American West,” she observes.

“I am working on a paper now in which I am trying to understand the historic roots and perceptions of what we consider today to be ‘sustainable practices’ to the conservation movement of the early twentieth century.” That has all, in part, been inspired by her involvement in the Global Environmental Sustainability Action Coalition at CCSU and the sustainability symposiums and programs on campus.

“I hope to address present and future issues with which the profession itself is struggling, such as how do we manage sustainable historic sites?” Her hope is that her work will offer site managers new ideas for integrating sustainable technologies into the treatment of historical resources, but also to use historic sites to educate the public about sustainability and historically sustainable practices. “Historic sites can often manage pollution and energy use in ways more environmentally sustainable,” she observes. “Furthermore, those techniques are often more historically accurate.”

As Glaser’s intellectual explorations evolve in this new direction, her future public history scholarship will rest firmly on sound scholarship and on an interest and commitment to making history relevant and useful in the public sphere.

— Geri Radacsi

“Life Has Been Very Kind to Me”



— By Claire LaFleur Hall

Profound Determination, CCSU Education Propel Ululy Martinez '96 from Poverty to Successful Career

By the time he was in fourth grade, it was clear that Ululy Rafael Martinez '96 had a fierce determination that would serve him well in his quest to leave his crime-ridden and poverty-filled neighborhood.

With a tiny sand shovel for a tool, and his frozen feet laced into an old pair of sneakers, the 10-year-old Martinez would trek through the snow, seeking shoveling jobs in his Waterbury neighborhood.

Without his income, his family often struggled to put food on the table.

“I got the job done, no matter how big the driveway was,” he recalled. “In hindsight, I’m not sure if my neighbors really needed it done or just felt sorry for me!”

“I was proud that I was contributing to the household,” he said. “I would ride my bike home with milk and bread balanced on the handlebars.”

Soon Martinez scraped together enough money to buy a full-sized snow shovel and his business grew.

“I had established clients and I’d shovel them at wee hours of the morning and then look for new customers before the other kids got out there,” he said. “I learned to adjust and survive, and those were lessons that stayed with me throughout the years.”

Today, Martinez, 39, is a successful New York lawyer and Director of Government and Business Operations for Cablevisions Systems Inc., managing regulatory compliance for the New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut operations.

Martinez recently received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award from CCSU in recognition of his career achievements and community involvement. The award is particularly cherished, Martinez said, because it is at CCSU that a whole new chapter of his life unfolded.

‘He didn’t want me to fail’

From an early age, Martinez recognized that going to college was the only way to escape a life of hardship. But when he arrived at CCSU, he realized the deficits in his prior education.

“When I entered college, I’d never written a paper or read a book in its entirety,” said Martinez. As captain of the high school football team, he said he often earned academic promotion through the gift of charm. He arrived at college speaking only slang, and had to learn standard English almost as a second language. He took remedial, non-credit courses to catch up on the basics.

He sought help from his older brother, Alex Ortiz, then a special education teacher and now a school principal in Bridgeport. Despite their nine-year age difference, the two have always been close and still spend every holiday together. Ortiz was the first in the family to graduate from college and he wanted his brother to follow in his footsteps.

“My brother would sit down with me and help me for hours,” Martinez recalls. “He would show me how to highlight sections of my readings. Over the phone, he would help me to write papers, until I became self-sufficient. Teaching was his passion, and he didn’t want me to fail.”

Martinez says he studied more than anyone he knew. “My CCSU friends thought I was a genius because I spent so much time in the library,” he said. “After a while I felt more confident in my writing and verbal exchanges in the classroom. It was very empowering to be able to articulate what I felt.”

He found inspiration in the words of favorite professors, particularly Stephen Morris, a lecturer in the Honors program, who preceded him to law school. Morris remains a close friend, editor, and confidant. The late Ron Fernandez, a professor of criminology and criminal justice, who worked at CCSU for almost 40 years prior to his death, shared cultural information about Puerto Rican history and was a guiding figure, Martinez said.

Funding his education through student loans and the stipend he made through the Army National Guard, Martinez forged on. With each semester, college courses became easier. He found time to participate in clubs and activities, including serving as president of the Latin American Student Organization.

Martinez graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1996 with a bachelor’s degree in history. After a year off, he enrolled in law school at City University of New York School of Law at Queens College. His interest in law was fueled by his upbringing.

“I grew up in a poor community and I’ve seen the impact on a family when someone is arrested and they can’t afford an attorney,” he said. “It is scary and daunting for families; that’s what inspired me to become an attorney.”

In one of his first cases, Martinez argued for a reduced sentence for his father, who was a heroin addict and imprisoned in Connecticut for drug-related crimes. Now a free man, Martinez’s father lives with him in the Bronx.

“I know how drug addictions can harden hearts,” Martinez said. “Despite his drug use, my father always maintained his compassion and humanity, so I couldn’t turn my back on him.”

Bringing computers, jobs to the Bronx

Compassion has guided Martinez’s career, which began as a staff attorney for the Bronx Defenders, representing poor people accused of felonies and misdemeanors.

When he transitioned to legal work for various government entities, he realized he could impact an entire community. Whether assisting a family with an immigration issue or preparing an argument to get laptops in a local school, the work was rewarding, he said.

One of the most satisfying projects that Martinez tackled as Chief of Staff for the Democratic County Committee in the Bronx was laying the groundwork for the retail project known as the Bronx Terminal Market.

As a condition for construction approval, borough leaders wanted retailers to commit to hiring local people and donating \$1 million, over 10 years, to local non-profits. Martinez helped finalize the agreement.

“To me, that’s how government should work,” Martinez said. “Businesses should feel a sense of responsibility for the community in which they build.”

Each job provided a stepping stone to the next opportunity, including working as Deputy Chief of Staff to the Speaker of the New York City Council, Christine C. Quinn.

Although his position at Cablevision is regulatory in nature, Martinez volunteered to oversee the company’s charitable contribution budget. “I’ve learned there is always an opportunity to serve the community, no matter what position you have or where you work,” he said.

Giving others a hand

The need to give others a hand seems to run like a theme through much of Martinez’s life. In the weeks after Hurricane Sandy struck, Martinez gave up his weekends to shuttle volunteers to the Rockaways.

“I think the most touching thing was to see volunteers from other states. “It was a beautiful human response to a catastrophe, an outpouring of compassion.”

Martinez serves as a mentor and fundraiser on the Scholarship Foundation of Bronx Community College. He is a former vice president of the Puerto Rican Bar Association, whose mission is to connect worthy students with college scholarships. He serves on the board of a Boys and Girls Club, as well as several of Mayor Bloomberg’s task forces.

Martinez is happy with the life he has carved out for himself.

**“I love my fate,” he said.
“I enjoy life. I’m grateful for the opportunities I’ve received.
Life has been very kind to me.”**



• ALUMNI ADVISOR •

CONSULTING AS A CAREER

For young or newly minted alumni as well as for a range of mid-career professionals, the profession of consulting can be an excellent line of work. CCSU alum Edward Verlander '72, provides some compelling insights in this Alumni Advisor feature. Verlander is the author of The Practice of

Professional Consulting (Pfeiffer), and he has taught graduate courses in management at Columbia and Long Island universities, and leadership at Jilin and Nanjing Universities in China.

I have been a consultant for over 25 years and would not choose another profession. Anyone who enjoys learning, traveling, solving problems, meeting people, and having an impact on the world ought to seriously consider consulting as a career. In my book, *The Practice of Professional Consulting*, I describe what I have learned about consulting over the decades and the journey of becoming a trusted advisor.

For graduates in liberal arts, social science, and engineering as well as for business majors and MBAs, the prospects for jobs in consulting are significant; and personal learning, growth, and development are real. Recent research indicates that prospects for consulting are high in the following areas:

1. Health care. Changes in expenditures and health care coverage, especially in digital health records, and a dramatic need for greater efficiency and cost control make this an in-demand field.
2. Business processes. There is a ripe corporate market for consultant-driven projects that reduce business costs and enhance operating ratios in a reasonably short period of time, especially those involving cash flow enhancement, supply chain efficiency, and manufacturing efficiency.
3. Finance. Especially in companies pursuing debt restructuring, particularly in the fields of commercial real estate and debt-financed acquisitions.
4. Government-corporate relations. Many companies need expert advice on how to navigate rapidly changing relationships between government and certain industries, given the labyrinths of new government regulations.
5. Human resources, particularly in firms needing assistance in lowering employee benefits costs.
6. Environmental specialties. Companies need consultancy advice on "green" issues such as carbon emissions and energy efficiency.
7. Corporations expanding into emerging markets, information technology, mergers and acquisitions.

While the life of a consultant does have stresses, including dealing with client expectations, 60-80 hour weeks, travel, and pressure to produce revenue, it does have more benefits. People in small boutique firms and independent consultants say they:

- Can earn more than when they worked in corporate organizations
- Have the independence they always dreamed about
- Derive satisfaction from projects having natural conclusions
- Apply their knowledge and expertise in interesting ways
- Are their own boss
- Are not tied to one company but a portfolio of companies
- Can tie their income directly to their individual effort
- Do not have to worry so much about organizational politics
- Are free to say "no" to work, if they choose
- Can travel as much or as little as they choose
- Are able to strike a better work/life balance

HOW TO HIRE A CONSULTANT

Many managers struggle with the decision of which consultant to hire, in part because it can expose the organization and the manager to highly visible economic and political vulnerabilities. Such risks can be mitigated by hiring a "brand name" firm that has an established track-record of success. But this is usually very expensive and can cost \$3,000 - 5,000 (or more) per day for an individual consultant, and run into millions of dollars for solving large scale problems.

Hiring decisions can be easier by keeping in mind two factors: consultants are hired on a project basis and selection criteria can be clarified. Projects have defined time-tables, terms, and specifications, including a clause covering the reasons for terminating the agreement.

Criteria for Selecting a Consultant. The second hiring factor is thinking through what one is looking for in a consultant. Whether hiring a brand-name consultant ... or a small, local firm, the person can be assessed using the following six "E" criteria.

- **Experience:** range and scope of relevant experience
- **Education:** perspective and depth needed to handle the problem and organization culture
- **Ethics:** evidence of keeping confidences and one's word, by asking for references
- **Ease:** interpersonal style fits with company culture and is easy to work with
- **Energy:** cognitive agility and creativity, and physical endurance to deal with resistance to change
- **Edge:** ability to make hard, objective recommendations and tough decisions

By asking probing questions, seeking facts and evidence, talking to references, and giving the person ad hoc hypothetical situations to deal with during the interview, a hiring manager can draw conclusions about the person's suitability: ... Can this person be trusted to work with us to get results I need?

From The Practice of Professional Consulting. Copyright © 2012 by John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Research Associate (no bachelor's)	\$40,000 to \$80,000
First-Year Analyst (bachelor's)	\$55,000 to \$80,000
Second-Year Analyst (bachelor's)	\$60,000 to \$120,000
Management Consultant (MBA)	\$80,000 to \$170,000
Senior Consultant (MBA plus two to five years' experience)	\$280,000 + bonus
Junior Partner (MBA/Ph.D. plus five or more years' experience)	\$450,000 + bonus
Partner (MBA/Ph.D. plus five to twenty years' experience)	\$600,000 + bonus

Source: US Dept. of Labor, & AMC 2004

In addition to doing interesting work for interesting clients, consulting pays well. According to the US Bureau of Labor and Association of Management Consultants, in the US consulting pay depends on organizational level, credentials, and years of experience:

Since consulting thrives on change, future prospects are excellent. Career opportunities abound—globally, across industries, within companies, and in the private economy as well as government.

Learning how to become a consultant is a growing discipline with its own way of thinking, its own methods and tools. More books are being published on the subject. Firms in the consulting industry aggressively and enthusiastically train their newly hired knowledge workers in the use of their proprietary methods.

As a result, for many recently retired managers, entrepreneurs, and a growing number of college graduates, consulting is seen as both accessible and a very attractive career. Consulting is especially attractive for people who want to help clients solve problems and make a difference in the world.

Becoming Exceptional

PRESIDENT SETS BOLD NEW COURSE



It's time for CCSU to set out on a "really bold new course to become exceptional," declared President Jack Miller at the University's Opening Meeting in fall 2012.

Speaking to a packed crowd of faculty and staff, he said, "It's not my ambition in life to just survive. We can build on what we've accomplished, but we've really got to reach for much loftier goals." With great conviction he added, "We need to set a realistic goal, and I think a realistic goal for us is to be an exceptional, regional public comprehensive university."

Surviving

While the University's current financial climate is marked by decreases in state funding and the declining number of high school students seeking higher education, the University has taken control of its destiny and is working to survive, he assured everyone. Some steps include retaining a higher percentage of students, increasing the number of private gifts, and expanding revenue producing activities, and increasing resources for new teaching and research.

"We've already proved we are surviving, but well beyond that we are thriving in many ways," he declared.

Thriving

He pointed out that during the last seven years, CCSU has changed the way it conducts business, which resulted in successfully moving the full-time graduation rate up 11 percent; financial aid grew 172 percent to \$91 million; annual gifts increased 385 percent to \$5.3 million; and the number of students going abroad for an international learning experience more than doubled, from 220 students to 457.

Becoming Exceptional

The President's standard for judging whether CCSU could, in fact, climb the academic ladder, was based on nine universities he had researched and deemed "good company to be in." The universities include: Boise State, California Polytechnic State, Eastern Carolina, George Mason, Illinois State, Indiana State, James Madison, Northern Illinois, and Old Dominion. Miller illustrated how CCSU stacked up against the "nine" using statistics about student selectivity, enrollment, student profile, student success, fees, and cost factors.

"In the middle," he repeated again and again to emphasize how Central fares. It led the President to ask, "So are we all that different [from the nine]? I think the answer is we are far more like those institutions than we are different from those institutions. It's not reaching for stars. With a bold course, a firm plan, and the support of all constituencies, we can become exceptional."

To become exceptional, Miller said, Central needs to grow in numbers and campus size; it's one of the biggest differences between CCSU and the select nine. CCSU landed in the lower third for overall enrollment; therefore, increasing both student retention and graduation rates are a necessity. He also called for maintaining a "strong commitment to liberally educating

“We have to continue to survive, and we are. We have to continue to thrive, and we are. But we have to think bigger. We have to think about what we can be, and how we can become exceptional—not setting our course on survival—but setting our course on exceptional.”

our students,” and to expanding graduate programming and increasing enrollment of full- and part-time graduate students. By increasing out-of-state enrollment to 15 percent, revenue would be “enhanced dramatically,” though he strongly affirmed that CCSU would remain a Connecticut university, “first and foremost.” The endowment, which doubled in size to \$38 million since 2006, should be “redoubled to \$80 million,” Miller challenged.

With more students comes the need for additional facilities. “We have to increase our residential space by at least double, probably more,” the President estimated. He recommended establishing small residential living spaces for students with special interests, such as academic or cultural interests, and giving Central a range of living options for students—a selection now offered at many universities that can be an effective tool in attracting new students. To increase the number of new living spaces, the President suggested using public-private partnerships.

He also called for building a new school of education and companion magnet school where, together, they would become a laboratory for education change. His vision also included new indoor athletic facilities and outdoor space for community recreational use. Since the current campus is cramped, he described how the expansion would take place on University land, east of campus and adjacent to the site of a stop along the CTFastrak Busway, now under construction. This would be incorporated into the expanded campus, providing a more direct connection to Hartford and New Britain while reducing our carbon footprint.

“We need to expand our presence in downtown New Britain with graduate students and faculty residential space that will be right on the Busway,” the President emphasized. He’d like to see additional classroom space created in CCSU’s Institute for Business Development (ITBD), already located downtown, and expand ITBD’s role in the city’s economic development.

The President also proposed creating a center in Hartford to more closely connect with Capital Community College, provide graduate programs—especially for those in urban teacher education and social work—and partner with the insurance industry: “There should be a state university presence in Hartford...to help rebuild the city of Hartford.”

His map to becoming “exceptional” included a call for creating an administrative structure to join the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) areas, expanding their facilities, and “vastly” increasing the use of technology in teaching and learning.

Already, exploratory initiatives have begun, and early in March, two study groups (one on STEM and one on expanding in downtown New Britain) have reported their findings and recommendations. Plans are underway for pilot course programs beginning this fall.

In wrapping up his presentation, President Miller shared this, “We have to continue to survive, and we are. We have to continue to thrive, and we are. But we have to think bigger. We have to think about what we can be, and how we can become exceptional—not setting our course on survival—but setting our course on exceptional.”

– Janice Palmer

For more on this story, please see: www.ccsu.edu/CCSUExceptional





CCSU English Professor Robert Dowling has a book in progress — a biography of American playwright Eugene O'Neill for Yale University Press with scheduled publication in 2014. He is the author of *Slumming in New York* (University of Illinois Press, 2007), *Critical Companion to Eugene O'Neill* (Infobase Publishing 2009); and *Eugene O'Neill and His Early Contemporaries: Bohemians, Radicals, Progressives and the Avant Garde* (McFarland, 2011).

Here he presents an update on this ambitious project.

Q. What's the scope of the book?

It won't be an all-inclusive study, nor should it be; others have written those (including me). Instead of a traditional biographical format, I'll highlight the most revealing episodes of O'Neill's life. Each episode will demonstrate the ripple effect of this astonishing playwright's journey on American theater and culture and how the stories O'Neill told interweave with actual stories, many of which have laid fallow beneath thousands of pages of scholarship and criticism and in the archives of libraries since his death in 1953.

Q. What first attracted you to O'Neill as a playwright and continues to fascinate you?

The pat response is that like O'Neill, I'm an Irish-American male who grew up in Connecticut and New York and feels at home in dive bars. So there's that. My mother, Janet Kellock, was also a huge O'Neill fan. She had first editions of his books from when she took a class on him

Robert Dowling: New Light on Eugene O'Neill's Life

at Connecticut College in the early '50s, when O'Neill was still among us. She also took me to my first O'Neill play, the Wooster Group's *The Hairy Ape*, which was a bombshell for me.

I spent my teenage years at prep school in Connecticut like O'Neill did in his youth. This period in both our lives gave us strong feelings of isolation rather than community. O'Neill and I found release from this in works by the same authors too—Nietzsche, Conrad, London, Crane, Joyce, Baudelaire, et al. (and for me, O'Neill himself). The expansive worldview these writers inspired in the playwright never diminished over his lifetime. They haven't for me either.

Q. What's mystified you about his life? What's surprised you? What's been most compelling about his life?

On the final session of my first O'Neill seminar at Central I asked the students a simple question: Which plays did you enjoy the most? Without missing a beat, one raised his hand and said that O'Neill's life is his finest play. Many others quickly nodded in agreement. That moment planted the seed for this book. The dramatic structure of O'Neill's own life uncannily matches the narrative arc of his best plays, of most great plays in fact: the exposition through his childhood and Irish-Catholic upbringing, the rising action as he proves himself as an emergent playwright and swiftly becomes the Great O'Neill, the climax (which I'll wait to explain in the book), the falling action after he removes himself from the public, and the denouement with the peculiar story of his final years and death; as an epilogue, there's the Lazarus-like revival in the 1950s, with the publication and production of *Long Day's Journey*, known as "the Eugene O'Neill Renaissance"—the single most astonishing resurrection in American theater history.

Q. In undertaking a new biography of Eugene O'Neill, the iconic American dramatist considered one of the most important writers in the American theater, how will your latest research shed fresh insights into his life and work?

Here are some things I add to the mix: The central role of his Irish heritage; proof of his impact on 21st-century writers and artists; unearthing O'Neill's early short story "The Screennews of War" and the fact that it contains the first plot he ever pitched to the Provincetown Players in the legendary summer of 1916; drawing connections between O'Neill's plays and his worldview "philosophical anarchism"; expanding upon his role in African American history; uncovering evidence that at the height of his early career in the mid-twenties, he was determined to give up playwriting and become a novelist, why he made that (albeit short-lived) decision, and what his envy of fiction writers tells us about

his work as a whole; and why his third wife and literary executor Carlotta Monterey defied her dead husband's wishes and allowed the release of *Long Day's Journey* despite his written proviso (a stipulation well known to the public years before it was released) that it not be published until 25 years after his death and never produced as a play. Importantly, O'Neill's long-lost play *Exorcism*, a highly autobiographical account of his suicide attempt in December of 1911, was just discovered last year. O'Neill thought he had destroyed all copies, but one survived. *Journey into Night* will be the first biography ever to discuss this play in the context of his life with the actual script in hand.

Q. How has your own Irish heritage aided you in penning this biography?

O'Neill and I both rebelled against a lot during our respective upbringings (Catholicism being the most obvious example), but one value our families encouraged did sink in—the Irish rebel past. My father's side of the family, the Dowlings, Donovans and O'Rahillys, waxed as romantic about our connection to Ireland's history when I was a kid as the O'Neills did when he was young. Both our fathers—James O'Neill and Richard O'Rahilly Dowling—brought up the old clans any chance they got. We carried on the tradition. Scholars have since discussed O'Neill's Irishness, certainly more than they did when he was alive, but I think I have some distinctive thoughts on that subject.

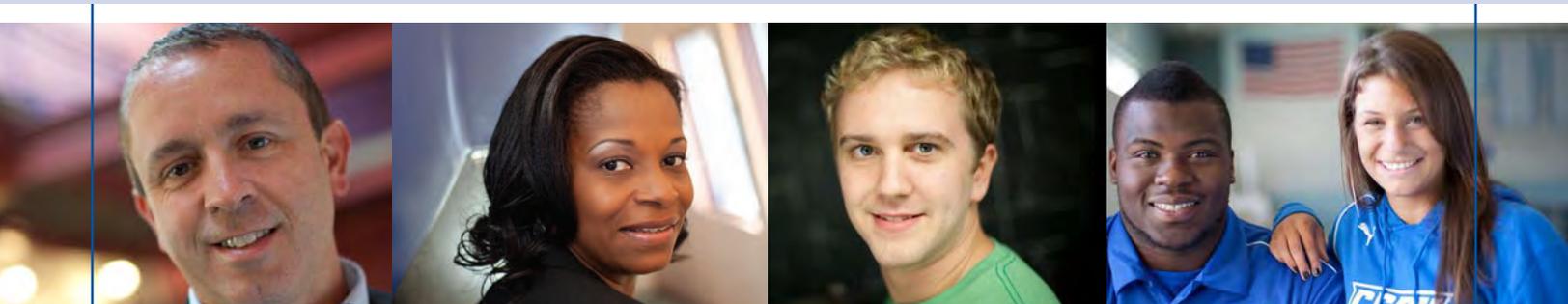
Q. What's the literary assessment of O'Neill's life achievements these days?

O'Neill won four Pulitzers: 1920 (*Beyond the Horizon*), 1922 ("Anna Christie"), 1928 (*Strange Interlude*), and posthumously in 1956 (*Long Day's Journey Into Night*). Still, O'Neill's probably received more bad reviews than any other major American author (despite Norman Mailer's claim to the title). Having scrutinized virtually every review of his premieres and books, I can say that even so-called "real clunkers" like *The First Man, Welded*, and *Days Without End* were still credited with creative breakthroughs that offered something unique, something never attempted before on the American stage.

O'Neill's now enjoying a new "Renaissance," with dozens of revivals over the last decade. I recently learned that another great American playwright, Tony Kushner (who calls himself an "O'Neill fanatic") is at work on a screenplay about O'Neill for a motion picture that will, I believe, be directed by Mike Nichols. American and international audiences alike have shown an unquenchable desire for O'Neill and his plays, and there's no end in sight for this playwright's potential to speak to contemporary audiences as he once spoke to his own.

CCSUCCESS

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE
UNIVERSITY ANNUAL GIVING



SUCCESS BEGINS WITH CCSU

CCSU's successes take many forms, but the ones we are proudest of are the successes of our students — in class and outside in the “real world.” The many alumni teachers mentioned in the Teaching Excellence article in this issue, the recent appointment of Carmen Espinosa '71 to the Connecticut State Supreme Court, the hiring of three CCSU graduates (out of a total of six new hires) by KBE Building Corporation in Farmington, CT, the nine Central graduate students whose work will be included in a book published by Wesleyan University Press, and the 1,748 undergraduates who made dean's list for fall 2012 — all these demonstrate that “Success begins with CCSU.”

The generosity of Central alumni and friends has played a crucial role in making those successes possible. Thanks to their wonderful support, the University can provide more resources — from scholarships to library improvements — for our students.

The University's Campaign for CCSUCCESS is aimed at challenging our already generous alumni and friends to help more students to do well as students and then to go on and become the leaders and doers that make their and all our lives better.

We recognize that too many of our students are still struggling financially and that we must continue to invest in our programs so that CCSU can offer a truly exceptional education. That's why the Campaign for CCSUCCESS draws on the energies of the excellent professors and leaders of Central's academic schools and its athletics department to reach out to their alumni and enlist them in this great cause.

Please consider joining us in the campaign for Central's students. You can begin by learning more about our efforts and our goals by visiting the website at www.ccsu.edu/giving. With your support, we can make success possible for generations of Central students.

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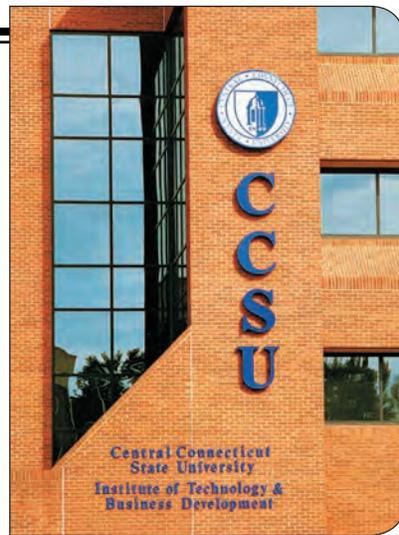
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- Programming for High School Student-Athletes
- Managing Troubled Youth in Schools
- Teacher Evaluation & Common Core State Standards

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ALUMNI IN THE NEWS



In September, every kindergartener and first grader at Simpson-Waverly Classical Magnet School in Hartford received a signed copy of *Roxy's Forever Home*, a children's book written by alumna **Teresa Pelham '94** (right) with Roxy. West Hartford-based Northstar Wealth Partners, whose cofounders are **Robert Laraia '86** (right, bottom) and **Brandon Marinelli '01** (bottom, right), donated the books in an effort to promote literacy and support animal rescue.



Steve Addazio '81 was recently named head football coach of Boston College. During an accomplished 26-year coaching career, Addazio has led many college football teams to victory.

Expressionist painter **Andria Alex '93** was featured at an art exhibit at Art Works Gallery in Hartford in January that supported "Movin' With the Spirit," a non-profit organization dedicated to helping poor citizens of Haiti. Alex is also a professional scenic artist and has painted sets for several Connecticut theaters.



Continuing a string of "firsts," Central alumna **Carmen Espinosa '71** (above, right), has been appointed a Justice of Connecticut's Supreme Court. She is the first Hispanic member. The Focus featured a profile of Judge Espinosa's lifetime of remarkable achievements, and it is available online at www.ccsu.edu/Espinosa.

HAPPENINGS



L to R: Kathy Murphy, Sean Murphy (wife & son accepting for Joe Murphy), Rasheed Thompson (son of the late Ronald Thompson), Talibah Buchanon, Christine Dadducci, Dawn Hankey, Norm Marinic, Robin Crothers, Jim Keefe, Dan Siracusa, and Bruce Biel.

The Department of Athletics inducted its 2013 class into the Alumni Athletics Hall of Fame on January 25. The 1961 cross country team, along with five alumni, **Bruce Biel '88**, **Christine Dadducci '96**, **Dawn Hankey '96**, **Joe Murphy '69**, and **Ronald Thompson '68**, were inducted. **Dan Siracusa '79** was also recognized during the ceremony when he was honored with the Harrison J. Kaiser Alumni Service Award.



The School of Engineering & Technology recognized **Jeffrey O'Meara '98** (left, with CCSU Provost Carl Lovitt) and **Kenneth Thomas '95** (right) as 2012 Outstanding Alumni. O'Meara, who earned his BS in Industrial Technology and Manufacturing, is the Director of Achieving Competitive Excellence (ACE), Lean and Supplier Gold at Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation. O'Meara served three years in the US Army and four years in the Connecticut Army National Guard. Thomas graduated from CCSU with a MS in Mechanical Engineering Technology, and works as a Space, Land and Sea (SLS) Technologist at Hamilton Sundstrand (HS). Thomas is a world recognized spacesuit-system technologist, and has been a key contributor to HS-SLS next generation spacesuit development since 1994.

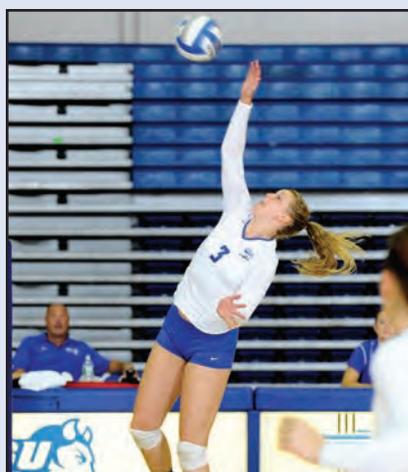
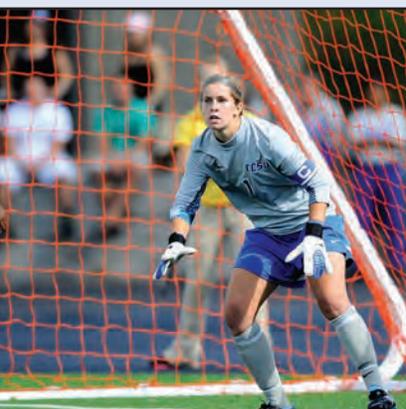
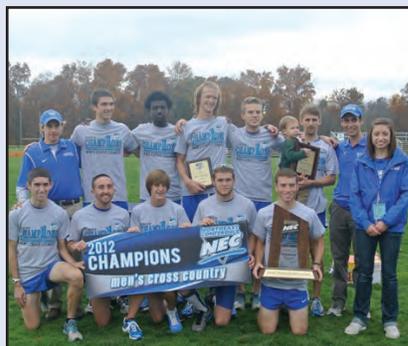


Three CCSU alums and a prominent Connecticut businessman were honored with Alumni Association Awards in June. The honorees, from left to right: **Ululy Rafael Martinez '96**, recipient of the Young Alumni Award, who graduated magna cum laude and went on to work in both public and private sectors in New York; **Catherine Healy Jost '74**, who received the Distinguished Alumni Award for her years serving the University as a faculty member and an alumna; Athletics Hall of Fame member **Kevin Cranford, Sr. '81**, who was awarded the Community Service Award for his work with young men in fatherless households; and **John Olson**, President and CEO of Whelen Engineering Company, who received the Friend of the University Award for initiating a co-op program that offers engineering students hands-on experience at the Whelen facility.



FALL 2012 SEASON WRAP UP

by Tommy Meade '10 (MA '12)



For the most up-to-date information and schedules on all 18 Central Connecticut sports check CCSUBlueDevils.com.

For the Central Connecticut Department of Athletics the fall season was highlighted by new facilities, a nationally televised game, tremendous individual performances and a Northeast Conference Championship.

FOOTBALL

The fall kicked off with the opening of the newly expanded Arute Field on September 8, when the nationally ranked Lehigh Mountain Hawks visited Arute Field. The facility, complete with state-of-the-art video board, hosted a huge crowd of 5,100 fans on opening day. Just two weeks later the facility was seen by a national audience as the Blue Devils' game with Wagner College was televised nationally on Fox College Sports.

On the field the Blue Devils were led by sophomore Rob Hollomon who earned his own national exposure with a pair of national player of the week awards in October. Hollomon became the second Blue Devil and second NEC player to rush for 200 or more yards in back-to-back conference games. He also became the ninth player in CCSU history to rush for 1,000 yards in a season, finishing with 1,104.

SOCCER

The second anticipated opening of the year was the new CCSU soccer field, which was officially dedicated during a men's and women's soccer doubleheader on September 30. Both the men's and women's soccer seasons were highlighted by standout performances on the field and success in the classroom. Both squads earned the NSCAA Academic Award from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America and had multiple players earn All-NEC accolades.

Two of the top individual performers on the soccer field were senior Reece Wilson (Men's Soccer) and junior Nikola Deiter (Women's Soccer). Wilson's performance athletically, coupled with his great academics, made him the first CCSU student-athlete to earn COSIDA Capitol One First-Team Academic All-America honors. He was also named NEC Player of the Year following the season. On the women's side, Deiter also earned a major postseason award, taking home NEC Goalkeeper of the Year honors.

In addition, CCSU women's soccer was also recognized for their sportsmanship on the field with the NEC Team Sportsmanship Award and the NSCAA Team Ethics Award.

VOLLEYBALL

In Detrick Gym, the volleyball team carried a strong regular season into the NEC Tournament and fell just a few points short in an exciting championship match. The team was led by four All-NEC selections in seniors Emily Cochran and Jamie Rademacher, sophomore Brittany Schumacher and freshman Makenna Lommori. Following a stellar freshman season Lommori was the Blue Devils lone first team selection and also earned NEC Rookie of the Year honors.

MEN'S X-COUNTRY

The fall reached its pinnacle with a victory at the 2012 NEC Cross Country Championships as head coach Eric Blake extended his dynasty with a fourth consecutive NEC Championship in men's cross country. Junior Colby Delbene earned the NEC Individual Championship to extend the Blue Devils' run of race winners to three. In addition to Delbene, sophomore Brian Biekert, ninth overall, and junior Andrew Hill, 11th overall, were honored as All-NEC performers. Blake, a CCSU alumnus, earned his third NEC Coach of the Year honor following his team's championship.

WOMEN'S X-COUNTRY

The women's cross country team was led to a fifth place finish at the NEC Championships by juniors Krisztina Dearborn and Elizabeth Eberhardt. The duo paced the CCSU squad and finished among the top 14 individuals to earn All-NEC honors.

OTHER

The men's and women's golf teams as well as the women's swimming and diving team saw early season success in the fall and will compete for NEC titles in the coming months.

The Blue Devils continued performance on the field and in the classroom are just a few examples of the great things happening at CCSU.



Keep the Legacy Strong



Do you have a high school junior or senior in your house who is considering colleges? Do you have grandchildren or other relatives starting a college search? Why not recommend CCSU? Central played an important role in your life. Committed to academic excellence and offering an array of exceptional academic and social programs, CCSU has been selected by Princeton Review as one of the *Best Northeastern Colleges* and one of *America's Best Value Colleges*. To learn more: www.ccsu.edu or send an email to admissionsdepartment@ccsu.edu.



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ALUMNI LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

CCSU Alumni Association Scholarship Fund

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- Student must be registered for at least 6 credits in the semester to which the scholarship is being applied.
- Student must demonstrate qualities of service, leadership and academic achievement.

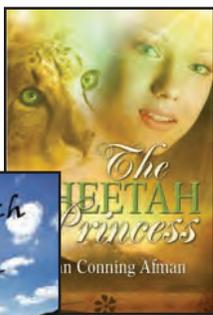
Special Application Instructions

- Applicants shall submit an essay stating why the candidate believes he/she deserves the scholarship.
- Essay should be no more than 250 words.
- Please include with your application the name, degree and class year of the legacy alum.

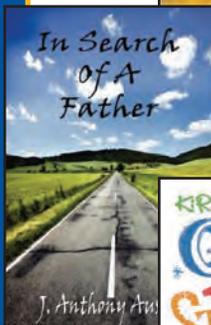
To apply visit the CCSU Foundation website at www.ccsu.edu/foundation



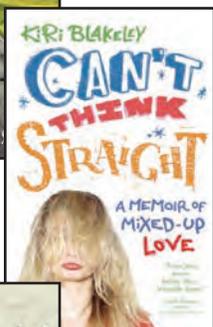
Recent Books & News by CCSU Alumni



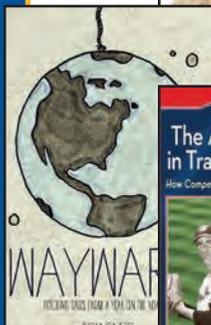
Joan Conning Afman, MA '85,
The Cheetah Princess,
Champagne Books.
<http://champagnebooks.com>



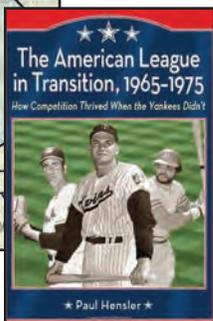
J. Anthony Austin '63,
In Search of a Father,
Bookstand Press.
www.amazon.com



Kirstin K. Blakeley '91,
Can't Think Straight: A Memoir of Mixed-Up Love,
Citadel Press.
<http://kiriblakeley.com>



Tom Gates '92,
Wayward: Fetching Tales from a Year on the Road (Volume 1). CreateSpace.
www.amazon.com



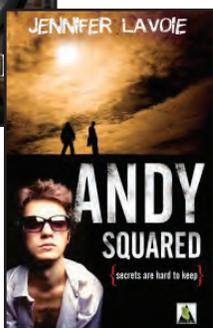
Paul Hensler '78,
The American League in Transition, 1965-1975: How Competition Thrived When the Yankees Didn't. McFarland.
<http://paulhensler.com/index>



Peter Kilduff '67, *Ironman Rudolf Berthold: Germany's Indomitable Fighter Ace of World War I*. Grub Street.
www.Hamiltonbook.com



Anthony V. LaPenta Jr., '70,
The Sniper. CreateSpace.
www.amazon.com

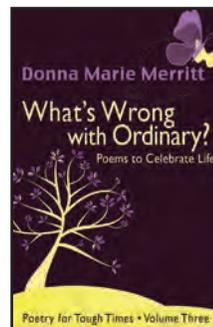


Jennifer Lavoie '08,
Andy Squared: A New Young Adult Novel about Coming Out & Coming of Age. Bold Strokes Books.
www.jenniferlavoiebooks.com

William J. Mann '84,
Hello Gorgeous, Becoming Barbra Streisand.
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.
www.williamjmann.com and
www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com

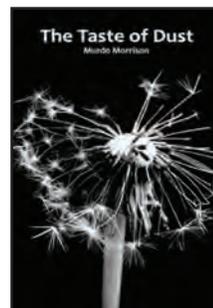


Donna Marie Merritt '88,
What's Wrong with Ordinary? Poems to Celebrate Life.
Avalon Press. Volume 3 in Poetry for Tough Times Series.
www.avalonpress.co.uk

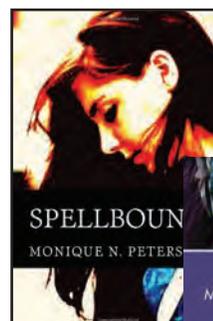


Jadwiga Szelazek Morrison '71,
From Exile to Eden: A Family Journal, Turning Stone Press.
www.turningstonepress.com

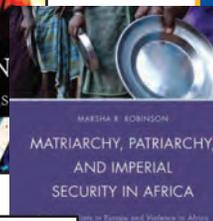
Murdo Morrison '76,
The Taste of Dust.
CreateSpace. Sequel to Morrison's *Roses of Winter*.
www.thetasteofdust.com



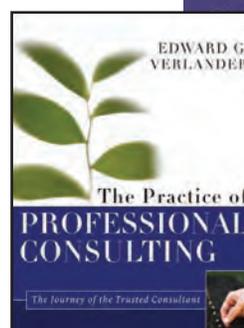
Monique N. Peterson '11,
Spellbound.
CreateSpace. Young adult indie fantasy novel.
<http://moniquepeterson.com>



Marsha Robinson, MA '99,
Matriarchy, Patriarchy, and Imperial Security in Africa: Explaining Riots in Europe and Violence in Africa.
Lexington Books.
www.rowman.com



Edward Verlander, '72,
Why Companies Hire Consultants. Pfeiffer, imprint of J. Wiley & Sons. See story in this issue.



Central alumni—please let us know about your recently published books: alumnibooks@ccsu.edu

School of Business Technology Room Dedication Honors Paul Gianaris '70



President Miller congratulates Paul Gianaris

In January, alumnus Paul Gianaris '70, a tireless volunteer, benefactor, and advocate for the University, was honored by CCSU and the School of Business with the dedication of the Paul Gianaris Technology Room in Vance Hall. Gianaris was born in New Britain and has maintained lifelong ties to the city and to the University, giving back generously, not only financially, but by his involvement and volunteerism with both local organizations and his alma mater.

His contributions include work with the New Britain Symphony Orchestra, the New Britain Museum of American Art, and the Trinity-on-Main arts and education center, among other endeavors. At the University, he is a supporter of the football and basketball teams and a member of the committee that created a scholarship fund to support CCSU student-veterans, particularly those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 2008, Gianaris was instrumental in facilitating what, at the time, was the largest gift ever received from an individual donor when he encouraged family friend Tony Bichum to create the Anthony and Helen G. Bichum Scholarship Fund at the School of Engineering & Technology. In addition, Gianaris made a major gift to CCSU to establish the Gianaris Family Scholarship and Endowment at the School of Business, with the purpose of supporting students pursuing entrepreneurial careers. He received the Distinguished Alumni Service Award in 2009.

Gianaris sums up his reasons for staying involved with the University quite succinctly. He says, "I believe in giving back. You go to school, you get your education, you give back."

AROUND CAMPUS

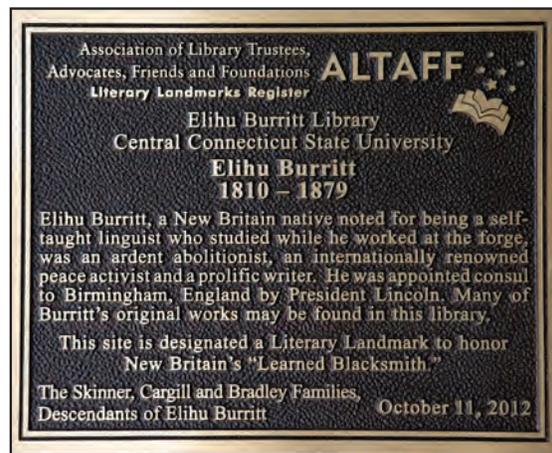
CCSU's Center for International Education Ranked Top 40 Nationwide

The Institute of International Education ranked the University's Center for International Education among the top 40 in the nation for the number of students it sends abroad each year. CCSU has been offering exciting international study programs for nearly 40 years, and last year alone sent 457 students abroad to 27 countries, according to Associate Director of CIE Lisa Bigelow. Recognition in the IIE's Open Doors Report is a nice external validation of the quality of the University's international study programs, one of our key critical distinctions as an institution of higher learning.



Elihu Burritt Library Earns Landmark Designation and Burritt Family Establishes Scholarship

A dual ceremony in October celebrated the Burritt Library's designation as a Literary Landmark by the American Library Association (ALA). The award reflects the extensive collection of Burritt materials — documents, scrapbooks, letters, and Burritt's remarkable "Pledge of Universal Brotherhood." Attending the event were Burritt descendants Rod Skinner and Susan C. Bradley, who established a scholarship in their great uncle's name, which will be awarded to a CCSU student who makes research use of the library's extensive collection of Burritt's works.



CCSU Ranked for Improvement in African American Student Graduation Rates

The Education Trust, a Washington, DC-based organization that works to promote high academic achievement for all students at all levels in an effort to close gaps in opportunity and achievement, ranked the University 23d in the nation among public institutions for improvement in graduation rates for African American students; CCSU was also ranked 17th for closing the achievement gap for African American students.





CCSU Alumni Association Announces New President and Board Members



Curtis Wiggins '93 was elected president of the CCSU Alumni Association for a three-year term commencing on July 1, 2012.

ELECTED AS OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 1st Vice President** – Ed Vescovi '84
- 2nd Vice President** – Paula Chapla '78
- Treasurer** – Kelley Hedley '97
- Secretary** – Elaina Brachman Ed.D '05
- Past President** – Fred Agee '80

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Kenneth Thomas Barone '09
- Linda D. Carlson '71
- Perry J. Cornelio, Jr. '07
- Alexander F. Cortes '00
- Brian Patrick Cruess '94
- Amy Hewitt Cunningham '85
- Richard J. Donovan '82
- Janet M. Nahorney '83
- James Nealy, Jr. '81
- Oleg V. Ouchakof '74
- Justin J. Pagano '64
- David O. Prendergast '68
- Kim L. Wachtelhausen '81
- Velma A. Walters '94
- Richard A. Wiszniak '73

CAPTURING THE SPIRIT OF THE TIMES

During the '70s and early '80s, America was embroiled in turbulent times. The students at Central Connecticut State College (as it was then) were no exception to this. The inaugural edition of the student newspaper *Inferno* was released in March of 1970. Ten years later, co-editor Mark Marselli referred to the newspaper as “another avenue for students to air their views, political and otherwise.” While refusing to label itself based on its viewpoints, *Inferno* was a self-proclaimed “NEWS” paper, tackling topics faced by students and society in an effort to incite thought and ultimately action in the campus community.

Inferno was provocative, direct, even humorous at times, and certainly not afraid to address issues head-on. War, the draft, campus alcoholism, rising tuition costs, women’s rights, the job market, and racial equality all came to print. No topic was off limits. *Inferno* encouraged students to vote, to have a voice, and to take action on issues they believed in. It also featured regular articles of interest to the campus community, such as events in campus life, academics, and Blue Devil sports. You can look into or re-visit that era now. The Elihu Burritt Library’s Special Collections staff has digitized the issues of *Inferno* and they, along with other Central student publications, are available at www.ccsu.edu/inferno.



— By Kimberly R. Karas

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50th Anniversary

CLASS OF 1962 REUNION



From l-r, Ken Sirkwitz '62, Gerry DeVito '62, and Merrill Metz

Saturday, October 6, 2012

After quite a restless night's sleep, I woke up rather early thinking that the day I had been looking forward to for five years had finally arrived! I recalled that I sent out the first notice about a 50th reunion to some of the alumni in October 2007. I had called our class president, Tom Lewis, to see if he was interested in organizing a 50th reunion; he said that I should do it. Little did I know what I was in for!

After contacting our fellow classmates, I tried to contact the faculty, but 99% of them had passed away. I did find Dr. Anna Eckersley-Johnson who was still living across the street from campus.

THE DAY HAS BEGUN

We arrived at the campus about 1 p.m. No one was around yet. Better to be nervous at the campus than away from the campus. The clouds were coming in and rain had been forecast. I noticed some people stirring in the Nutmeg Room, so we entered. Got the yearbook all set up for people to look at. Then met Associate Director of Alumni Relations Cathie Jost (who had been most helpful from the beginning) and the volunteer student helpers. We had a video tape set to continually show the home movies my mother had taken of our outdoor commencement on Sunday, June 10, 1962. I remember it was a gorgeous, sunny day.

Near the open bar and a huge table of wonderful finger food a disc jockey was set to play the latest "hits" from 1962. Cathie and some students provided name tags including a yearbook photo of each attendee.

ALUMNI ARRIVE

It seemed as if everyone was arriving at 2:00 p.m. I tried to greet each and every one of the attendees. Some I recognized and some I did not. Some were glad to be there; others were not so sure yet.

WE CARRY ON

The bar and food for the afternoon was paid for out of the Class of 1962's leftover bank account. Tom kept the account going for 50 years by contributing to it from time to time. When we graduated there was about \$4,500 in the account. 50 years later, there was close to \$20,000! Enough to pay for our reunion and then for a scholarship fund, as CCSU Vice President of Institutional Advancement Chris Galligan suggested we do.

Tours of the campus were given in golf carts. The campus has changed so much. What had been a very small New England college to train teachers is now a university with over 10,000 students! A neighborhood of lovely one family houses had surrounded the campus 50 years ago; now the houses are gone and the campus sprawls for blocks. Tuition used to be \$50 a semester; room and board were added on and the total for the semester came to a whopping \$365!

Back at the Nutmeg Room the reunion was going strong. The finger foods were great, drinks kept flowing, and we all talked with each other.

THE BANQUET

At 5 p.m. we adjourned to the lovely Connecticut Room for the banquet. White table clothes and tables for eight were nicely set with free bottles of wine. I welcomed everyone with a short talk: I tried to point out "the way we were" as compared to "the way we are." We had two African American students in our class; now there is an African American Studies Center on campus. One could not show any "gay" tendencies in those days; two guys were thrown out in the middle of the night when they were found out; now there is a LGBT Club with gay magazines in the magazine rack in the Student Center. Times sure have changed. I felt proud to introduce Merrill, my life partner of 34 years, in front of all the attendees. It was quite an emotional moment.

THE DAY COMES TO AN END

When all was over we were all given a tote bag which had the date of this 50th reunion on it. Nice size bags: I shall certainly use mine. There was also a little bag of "goodies" for us all. We all said our goodbyes and hoped that maybe in five more years we could all come together once more. An "In Memoriam" Board was made so the attendees could have a look at the 35 alumni who could not be with us that day. I could feel their presence however! I was so relieved the day was over and had been such a wonderful success. Let's hope we can all get together again very soon!

Keep in touch,
Gerry Gennaro DeVito '62

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Joseph F. Boriello, veteran of the US Army's 3rd Infantry Division during World War II, was named a Chevalier, or knight, of the French Legion of Honor for his actions to liberate France. A former teacher and principal at several local schools before retiring in 1989, Boriello was further honored with induction into the City of Meriden Hall of Fame in the law, government and military category.

56

Ted Orzech, former coach at Farmington High School, was one of eight finalists for the National High School Athletic Coaches Association 2012 National Golf Coach of the Year. Orzech retired after going 13-2-1 and winning a CCC West title last spring. In 23 seasons at Farmington, his teams won 819 matches. He coached two players to individual state championships and was twice named Connecticut High School Coaches Association Coach of the Year.

59

Thomas J Foran, has recently returned from Yangon, Myanmar where he taught at the Karen Baptist Theological Seminary under the auspices of Volunteers in Global Mission, ABC.

65

Charles E. Stoddard [MS] retired from Southern Connecticut State University as a librarian at the Hilton Buley Library in 2000 and currently resides in Asheville, NC, where he studies German at the University of North Carolina and at Goethe Institutes in Goettingen, Freiburg, and at University of Tuebingen in Germany.

66

Merry (Sheldon) Lewis's article, "Review of The Gospel of Joy," was selected for inclusion in the winter 2012, Volume 789-2 issue of *The Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin*. The *Bulletin* is received by 100,000 members in 17 countries and is also included in many university libraries around the world.

68



Retired Hartford educator and life-long fisherman **Edward W. Larkin Jr.** has published the biographical *Learning to Fish While Learning to Live... What a Way to Grow Up*. "I have fished all my life and I wanted to write a book about the positive influences and challenges of learning how to fish while growing up."

69

Mark D. Waxenberg, a 25-year educator in East Hartford who also worked with the Connecticut Education Association (CEA) for 16 years before retiring in 2011, has rejoined the CEA and has been appointed executive director.



70

Interval House's 'Breakfast with Champions' honored Central Connecticut State University men's basketball coach **Howie Dickenman** for his work and personal commit-



ment to the domestic violence shelter. The 400 plus attendees represented a venerable who's who of the Connecticut basketball world, including UConn coaches past and present, and many members of the media.

71

Daniel D. Malin is president of Blue Ribbon Steel Buildings in Mount Vernon, WA.



72

Ordained in 1976, the Most Reverend Justice **Ofei Akrofi**, Archbishop and Primate of the Anglican Diocese of Accra, West Africa since 2004, retired on October 29, 2012, at age 70. In

2006, the government conferred on him the National Award of Companion of the Order of the Star of Volta. His many achievements include the establishment of a lay ministerial training school in St. Barnabas Church, Osu, which has so far graduated over 700 lay pastors and Sunday school teachers. Akrofi is married to Dr. Maria Araba Akrofi and has two sons. **Daniel F. Meucci** is president of Meucci International, LLC, in Newport, RI. **Barbara J. Startup**, Central Connecticut Conference Commissioner and retired athletic director at Glastonbury High School, was inducted into the Connecticut High School Coaches Association (CHSCA) Hall of Fame in November 2012. Startup was a coach in girls' volleyball, basketball, softball, soccer and tennis. During her career, her teams at Avon High School won 368 total games. She was honored as the CHSCA Athletic Director of the Year in 2007, and was inducted into the New Agenda New England Women's Hall of Fame in 2000.

Edward Verlander chairman of Verlander, Wang & Co., LLC, an international management consulting firm based in New York, has published *The Practice of Professional Consulting*.

73

Dave Campo was named defensive coordinator at the University of Kansas, coaching the defensive backs as a member of first-year KU head coach Charlie Weis' staff. **Jo-Anne Jakab**, principal of Kolbe Cathedral High School in Bridgeport for the past 17 years, is the recipient of Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice (CAPP) of Fairfield County's inaugural Education Leadership Award. **Stanley J. Koba**, supervisor of social studies, music and the Scholars Center for the Humanities at Howell High School in Farmingdale, NJ, was recognized as the Barnes & Noble National Teacher of the Year, the result of an essay submitted by a former student documenting her favorite educator's impact on her. Koba has been a teacher in the Freehold Regional High School District for 38 years, the last eight

at Howell High School. **Brent T. Lemire**, town administrator of Northwood, NH, is in his second career, having worked at the Manchester, NH, Fire Department for 33 years, retiring as its administrator in 2005. He is also adjunct faculty at the University of New Hampshire-Manchester. **John Nowobilski** was inducted into the CT PGA Hall of Fame on October 18, 2012. Nowobilski, a two-time All American at Central (1971,73), is the Head PGA Professional at Tallwood Country Club, in Hebron. John is also a member of the CCSU Sports Hall of Fame, the New Britain Sports Hall of Fame, the Manchester Sports Hall of Fame and is the 2004 Recipient of the CCSU Kaiser Alumni Service Award. **James E. Stofan [MS]** was appointed the Senior Associate



Vice President of Alumni Relations at Tulane University in New Orleans, LA. Since 1984, Stofan has been involved almost

exclusively in the field of alumni relations, and has directed the alumni relations program and outreach at Vanderbilt University since 2009.

74

David S. Germano has retired after 38 years at Southington High School, serving as a teacher, a department chair and as assistant principal for the last 21 years. **Robert A. Kerzner**, president and CEO of LIMRA International in Windsor, was recognized by his staff for the extraordinary support he provided following the October 2011 snowstorm, which left 92 percent of Connecticut without power. To express their gratitude, LIMRA staff dedicated a tree in front of its headquarters to Kerzner to honor the values he embodies each day. Right Management has appointed **James L. LoRusso** as



Vice President, Business Development Consultant, for Connecticut and Westchester. LoRusso joins the firm with recent experience from outplacement provider DBM. Right Management

is the talent and career management expert within ManpowerGroup. The Dunkin' Donuts Independent Franchise Owners has appointed **Edwin Shanahan**, an individual with demonstrated experience in government relations, trade association leadership and membership advocacy issues, as its executive director. The Technology Innovation Design and Engineering Program at Somers High School has been recognized as the 2012 CT Technology Education Association/International Technology Engineering Education Association (ITEEA) Program of the Year. **Roy M. Slater**, along with **Nicholas J. Kosloski 08** and **Michael J. Niziolek 04**, all technology educators in the program,



attended the ITEEA Conference on March 15, 2012, in Long Beach, CA, to receive the honor.

75

Mark J. Bonney, executive vice president and chief financial officer of Direct Brands, Inc., a direct-to-consumer media company, was elected to the board of directors of Sigma

Designs, provider of System-on-Chip (SoC) solutions for home entertainment connectivity and control. **Daniel J. Castelli** has retired after 35 years of teaching Industrial Arts/Technology Education. He started his career in West Haven and retired from East Windsor High School. He is now the staff photographer for the Rolling Stones 2013 tour. Berlin High School Athletic Director **James E. Day** retired at the end of the 2011-12 academic year. Day began his career at Berlin High School in 1976 as a special education teacher and from 1981



coached the BHS wrestling team to nine state titles. Long-time DePaolo Middle School English teacher **Richard J. Terino** has been chosen as the

new assistant principal, and head of the Freshman Academy, at Southington High School.

76

Neil B. Mazer is supervisor of engineering and valuation for the Internal Revenue Service in Los Angeles, CA. **Raymond R. McCarthy** recently retired after 35 years as a public school teacher at Monument Valley Regional Middle School, Great Barrington, MA, with an extensive background in experiential learning. McCarthy continues his career as an educator as a member of the faculty in the doctor of education program at Northeastern University. His scholar practitioner interests include science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); multiple intelligence theory; and a focus on technology and engineering studies. **V. Michael Santoro** co-authored *Niche Dominance, Creating Order Out of Your Digital Marketing Chaos*, to give entrepreneurs a guide to all the major aspects of online marketing. Santoro has over ten years in the digital marketing field; his prior experience includes international senior marketing positions in technology fields, and as an adjunct professor of computer science at Western Connecticut State University.

77

Ronald A. Bucchi, a self-employed CPA with a specialized practice that



concentrates in CEO consulting, strategic planning, mergers, acquisitions, business sales and tax compliance, working with domestic and international companies, was appointed to the board of directors for Lightwave Logic, Inc., a technology company focused on the development of next generation nonlinear optical polymer materials platform for applications in high speed fiber-optic data communications and optical computing. **Norman J. Dorval** is a senior commercial producer at Tracy Driscoll Insurance in Bristol. **John Kelmelis**, professor and founding faculty of the School of International Affairs at Pennsylvania State University, was elected an American Association for



the Advancement of Science Fellow for "distinguished leadership of scientific research and applications programs in gov-

ernment and for creatively incorporating science into policy and policy education." Kelmelis joined Penn State after 35 years of federal government service, most recently as senior counselor for earth science at the US

Department of State and chief scientist for geography at the US Geological Survey. He now teaches and conducts research in science, technology, and international policy; hazards, disasters, and international affairs; international environmental negotiations; and water and sustainable development. **Gary Makowicki** is director of athletics at The Norwich Free Academy in Norwich. **Kenneth E. Parciak** is a 2012 inductee into the Berlin High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Parciak began his career teaching physical education and health at Berlin High School in 1975. He also coached girls basketball (20 years) and softball (24 years), winning numerous league and state championships and was recognized with many honors. After leaving Berlin High, Parciak served as athletic director in the Windsor school district, before retiring.

Cynthia W. Rehm is supervisor of Simsbury Public Schools' art department, and director of the Simsbury Arts Academy.

78

Patricia B. Charles, superintendent of Westbrook Public Schools since 2006, was chosen as the new superintendent of Middletown Public Schools. Charles' career includes positions as principal at Keigwin Middle School and Farm Hill Elementary School in Middletown, and she was assistant superintendent of Plainville Community School, 2002-06.

D. Paul Hensler, author of "The American League in Transition, 1965-1975 *How Competition Thrived When the Yankees Didn't*," presented research essays at the 24th annual Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and American Culture and at the 42nd annual convention of the Society

for American Baseball Research in Minneapolis, MN. **Kevin W. Masci**, an independent travel consultant living in the Washington DC area, is the author of the recently published *Those Were the Moments*, a novel that explores relationships, love, loss and unrequited feelings that hold tragic consequences for all involved. Inspired by real-life stories of loss, he hopes to have created a melodramatic novel that appeals to readers of all backgrounds.

Richard M. Parent was promoted to manager of Coldwell Banker Prime Properties' Yorkville Office,



in Yorkville, NY. Parent had 30 years of corporate and supervisory experience with a national consumer electronics retailer prior to

turning to real estate, and has been a full-time, licensed agent with Coldwell Banker Prime Properties since 2008. **Janice Ferrier Sands** and **Lisa Berliner 04**, who teach world languages at Simsbury High School, were recognized by the board of education on May 22, 2012, for having written a Spanish textbook, a two-year project for the women. They collaborated on the text with professors Paloma LaPuerta and Lourdes Casas from Central Connecticut State University. **Mike Sherman** has returned to the NFL as offensive coordinator for the Miami Dolphins, after coaching for four years at Texas A&M.

79

Timothy N. Harvey is an assistant professor and director of undergraduate exercise science at Mercyhurst College in Erie, PA. **Steven Morra** has joined The Quandt Group's Harrisburg, PA, office as a senior project manager. Morra has worked in construction for over 30 years, and has particular expertise in estimating and managing wastewater treatment plant projects.

Dan Siracusa of Siracusa Moving and Storage was honored with the 2012 Entrepreneurship Excellence award by the Central Connecticut State University School of Business Advisory and Advancement Council at the School's Hall of Honor Dinner on May 4, 2012.

80

David M. Bunce, whose 'day jobs' include actor, director and fight choreographer, is a teacher/artist-in-residence, arts and letters at Russell Sage College in Troy, NY. City of



Hartford firefighter **John P. Duhamel** was promoted to captain. **George W. Hermann**, Connecticut native and longtime community banking executive, was chosen to serve as the president and CEO of Windsor Federal Savings in Windsor. Prior to this move



Hermann served five years as president and CEO of The First National Bank of Suffield. **Sandra W. Pierog** was selected by the Connecticut Society of Certified



Public Accountants (CTCPA) to serve on its 25-member Advisory Council for 2012-2013. Ms. Pierog is a senior manager for Whittlesey & Hadley, PC, in Hartford. She will represent the CTCPA Federal Income Taxation Committee while on the Council.

Diana Wythe Tyler [MS] of Hebron is an artist with a concentration on original watercolors from which she produces limited edition giclee prints in her own studio. Her work includes landmarks, town centers and harbors from throughout New England. Specializing in watercolor paintings of the Connecticut shore, Tyler's work is represented in private and corporate collections throughout the country and abroad.

81

Lucia DeVivo Catalano, with an extensive career in mental health nursing, established a private psychotherapy practice and formed Liberty Healthcare, LLC in New Britain, to make comprehensive healthcare and support services in the home an alternative

to assisted living or nursing home care. A recipient of the prestigious Florence S. Wald Award for Outstanding Contributions to Nursing Practice, she lectures nationally on mental health issues with an emphasis on providing services to clients with dementia/Alzheimer's disease and chronic mental illnesses. Central Connecticut athletic trainer **Kathy Pirog** is the recipient of the Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer



Award from the National Athletic Trainers Association. The award recognizes NATA members who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to leadership, volunteer service, advocacy and distinguished professional activities as an athletic trainer. Pirog has served as the head athletic trainer for the Blue Devils since 1996. **Patti Schlosser** was inducted into the Sheehan High School Hall of Fame in honor of her teams' state championships in softball, field hockey and basketball. After graduating from Sheehan in 1977 she went on to become the first female to earn 12 varsity letters at Central Connecticut State University. Schlosser recently began a new position as the vice president of technological strategies at Regan Technologies in Wallingford.

82

Keith A. Frosceno has been promoted to the position of group vice president of fresh foods merchandising at Price Chopper Supermarkets in Schenectady, NY. Frosceno joined Price Chopper in 2006 as a senior category manager for produce with more than 22



years of experience in retail grocery management. **Marie G. Kulesza**, assistant professor of business administration at the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) in West Hartford, was selected as the 2011-12

recipient of the Reverend John J. Stack Teaching Excellence Award. Kulesza, a seasoned accounting professional, has been teaching at USJ since 2008, and is one of the few USJ faculty who works with all three student populations: undergraduate, graduate, and adults.

Leonard J. Santarsiero, adjunct professor of psychology at Southern Connecticut State University, was one of two recipients of the 2012 J. Philip Smith Award for



Outstanding Teaching. Santarsiero brings a unique combination of professional experience as a clinical psychologist and pedagogical experience as a long-time faculty member to his classrooms.

83

Landscape construction company EDI Landscape in Hartford has named **Joan Murdoch-Davidson** as partner in the firm. Davidson will



oversee the company's business development, as well as the financial and administrative aspects of the business. Davidson has over 30 years' of construction experience and has worked in a variety of roles including administrative, accounting and office management. Assistant principal **Raymond Southland** was appointed principal of Washington Middle School in Meriden. Southland's previous experience includes teaching at Southington and Platt high schools, athletic director at Maloney and assistant principal at Cromwell High School before joining Washington in 2010. Local author **Jill Weinberger** was the leader of Simsbury Free Library's discussion of the book *Vienna Voices: A Traveler Listens to the City of Dreams*. Weinberger is a professor emerita of English at Central Connecticut State University, where she taught courses in creative writing and American literature. Her travel writing has appeared frequently in the *New York Times*, *Boston Sunday*

Globe and *Los Angeles Times*. In 2000, the Society of American Travel Writers Foundation recognized her writing with a Lowell Thomas Award for Travel Journalism.

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Michael A. Caron was appointed by Governor Dannel P. Malloy to serve on the three-person Public Utilities



Regulatory Authority. Caron previously served as a state representative from the 44th District for nine terms (1991-2009) and

Assistant Republican Leader for five terms (1999-2009). Author **William J. Mann's** latest book, *Hello, Gorgeous*, chronicles the early years of Barbra Streisand's career. Mann is the best-selling

author of *How To be a Movie Star: Elizabeth Taylor in Hollywood* and *Kate: The Woman Who Was*

Hepburn, as well as the Hollywood biography, *Wisecracker: the Life and Times of William Haines*, and young adult fantasy books as part of the Ravenscliff Series under the pen name Geoffrey Huntington. He began his writing career with gay fiction: *The Men from the Boys* in 1997, *Where the Boys Are* in 2003, *All American Boy* in 2005, *Men Who Love Men* in 2007, and *Object of Desire* in 2009. **Peter Mirabello** has returned to Connecticut after several years with IAE/Pratt & Whitney in France and NetJets in Ohio. His new role is president and CEO of Metal Finishing Technologies, a plating company in Forestville that he purchased with a partner. Institutional Property Advisors, a multifamily brokerage division of Marcus & Millichap serving the needs of institutional and major private

investors, has named **Brian T. Murdy** national director. A 28-year veteran of the industry, Murdy held the position of portfolio manager for Cornerstone Real Estate Advisers since 1999.



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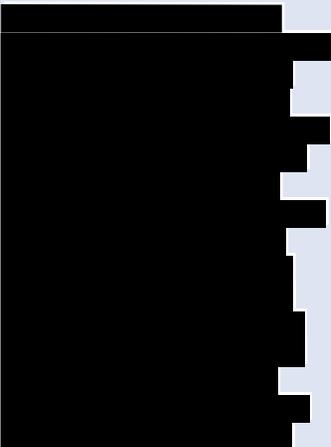
Kimberly Blackburn of Windsor Locks, a certified MSW student field instructor, has joined Youth Villages in West Springfield, MA, as a family intervention specialist for the Intercept in-home services program, which helps children with emotional, behavioral, and mental health issues and their families.

Todd Czuprinski is executive director of the New Britain Boys & Girls Club. **Lori Lehan** is the director of human resources at New Opportunities, which offers a variety of social service programs designed to eliminate poverty and assist people in need. Her background includes over two decades of senior leadership experience within the human resources field and as an adjunct instructor at Corporate College Services. Prior to joining New Opportunities in 2010, Lehan held positions as chief human resource officer for the Connecticut Region of the American Red Cross and Vice President of Human Resources at Key Human Services.



Donald M. Casey, Jr. is a 27-year professional educator at Stepney Elementary School in Monroe. His students were featured in a recent issue of the Connecticut Education Association CEA Advisor, for having created a Fit Kids program at the school. Fit Kids promotes healthy living, physical fitness, and team work skills. TD Bank has named

86



Jeffrey K. Pierce as vice president, business development officer in Small Business Administration Lending in Hartford. Pierce has 27 years of experience in banking, finance, and lending.



87

Selective Insurance Company of America, subsidiary of Selective Insurance Group, Inc., announced the appointment of **Richard Agresta** to vice president, insurance operations systems. Agresta joined Selective in May 2012. Prior to that, he was assistant vice president, account and portfolio management at The Hartford. **John E. Brymer III** is supervisor of meter services at Southern Connecticut Gas Company in Orange. **John Chamis**, pastor of The Oasis of Life Christian Church, and members of his congregation are working with Foodshare Inc., to distribute fresh fruit and produce twice a month to needy individuals and families. Central Connecticut women's basketball coach **Beryl Piper** was inducted into the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. Piper was a three-sport athlete at Trumbull High before a decorated basketball career at Central. After college, Piper transformed New Britain High girls program into a national power. She has coached for five years at Central and turned the Blue Devils into a Northeast Conference contender. **Aric P. Rindfleisch**, department chairman for marketing at the University of Wisconsin School of Business, has been named head of the department of business administration in the University of Illinois College of Business, where he leads a department of 45 faculty. Previously, he was an assistant professor at the University of Arizona. Rindfleisch has also been a visiting professor at Tilburg University and Korea University.



Gregg M. Rossetti was promoted to senior vice president, tax director, finance at Webster Bank. Rossetti has been with Webster since 2001. Loureiro Engineering Associates, Inc., in Plainville announced the promotion of **Peter T. Susca** to senior vice president. Having served in a variety of environment, health, and safety (EHS) executive leadership positions in Fortune 500 multinational corporations and consulting firms, Susca brings more than 30 years of EHS leadership and technical expertise to the firm.

88

Entrepreneur and business manager **Daniel R. Calandro** has published *Lose Your Broker Not Your Money*, which features his 15-51™ stock portfolio model, an easy to understand model that has consistently outperformed the Dow Jones Industrial average. Calandro's company, Lose Your Broker, LLC, is a multimedia communications company dedicated to helping the average investor achieve above average investment results. **Patrice A. Erickson** is an artist whose focus is original contemporary landscape paintings in oil. She resides in Rochester Hills, MI, with her spouse, **Craig A. Erickson 88**, a project management professional at Hewlett-Packard, HP Enterprise Services. **Teresa Giolito** has joined West Woods Upper Elementary School in Farmington as assistant principal. Giolito is a former classroom teacher and curriculum specialist at Duffy Elementary School in West Hartford. **George B. Hoag, Jr.** has joined INFICON, Inc., in East Syracuse, NY, as application engineer for the environmental sensors business line. He previously worked for HRP Associates, in Farmington, as a senior project scientist, and Photovac, Inc., in Waltham, MA, as a technical application manager. ASTM International Committee E11 on Quality and Statistics has presented the Harold F. Dodge Award to **Stephen N. Luko**, statistician at United Technologies Aerospace Systems in Windsor Locks. Luko was honored for his outstanding work in the field of applied statistics. Luko began his career at Johnson & Johnson Co. as a scientist. He then worked as a statistician at the Torrington Co. and Pratt & Whitney before assuming his role at UTC Aerospace in 2010. He has served as an adjunct professor in the department of mathematics at Tunxis Community College in Farmington since 1989. **Scott P. Tierney** is vice president of operations of Joy Accessories in New Britain, the family business that grew from his mother's sales of jewelry and accessories to her hairdresser, to an online and trade show business with clients such as the Joan Rivers Company, QVC, Steinmart, and LL Bean. Currently there are about 4,000 products on their website.



89
Lisa C. Dalberth, an independent strategy, operations, execution, and finance consultant in Boston, MA, was appointed to the board of directors of Rehabilitative Resources, Inc., of Sturbridge, MA. Most recently Dalberth was a vice president at Fidelity Investments in Boston, MA, and previously CFO at Vitalstate, Inc., in Boynton Beach, FL, and director, financial planning and analysis at Rexall Sundown in Boca Raton, FL. **Sally A. Biggs [MS]**, principal for six years of Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy in Hartford, was named the 2012 Connecticut Association of Schools Middle School Principal of the Year. Biggs has cultivated an all-inclusive professional learning community predicated on a unity of purpose and an insistent belief that all children can achieve at high levels.

90
Joseph A. Baginski [MS], aka singer/songwriter Joel Harrington, made his NYC debut at Don't Tell Mama Cabaret last fall. Joel and five voice protégés performed five

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shows featuring many of his original compositions. His debut at The Metropolitan Room was presented on Mother's Day weekend. **Leslie R. Beatson**, principal at Neil Cummins Elementary School in Corte Madera, CA, was named principal at Matthew Turner Elementary School in Benicia, CA. **Stephen J. Coxon** is co-majority owner and president of



CFC Azul, the latest sports franchise to call Connecticut home. Azul will play in the Premier Developmental League, which features 73 men's soccer teams across the United States and Canada, and is part of the United Soccer League. **Carol A. Duggan [MS]**, first grade teacher at Anna Reynolds Elementary School, was chosen as



Newington's 2012 Teacher of the Year. Duggan's roots in Newington and at

Anna Reynolds run deep; she attended the school as a child. Both Duggan's daughters attended Anna Reynolds, and she started working there the same day her youngest child entered kindergarten. **Jeffrey W. Focht** is vice president for Academic Affairs at Northampton Community College in Bethlehem, PA. Focht worked as sales representative and account manager for Unilever/Chesebrough-Ponds USA and was the owner of two Dollar Plus stores in New Jersey before deciding to focus his energy on teaching. He began his teaching career as an adjunct professor at Central, and has taught at several institutions before landing at Northampton where he taught marketing for a year and a half before becoming Dean of Business and Technology in 2003. **Kenneth W. Knight** joined Employee Family Protection, Inc., an employee benefit enrollment and communication firm in Glastonbury, as assistant vice

president of finance and human resources. Knight was previously at Crabtree & Evelyn for 17 years, most recently as the controller and assistant treasurer. **David S. Patenaude** was



named offensive coordinator and quarterback coach at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, SC. Patenaude has

been a football coach at various institutions since 1991, most recently as assistant coach, offensive coordinator at Georgetown University in Washington DC.

91

Ralph DelSesto, vice president of TPA distribution and support strategy for the 401(k) and 403(b) markets at ING, is president of The National Institute of Pension Administrators board of directors for 2012-13. DelSesto has nearly 20 years of experience in the retirement plan industry. **David M. Drouin** is a senior software developer for MyPublisher in Valhalla, NY. Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford (SSDS) has announced the appointment of **Michelle M. Fontaine** as director of early childhood. An early childhood professional for more than 20 years, Fontaine has served at SSDS as a kindergarten teacher for eleven



years. Most recently, she served as early childhood curriculum coordinator where she led the transition from the creative curriculum to the Connecticut preschool framework. **Jamie Harper** has



combined materials and methods from her BS in Education (UConn) and her MS in Reading and Language

Arts (CCSU) to develop a successful, self-actualizing learning system for individuals of all ages. The system targets learners of average to high intelligence with specific learning blocks like dyslexia and memory difficulties. Over the last

fifteen years Harper has "fixed" over 2,000 individuals throughout Ireland. Her innovative system has helped marginalized individuals such as troubled teens, children from low income areas, adults returning to literacy, and individuals whose achievements do not match their aptitudes. Working at local and state levels, Harper has conducted extensive training courses for educators and parents. Recently, she returned to the US to help address the literacy needs in Connecticut and, eventually, nationwide. **Tyler Hoxley**, East Hartford High School biology teacher since 1993, received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, and was honored by the Connecticut State Board of Education, along with three other teachers from the state. **Antonio Mancini** was promoted to director of field operations for the northeast office at KBE Building Corporation in Farmington.



Mancini has been in the construction industry since 1987 and with KBE the last 18 years. Veteran educator **Donald J. Slater [MS]**, principal of William H. Hall High School in West Hartford for 10 years, has joined the Hartford Public Schools administrative team as chief operating officer. In addition to his career in education, Slater's background includes 26 years of military experience, beginning in 1983, in the US Army, the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard. His military service included a tour of duty in Iraq, 2003-05. **Frank Forte**, designer, storyboard and comic book artist, who has worked in animation for feature films, TV and gaming, announced the launch of YouTube partner channel Goon Cartoons original animation channel. The Goon Cartoons channel will be home for such cartoons as *The Cletus and Floyd Show*, *The Struggle*, *Chestaclese*, *Billy Boy*; *The Sick Little Fat Kid*, as well as a launching point for a number of comedy shorts, new characters, experimental gag films, and more.

92

Since graduating from CCSU, **Thomas F. Gates, Jr.** has worked with a number of music industry companies, as a promoter for



Roadrunner Records and Arista Records and has managed bands as part of Netzwerk Music Group since 2000. He released his book, *Wayward: Fetching Tales from a Year on the Road*, chronicling his traveling experience during a year-long trip around the world in 2009. The book quickly became the top-selling iTunes travel and adventure



book. **Robert C. Isner**, who has been with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for over 20 years, the past

14 years as the solid waste and hazardous waste program manager, was elected vice president on the executive committee of the Northeast Recycling Council (NERC). **Patrick J. Richardson**, who has taught social studies at



Torrington High School for the past six years, was chosen as the 2011-12 Torrington Teacher of the Year, and is

Torrington's new head baseball coach, his "dream job." **Kimberly Schmalz** was promoted to the



position of mortgage loan originator at Windsor Federal Savings in Windsor. A resident of Middlefield, Schmalz's banking career spans

over 15 years in the lending area, most recently as a mortgage loan underwriter. **Christine M. Syriac [MS]**, Seymour's associate superintendent of schools since 2007, was

selected to be the new superintendent. Syriac joined the district in 2004 as principal of Seymour Middle School.

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Jerry Albrikes, tennis pro and co-owner of the Mt. Pleasant, SC,



tennis club *TLP Tennis* had the opportunity to coach Jelena Jankovic, professional tennis player from Serbia at three events this year. **Christina M. Falzarano Bajraktarevic** is broker/owner at Tec Realty, Inc., in Naples, FL. **Jeffrey M. Burke** was named senior vice president and director of field operations at Jones Lang LaSalle's New England construction group in Boston, MA. A LEED accredited professional, Burke was formerly the senior construction superintendent for Jones Lang LaSalle, responsible for all phases of construction. **Jason O. Gibson** is program director at the New Britain Boys & Girls Club. **Michael L. Kocsis**, lightweight bodybuilding champion and three-time Mr. Natural USA, who has been recognized five times as a top-five "drug-free" bodybuilder in the world, is the new athletic director at Warner Christian Academy in South Daytona, FL. **Elizabeth L. McGoey**, principal at Nichols Elementary School in Stratford, was named principal at Stratfield Elementary School in Stratford.



Previously, McGoey was an assistant principal in Norwalk and Dayville, and also has experience



as a fourth grade teacher. Bungay Elementary School fourth grade teacher **Michael M. Milia** was chosen as Seymour's Teacher of the Year. Teaching was always his first love and he has taught in the Seymour school system for 11 years. **Lance Pliego** was appointed athletic director at New Milford High School. A return to the district from an athletic director position in

Brewster, NY, this is Pliego's second tenure of employment with New Milford schools. He was with the New Milford system from 1995 - 2007 as an athletic trainer, assistant athletic director and the high school's athletic director. **Jenn Vasta** was appointed to the business development team at AlphaGraphics in New Bedford, MA. Vasta's experience includes five years as a new business development consultant for The Trope Group, a Santa Rosa, CA, commercial interior design firm, and 15 years in television and radio production, garnering a New England Regional Emmy Award.



Christelle M. Aube, prevention coordinator for Meriden and Wallingford Substance Abuse Council, and a Meriden native involved throughout the community serving on boards and committees for local non-profits, was honored as the 13th Annual Strong, Smart and Bold Award recipient by Girls Inc., a nonprofit organization in Meriden that provides after-school opportunities for young



girls. National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) selected Monroe College Mustangs men's soccer coach **Marcus A. DiBernardo** as the 2011 Junior College Men's Division

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Christie L. Bradway is manager for renewable energy contracts at Hartford-based Northeast Utilities (NU). Bradway got her start at NU in 2000, working in the environmental management group for nine years, later becoming manager of environmental strategy, developing NU's position on climate change and renewable power. **Kristi D. Kearney** of Enfield has



been named executive director of the Downtown Hartford YMCA, a branch of the YMCA of Greater Hartford. Kearney has over a decade of experience as a corporate health and wellness specialist in the Hartford area. **Vittorio Rotelli** is the CEO of LocalHitz, a new company that is the result of merged online marketing agencies LocalHitz and DigitalBreadCrumb in McKinney, TX. Rotelli's background in online marketing includes more than three years as area director at ReachLocal, four years as area general sales manager at Yellowbook and six years as district manager at AT&T.

I National Coach of the Year. "Coach DiBernardo has earned this award," said Athletic Director Bert Shillingford, "for not only the remarkable success his teams have had on the field, but also because he has put together a full soccer program for players in a range of skill levels that turns them into young men with the potential to achieve not only in sport, but as productive members of society." In just three years at Monroe, DiBernardo grew men's soccer to include a junior varsity and a soccer academy. **A. J. McGuire** was promoted to the rank of lieutenant with the Town of East Hampton, NY, Police Department. **Dawn Miceli**, communications coordinator at Hamden Hall Country Day School and a Southington Town Councilor, was elected chairwoman of the Southington Education Foundation 2012 executive board.



95



96



97



97

Phil Barnett and his partners in the Hartford Restaurant Group

she was responsible for enrollment management. **Anita Ford Saunders**, a seasoned veteran with more than 30 years' experience in creating and implementing strategic communication plans for corporate and community-based organizations has been named manager of communications for Yankee Gas in Berlin.



97

Phil Barnett and his partners in the Hartford Restaurant Group



were awarded the “Casual Restaurant of the Year” honor at the Connecticut Restaurant Association’s (CRA) annual “Salute to Excellence” awards. Barnett, newly-elected CRA president, and his partners, opened their 10th Wood-n-Tap restaurant this year. **Andre A. Denault** is an independent associate with Harvard Risk Management Corporation, an employee benefits broker in Washington, DC. **Andrew Dulnik** is co-founder and vice president of Polamer Precision, an aerospace components maker in Newington. **Jon W. Haefner** is employed as a validation manager for operational military engines at Pratt and Whitney in East Hartford. **Jodi R. Klim** moved to Arlington, VA, and accepted a job as a marketing manager for AARP. **Brian C. Kuta**, director at Infrastructure Engineering of Wallingford, has been named a principal at BL Companies, Inc., an employee-owned, multi-disciplinary architecture, engineering, environmental and land surveying firm based in Meriden. Kuta’s primary focus for the past seven years has been as a program manager for electrical and gas transmission, and distribution line projects, including environmental routing studies, right-of-way services, and construction oversight. **Laurie (Fields) Robillard** has assumed the position of development coordinator at Leadership Greater Hartford, a new position created to help fulfill growing fundraising initiatives and demands. **Reid M. Slayton** has joined executive search firm Horton International as managing director in the US. He will be based in West Hartford. Prior to joining Horton International, Slayton owned and operated his own retained executive search firm, Ember Search. **Paul J. Sutura** was named senior vice president for advancement and external affairs at Iona College in New Rochelle, NY. Sutura was previously associate vice president for development at Quinnipiac University and served in



environmental and land surveying firm based in Meriden. Kuta’s primary focus for the past seven years has been as a program manager for electrical and gas transmission, and distribution line projects, including environmental routing studies, right-of-way services, and construction oversight. **Laurie (Fields) Robillard** has assumed the position of development coordinator at Leadership Greater Hartford, a new position created to help fulfill growing fundraising initiatives and demands. **Reid M. Slayton** has joined executive search firm Horton International as managing director in the US. He will be based in West Hartford. Prior to joining Horton International, Slayton owned and operated his own retained executive search firm, Ember Search. **Paul J. Sutura** was named senior vice president for advancement and external affairs at Iona College in New Rochelle, NY. Sutura was previously associate vice president for development at Quinnipiac University and served in



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advancement roles at Rice University in Houston, TX, as associate athletic director and director of development. **Ginette Templeton** is a third grade teacher at Metacomet Elementary School in Bloomfield.

98

Jennifer (Fishman) Vallez started a children’s clothing line, Sophie & Lili, LLC, in 2004 that she later converted into a line of boutique dolls. Vallez, who started with five 12-inch, handmade cloth dolls three years ago, now has a line of 30 different Sophie & Lili dolls, each with its own distinct look and personality. Golf pro **Kyle Gallo**, considered one of the greatest golfers in Berlin High School history and one of the finest golfers in state history, is a 2012 inductee into Berlin’s Hall of Fame. At CCSU he was a three-time All-New England performer and 1998 Male Athlete of the Year. He began his professional career in 1998 and has dominated the Connecticut Open the last 13 years, collecting four championships and four runner-up trophies. **Jordan E. Grossman [MS]**, principal of Canton Intermediate School (CIS), was appointed assistant superintendent of Canton Public Schools.



Grossman was principal at CIS for five years and, prior to that, assistant principal at the high school for seven years. Grossman taught and coached in Manchester before joining Canton. **Devin J. Hawthorne**, vice president of commercial lending at Berkshire Bank, was named chairman of the board of directors at Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters, a Connecticut youth mentoring organization. In July, Hawthorne was honored as one of *Hartford Business Journal’s* 40



Hartford Business Journal’s 40 Under Forty. **Marcus G. Lawson** is a lecturer in history and international relations at Capital Community College in Hartford. **Debra L. Mallick** is associate director of career services at Post University in Waterbury. Mallick recently earned a Master of Education in School Guidance Counselor and is a Certified Professional Resume Writer (CPRW). **Roger D. Wierbicki**, director of sales – coach and tour at DATTCO Bus Company in New Britain, was honored as one of *Connecticut Magazine’s* 40 Under Forty. Wierbicki’s early career included an internship with the PolyGram Label Group and Island Records, and he worked for Bon Jovi Management during the 1995-96 “These Days” Tour. Before joining DATTCO he was employed with the New Jersey Nets during the team’s 2001-02 and 2002-03 NBA Finals runs. **Robert T. Young**, project manager in the Environmental Studies & Permitting Group in the New England office of Burns & McDonnell, has more than a decade experience in energy development, permitting, compliance audits and environmental management systems. Young is a certified professional environmental auditor.

Under Forty. **Marcus G. Lawson** is a lecturer in history and international relations at Capital Community College in Hartford. **Debra L. Mallick** is associate director of career services at Post University in Waterbury. Mallick recently earned a Master of Education in School Guidance Counselor and is a Certified Professional Resume Writer (CPRW). **Roger D. Wierbicki**, director of sales – coach and tour at DATTCO Bus Company in New Britain, was honored as one of *Connecticut Magazine’s* 40 Under Forty.



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decade experience in energy development, permitting, compliance audits and environmental management systems. Young is a certified professional environmental auditor.

99

Michael L. Cerullo is director of football operations at Princeton University. **Allison Rolls Delaney** is a mathematics teacher at Montville High School in Oakdale. **Thad J. Dymkowski**, geographic information systems (GIS) and IT Technician for the Town of Newington, was elected president of the Connecticut GIS User Network. **Ronald R. Perry**, a building industry veteran with over 13 years of construction management experience for corporate, school, and university projects throughout Connecticut joined Consigli Construction Co., Inc., as a project manager. His past projects include work for Wesleyan University, Waterbury Performing Arts Magnet

School, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and Edwards Angle Palmer and Dodge in Hartford.

00

Michael Ciunci works in talent management, learning, and development at Valassis, a media and marketing services company in Windsor. **Jennifer A. Lavoie**, seventh and eighth grade teacher at Odyssey Community School in Manchester, has published *Andy Squared {secrets are hard to keep}*, a young adult novel about coming out and coming of age. **Roxanne (Sadowski) Melaragno** was named a *Connecticut Magazine* 40 Under Forty honoree. Melaragno is a third grade teacher at Middle Gate Elementary School in Newtown, currently co-chair of Middle Gate’s Early Intervention Team, mentor for the TEAM program, and a member of the Teaching and Learning Subcommittee of the District Strategic Planning Committee. **Juan C. Mendoza**, resident principal at Moylan Elementary School in Hartford was selected to be principal of the new Rev. Jonathan E. Reed School in Waterbury. Mendoza began his teaching career in Hartford then taught at Walsh Elementary School in Waterbury for two years before returning to Hartford. **Lynn Rossini**, vice president of the Saint Francis Foundation – Saint Francis Care in Hartford, was elected for a three-year term to the board of directors of the YMCA of Metropolitan Hartford. Rossini serves on the boards of Junior Achievement, Alcohol and Drug Recovery Centers, and Bread for Life. She is a past recipient of the YMCA Volunteer of the Year Award, the Archbishop’s Award, and has been named Jaycee’s Woman of the Year. **Bethany Dow Smith** lives in Mooresville, NC, with her husband, Kenny, and two



Gate Elementary School in Newtown, currently co-chair of Middle Gate’s Early Intervention Team, mentor for the TEAM program, and a member of the Teaching and Learning Subcommittee of the District Strategic Planning Committee.

Juan C. Mendoza, resident principal at Moylan Elementary School in Hartford was selected to be principal of the new Rev. Jonathan E. Reed School in Waterbury. Mendoza began his teaching career in Hartford then taught at Walsh Elementary School in Waterbury for two years before returning to Hartford.



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boys – Codi and Jared. Smith has been teaching eighth grade English for 11 years at Mooresville Intermediate School. **Robert D. Woods** is senior staff scientist at Ninyo & Moore Geotechnical and Environmental Consulting in Phoenix, AZ, a professional geotechnical and environmental sciences consulting firm.

01

Israel Caro III was honored in *Connecticut Magazine's* 40 Under Forty. In 2006, Caro and two partners founded Cronus Construction, a general contracting company, which has evolved into a full-service enterprise of both residential and commercial customers, making everything from cabinets to porches to siding. Cronus also renovates and restores homes, especially in Hartford, working with Corporation for Independent Living, a nonprofit development and education organization that creates housing for low-income families, and Connecticut Lead Action for Medicaid Primary Prevention, in removing lead hazards from residences. **Michael Luzietti** was selected as the principal for Bakerville Consolidated and New Hartford Elementary Schools. Luzietti was previously with Simsbury Public Schools as a physical education teacher and as building coordinator, functioning as an assistant to the building principal. **Jared T. Welcome**, a technology education teacher at Lewis S. Mills High School in

Burlington and his fiancé, Ali Pulowski, were winners of the Dream Wedding contest sponsored by the Hartford Courant and Fox CT. Their prize included expert advice from wedding specialists and local businesses that also provided the couple with everything from the cake, rings, flowers and the honeymoon.

02

Krista Bauchman, a seventh-grade science teacher at Frank Ward Strong Middle School in Durham since 2007, was selected as the assistant principal of Irving

A. Robbins Middle School in Farmington. Prior to joining the Strong Middle School faculty, she was a fifth grade teacher at Carmen Arace Middle School in Bloomfield for five years. CCSU track and cross-country coach **Eric Blake** finished third at the Mount Washington 7.6-mile road race in one hour, 54 seconds, and qualified for the US Mountain Running Team which competed in the World Mountain Running Championships in Italy in September, where he finished fourth. **Matthew Curtis [MS]** was selected as superintendent of schools for Simsbury. Curtis previously served Simsbury as principal of Squadron Line Elementary School and as director of human resources. **Michael A. Heroux** joined Thomaston Savings Bank



as an Infinex financial group consultant in the Bristol branch. Previously, Heroux was a Financial Advisor with Merrill Lynch.

Derek Messier is a sergeant with the Canton Police Department filling various roles including firearms trainer and field training officer for new recruits.

03

Nicole Dentamaro joined Tighe & Bond, Inc., as a geographic information systems (GIS) analyst. With more than eight years of experience as a GIS professional in Connecticut, Dentamaro has provided a range of services to local government, public and private utilities, and private industry clients. **Nancy A. DiDomenico** joined a cast of local performers from New Britain, Hartford, Southington and Springfield, MA, including her brothers Sal and Sebastian and her mother Sarina, to make a mockumentary mafia film titled *The Joe Baccala Story* addressing Hollywood's stereotypical portrayal of Italian Americans. The film premiered in July in West Hartford. **Justin Mirante**, chairman of the Southington High School technology and engineering



department, was chosen as the 2012-13 Southington Teacher of the Year. Mirante is the district coordinator for the Project Lead the Way program which promotes innovative science, technology, engineering and mathematics education. "Justin is a fantastic teacher," Principal Martin Semmel said. "He's very creative with his lessons, and holds students to high expectations." The Siemens Foundation and Discovery Education, in conjunction with the College Board, announced **Behn**



O. Sikora as one of 50 middle and high school Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) educators

selected from across the country as Stem Institute Fellows to participate in the 2012 Siemens STEM Institute. Sikora is a technology and engineering education teacher in Wethersfield who teaches structures, electronics and innovation at Silas Deane Middle School and robotics at Wethersfield High School. **Sarah (Collier) Strange** is a product manager in the small commercial area with The Travelers.

04

Christopher B. Conley, a certified public accountant with Middletown firm Guilmartin, DiPiro & Sokolowski, LLC, was named as the firm's fourth partner. Conley began his career with the firm as a co-operative education student in 2004. **Scott B. Dolch** and wife, **Erin (Sacharko) Dolch 05** welcomed their second child, Teagan Lily, hours after Dolch concluded a hectic job as a member of the team that does the heavy lifting for The Travelers Championship, Connecticut's premiere golf tournament. Teagan joins big brother Mason in the expanding Dolch family.



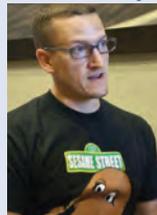
Kinga Evans, vice president of strategy at Webster Bank, was chosen as one of *Connecticut Magazine's* 40 Under Forty.

Evans also serves on the board of Meriden's Cove Center for Grieving Children. **J. Tobias Freeman**, a



certified public accountant and a supervisor with J.H. Cohn, LLP, in Farmington, was selected by the Connecticut Society of Certified Public

Accountants to serve on its 25-member Advisory Council for 2012-13. **Clay Frost**, business



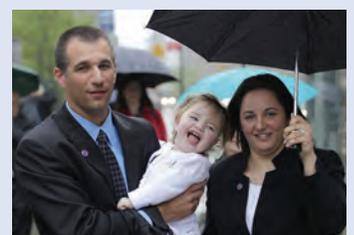
manager and co-founder of Copper Pot Pictures, an independent film company, has produced *I Am Big Bird: The Carol Spinney*

Story, scheduled for release in 2013. The feature-length documentary tells the story of Spinney, a puppeteer and Woodstock resident who has brought two beloved Sesame Street characters, Big Bird and Oscar the Grouch, to life for the past 43 years. **Brian E. Goodrow** is principal of Vanguard



Preparatory K-8 Magnet School in Apple Valley, CA. **David F. Maliar** was sworn in July 9, 2012, as an officer in the Cheshire Police

Department. **Adam S. Pallone** and **Lauren Klitzner Pallone 04**, former CCSU athletes, spoke on behalf of the March of Dimes at a



press conference for *Born Too Soon: The Global Action Report on Preterm Birth* presented at the United Nations in May 2012.

Sara E. Ziegler is an Editor/ Videographer for WJMJ, the Archdiocese of Hartford Office of Radio & Television.

05

Peter T. Berube directed *The Last Five Years*, a play presented by Oscar Productions as part of the Hollywood Fringe Festival in Los Angeles, CA. Peter has produced several of his own original plays and also works as a director, fight choreographer, teacher, art curator, acting coach, and movement coach for films and theaters all over LA. **Katrina J. Council** is a youth educator with Martin Luther King Family Services in Springfield, MA. **Kate (Marchessault) Eddy [MA]** is an instructor of English and the program coordinator for liberal arts and sciences at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury. **Edward E. Engberg** was promoted to audit manager at Hartford accounting firm Whittlesey & Hadley PC.



Sarina (Buonannata) Long joined the KSTP.com team in Minneapolis, MN, reporting on travel and entertainment.

Long's Minnesota connection began with an internship with the Minnesota Twins Double AA team, the New Britain Rock Cats. **Michael G. Maiscalco**, assistant vice president of The Barn Yard Enterprises, founded Red Raven, LLC, with the purpose of helping small businesses in a consulting capacity, offering business coaching, financial reviews, budgeting, marketing, sales training and educational guest speaking services.

Melissa Bengtson Muszynski



was hired as a senior account executive at Cashman + Katz Integrated Communications in Glastonbury. Prior to joining

Cashman + Katz, Muszynski served as the community affairs specialist at Metropolitan District Commission and was a lobbyist for a Hartford-based government relations firm working on a wide range of legislative and public policy

issues. **Elaine Perez** is an account clerk for the Town of Bloomfield.

Wanda I. Reyes-Dawes [MS], counselor and coordinator of academic advising at Manchester Community College, has been selected to serve as a mentor for the 2012-14 Class of Emerging



Leaders for the National Academic Advising Association, one of ten persons to be selected to serve in this position. **Samuel Rothschild** was promoted from internal sales consultant to regional director for the Southwest for Virtus Investment Partners, Inc. Prior to joining Virtus in 2010 Rothschild was a financial advisor at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney and a research analyst at UBS. **Emma J. Wright** has joined George Washington



University as an assistant coach for women's soccer. Wright joins the Colonials' staff after spending the past four years serving as the director of coaching for the Fort Worth Panthers of the third-tier Women's Premier Soccer League. She also served as assistant coach for two seasons at Southeastern Louisiana University.

06

The Bloomfield High School 2012 girls outdoor track team, under first-year coach **Anne Burrows**, was recently named Team of the Year in girl's outdoor track by the Connecticut High School Coaches Association. **Laura M. Cummings** has joined the Connecticut



Business and Industry Association (CBIA) as a staff attorney covering education, workers' compensation and liability. Before joining CBIA, Laura was in private practice, specializing in workers' compensation insurance defense. Her experience also includes working in the state's judicial system and conducting research and authoring reports for

the Office of Legislative Research. **Tiffany (Rasmussen) Byrne** is a fourth grade teacher at Independent Day School in Middlefield. **Kaylyn (Coughlin) Guardarrama** is a Spanish teacher at Plainville High School. **Che'La'Mora Hardy**, a Hartford artist, is the director and founder of Procreate Artist Group. Procreate is a multi-culturally diverse group of artists, founded in 2009, and geared towards reaching artists, art enthusiast and the community. Former CCSU basketball player



Lenny Jefferson, of Roswell, GA, appeared in a commercial for Enterprise Rent-A-Car that began its run during the NCAA men's basketball tournament in 2012. **Brian Stasaitis** has joined Post University as an assistant baseball coach after spending the last two seasons as an assistant coach at Division I University of Hartford. Stasaitis was previously an assistant coach at Division III Albertus Magnus College in New Haven. **Robert M. VanBuskirk** is a project manager at Athena Health in Watertown, MA. **Brendan W. Yester** is co-founder and financial planner at Mariner Financial Group, LLC, in Glastonbury.

07

Christopher M. Brine is an attorney at Culik Law PC in Woburn, MA, specializing in bankruptcy, consumer rights issues, debt defense and settlement, and foreclosure and loan modification defense. Previously Brine was an associate attorney at Heney & Associates, LLC, in Beverly, MA. **Aaron E. Budris** has accepted a position as a geographic information systems (GIS) technician for the Central Naugatuck Valley Council of Government. **Katie A. DaCosta** is head women's basketball coach at Manchester Community College. **Ryan L. McCormack**, emergency medical technician, has joined the fire department in Wallingford.



McCormack had spent six years as a volunteer firefighter in Southington, and worked for an ambulance company in Hartford. **Maggie K. Meehan** is director of social services at The Reservoir Care and Rehabilitation Center in West Hartford. Kansas City Chiefs scouting assistant **Ryne Nutt** has been promoted to area scout in his third season with the Chiefs. Prior to joining the Chiefs, he spent one season as the tight end coach at Wagner College, and served as the defensive line coach at Iona College. Former CCSU offensive lineman **Rich Ranglin** has been signed by the Kansas City Chiefs. Ranglin was previously with the San Jose Saber Cats of the Arena Football League. **Marianne Vanech**, property claims unit manager with Travelers Insurance, was elected as the 2011-12 president for the Connecticut Chapter of Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters.

08

Kristina (Muttart) Coughlin is assistant director of business development for Prudential Retirement in Hartford. **Vinay N. Patel** is Mechanical Designer/Engineer at Habco, Inc., in Glastonbury. **Nicholas F. Perry** joined the Hartford office of Robinson and Cole, LLP, as an



associate attorney. While attending the University of Connecticut School of Law, Perry served as an editor of the *Connecticut Law Review* and was president of the Connecticut Unemployment Action Center, where he argued at Department of Labor hearings and wrote motions for claimants. Perry previously served as a residential instructor at Alternative Services of Connecticut, Inc. **Michael D. Wilkosz** is a technology education teacher at William H. Hall High School in West Hartford.

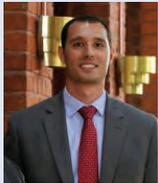
09

Fabio A. Becker has joined the West Hartford Police Department. Becker is a decorated National Guard veteran of Afghanistan currently assigned to the Special Forces Unit in Rhode Island. He

graduated from Airborne School and achieved the rank of Sergeant.

Robert E. Cassella is a financial professional associate at Prudential Insurance in Shelton.

Cari Ann Christenson is employed as a physical education teacher at Staples High School in Westport. **Stacey N. Conrad** is a senior associate with Dixon Hughes Goodman, LLP, in Glen Allen, VA. **Sergio DelRosso** is a principal and managing director of



Marketing Solutions, a Hartford-based direct marketing and sales organization created in October 2010.

The firm was chosen as the top small employer in the Courant/FOX CT Top Workplaces competition for 2012. **Dario DiBattista**, who did two tours supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, teaches at the Community College of Baltimore County while honing his craft as a writer. He has composed a six-year war memoir called *Go Now, You Are Forgiven*. **Alisa Dzananovic**, a

senior communications specialist at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford, was honored as one of *Hartford Business Journal's* 40 Under Forty.



Dzananovic recently completed a term as co-chair of Hartford Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs, serves on the

Summer Solstice Event Planning Committee for Bushnell Park and supports the YWCA Hartford Region, whose mission is to empower women and eliminate racism. *Shortly Thereafter* is **Colin D. Halloran's** debut collection of poetry and winner of the 2012



Main Street Rag Poetry Book Award. Halloran served with the US Army in Afghanistan in 2006; his volume of poetry reflects

on his war experience. A former public school teacher, Halloran now spends his days at universities and high schools around the Northeast, working with students

and teachers to incorporate literature into the history classroom and looking at the ways in which poetry can inform the media's and historians' portrayals of war. **Jhanay Harris**, marketing assistant for the New Jersey Nets, was featured in the April 2012 issue of *Wealth for Life*. **Robert "Jeremy" Jordan**, a Simsbury artist of mostly local



scenes, joined local painters, musicians, dancers, crafters and performers for the first-ever ArtWalk Simsbury. **Sara E. Wakeley** is a program support assistant in the Office of Executive Support & Communications at the VA Learning University in the US Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, DC.

10

Kraig S. Eisenman is a systems administrator at Union Square Media Group in New York City.

Daniel J. Fitzgerald recently completed US Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, IL. **Marissa K. Haynes** is a public relations and marketing manager for Wealth Management Group of NA, LLC, in Farmington. **Shannon A. Kennedy** is a humanities teacher at Franklin Academy in East Haddam. **David R. Kirschner** writes on pop culture for the *examiner.com*. Kirschner's works have appeared in both the *CT Review* and "The Naylor Project," a literary program in inner city Hartford. **Tyler Rosnagle** is a police officer 2nd class in the Sarasota Police Department in Sarasota, FL. Middletown Public Schools has hired **Silvia Mayo Molina** [Ed.D.], an assistant principal at the DiLoreto Magnet Elementary School in New Britain, as the new principal of Keigwin Middle School. Prior to her assistant principalships, Mayo Molina was a dual language immersion classroom teacher, pre-k through eighth grade. Dr. Molina began her career as a bilingual elemen-

tary teacher in the TEACH FOR AMERICA program in Oakland, CA.

11

Luke J. Albertson is an assistant proposal writer at Phacil, Inc., which provides diversified services including technology, engineering/research and development, security and intelligence, and business operation support in Washington, DC. **Evan T. Carlson** is employed at Pegasus Manufacturing, Inc., in Middletown. **Kerrienne Dugan** was named the new girls' basketball coach at New London High School. **Javier Ferrer** has joined Lex Products Corporation as Sales Representative for the Northeast territory and Eastern Canada. **Adrienne M. Gruessner** joined Cronin and Company, LLC, in Glastonbury as a junior interactive designer. Gruessner worked previously as an in-house designer for the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy. **Melissa Anne Klar** [MS] is a physical education teacher at Coventry High School in Coventry.



Lorena Martinez is an underwriting development professional at The Travelers in Hunt Valley, MD.

Melissa M. Rosemond is the resident trust/accounts payable bookkeeper at Mary Wade Home in New Haven.

Michelle L. Szafranski joined Cronin and Company, LLC's account services team as an account coordinator.

Jessica M. Chalecki joined Cronin and Company, LLC, in Glastonbury as a staff accountant. Prior to joining Cronin and Company, Chalecki was a bank teller at Eastern Federal Bank. **Ronald C. Duenas** is working in the marketing department at First New England Federal Credit Union. **Jenna M. Germain** [MS] is a physical education teacher at West Woods Upper Elementary School in Farmington. **Jonathan M. Johnson**, staff accountant at the

12

Jessica M. Chalecki joined Cronin and Company, LLC, in Glastonbury as a staff accountant. Prior to joining Cronin and Company, Chalecki was a bank teller at Eastern Federal Bank. **Ronald C. Duenas** is working in the marketing department at First New England Federal Credit Union. **Jenna M. Germain** [MS] is a physical education teacher at West Woods Upper Elementary School in Farmington. **Jonathan M. Johnson**, staff accountant at the



New Britain – Berlin YMCA, was promoted to business manager. **Ronald K. Tsang** joined Cronin and Company, LLC, in Glastonbury as a digital media assistant. Tsang previously worked for Realized Financial Solutions, Inc., as a marketing representative. **Timothy P. Walsh** [MA], a former undergraduate researcher from the Burdette Group, was hired as a chemistry teacher at Farmington High School.

New Britain – Berlin YMCA, was promoted to business manager.

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Marriages

Daniel F. Meucci '72 & Jeanne S. Allen 8/15/12

Laura V. Marchese '86 & **David S. Moran '93** 8/31/12

Jon W. Haefner '97 & Julie Thayer 5/6/11

Janice A. Hansen '97 & Peter Kulibaba 6/26/10

Aaron C. Edwards & **Heather J. Groves '99** 6/19/11

Jared T. Welcome '01 & Ali Pulowski 4/13/12

Sarah C. Collier '03 & Chris Strange 6/20/09

Michael G. Mascalco '05 & Frances Moore 10/08/11

Kyle B. Cover & **Bethany J. Trievel '05** 6/17/11

Tiffany M. Rasmussen '06 & Matt Byrne 2/21/11

Paul L. Penezic & **Kayte E. Wheeler '06** 7/30/11

Brendan W. Yester '06 & Christina Ann Marandino 7/30/11

Christopher E. Rivera & **Jennifer L. Stula '07** 9/4/11

Lisandra Rosario '08 & **Lindsay Smolka '09** 8/20/11

Moir B. Callahan '10 & William F. O'Brien 6/30/12

Benjamin T. Pierpont '10 & Ashley E. Kocur 7/15/12

In Memoriam

1925

Mary O'Neil Callahan 11/1/86

1930

Laura Barnes Simpson 10/22/11

1931

Ruth Custer Bonney 3/13/12
 Ruth Tyler Drummond 5/11/12
 Melba R. McCutcheon
 Membrino
 7/28/11

1932

Eunice Green Barnes 10/1/11
 Margaret M. Cronin Leonard
 8/16/96
 Doris Rohde 7/14/12

1934

Elizabeth Post Hand 2/28/12
 Helen B. Hart 2/11/04

1936

Elaine Anderson 11/22/12

1937

Jeannette H. Ceppa 1/12/12
 Rose I. Cutler Goldberg 5/5/09
 Viola Kasperovich Semolic
 4/1/11
 Karl H. Sjovald 2/29/12
 Florence M. Carmon Swan
 3/10/12
 Adelma F. Hodgkins Tomkiel
 1/4/12

1938

Marguerite H. Kiernan Coe
 6/17/12
 Virginia Fagan Demers 9/15/12
 Jean Taylor Goodison 3/18/12
 Alice Mashevsky Heath 8/28/05
 Ethel Kutz 3/21/12
 Jean Drake Lundeen 11/21/12
 Phyllis Tuttle Osborn 2/10/12
 Edna Hall Spencer 1/19/11

1939

Ruth I. Malley Flynn 2/19/12
 Eleanor Carpenter Tallmadge
 6/29/11

1940

Mary L. McCusker Bedard
 1/26/12
 Mary Osatrof Fedoruk 6/23/11
 Ruth Bristol Jarratt 11/19/11
 Nancy Collins Mahoney 9/16/12
 Janet Kreske Steiger 10/2/10

1941

George W. Barnhardt 2/9/12
 Edward J. Silks 10/28/10
 Leonard B. Willcox 5/9/10

1942

Catherine Bell Anderson 4/17/12

1943

Kay Vollers Bergin 9/29/11
 Aaron Cohen 4/12/11
 Ruth E. Falkin 10/12/11
 Robert G. Groth 10/6/12
 Miriam Boyington Hall 8/10/12
 Ellen Root McCloskey 4/6/12
 Carthene Marinaro McQuade
 11/24/11
 Kenneth P. Scheer 11/25/11
 Dorothy Barkan Silver 7/3/12
 Ruth M. Surgenor 1/6/12

1945

Julia Daddabbo Duke 12/10/11
 Shirley J. Hall 12/6/12

1946

Margaret Grigorian Depoian
 12/13/11

1947

MaryLou Anulewicz Brakoniecki
 11/7/11
 Arthur H. Kevorkian 1/17/12
 Elizabeth C. Murray Munro
 4/17/12
 Mary Parashelie Voulgaris
 10/11/12

1948

Mary Kerekian Atashian
 10/29/11
 Mary Frances-Brahoney 2/3/12
 Angela Attardo Saxton 7/23/11
 Bernard Wojan 11/27/12

1949

Thomas F. Reynolds 8/17/12
 Barbara Herpich Tomsuden
 7/2/12

1950

Herbert E. Coates 2/26/12
 John F. Fabian III 3/31/12
 Martha Nickels Gledhill 12/6/11
 Edward J. Kusek 11/25/12
 Willmet G. Yokel Sica 12/2/12
 Frank J. Sulkowski 2/6/12

1951

Arthur Gibney 3/2/12
 Stanley A. Lotko 12/23/11
 Harvey L. Saxton 11/27/10

1952

Joan Morsheimer Fresher
 10/9/11
 Francis L. Hasson 9/12/12
 Love Wallack Mendillo 10/19/12

1953

Pauline M. Abrahamson 8/28/11
 Katharyn Reilly Conklin 1/4/11
 Mary Ellen Mcauliffe Gaffney
 2/23/12
 James W. Hinsley 11/11/11
 Elinor Walcofsky Matczak

1/14/12

Franklin E. Miller 5/5/08
 Dorothy Madrak Samojla
 11/15/11

1954

Richard J. Drobot 1/8/12
 Russell McCain 4/22/12
 Oral Talbot 6/18/12

1955

Harold J. DePianta 6/19/11

1956

Nancy Beaupre Froleiks 2/11/12
 Nickolas F. Querro 6/25/11
 Helen F. Tejral Skoglund 4/26/12
 Joan Keefe Viets 12/12/12

1957

Carole Rutherford Chester
 8/11/11
 Shirley J. Hurd Griswold 5/28/12
 Mary-Louis Scalise 3/14/12

1958

Phyllis Knox Losaw 1/17/12
 Richard Pellegrine 7/5/12
 Jean M. Sala Robinson 9/8/12
 Norman M. Stephen 12/9/12

1959

George C. Gaudreau 2/18/12
 Arthur A. Krause 12/14/11

1960

Benny A. Antonelli 12/28/07
 Joshua A. Barbati 5/11/12
 Charlotte Manross Chapman
 11/4/11
 Curtis E. Jennings 7/28/11
 Richard Mildrum 7/25/11
 Richard K. Shamock 9/27/11

1961

Richard A. Fragola 11/20/02
 James F. Fucini 8/17/11
 Sophia G. Juliano 5/28/12
 Judith W. Kurau 11/3/65
 Verton W. Lenfest 8/13/12

1962

Barbara K. Kask Guild 3/4/12
 Francis J. Kiernan 8/6/12
 Ernest A. Mazaika, Jr. 10/28/04
 John M. Presch 11/14/11
 Pauline M. Stankey 1/17/04
 Brenda F. Worob 8/15/90
 Leonard Zapatka 3/14/12

1963

Elizabeth P. Palmer Hebert
 2/5/12
 Eleanor T. Majlinger 10/18/11
 Kathleen M. Phelps 3/13/12
 James F. Spillane, Jr. 7/3/11

1964

Nancy L. Bobeck Knapp 8/29/12
 Joseph N. LaRosa 4/3/12

1965

Judith Hayes Auner 11/29/01
 Carol Mozdzierz Brody 12/22/11
 Ruth Ann Hardy Lobo 7/19/11
 William Procko, Jr. 1/17/06
 Joanne Dicklow Rooney 8/24/11

1966

Joanne L. Hendrickson 12/8/11
 John Moeller 9/16/12
 Salvatore P. Verdi 4/5/12

1967

Gordon R. Distin II 8/20/12
 Elizabeth N. Stott 7/1/00
 Jo-Anne Markette Thoren
 3/10/07
 Susan E. Wilcox 7/11/12

1968

Dominic A. Buonocore 10/17/11
 Irene Scheck Flugard 11/4/11
 Edwina Wellins Glassman
 9/16/12
 Dorothy A. Govotski 3/26/11
 Sally-Ann Harlow Harris 5/19/11
 Lois Mercurio Siderowf 9/3/11
 Muriel S. Wasserman 12/2/11
 Diane Sharp Wood 7/9/11
 Shirley Carlton Yates 8/17/11

1969

Reginald Abbott 6/9/11
 Lillian Blumenthal Alexander
 11/25/11
 William R. Archer 7/23/11
 Claire M. DePersia 10/20/11
 Dorothy Miller Moore 3/9/12
 Bernard J. Quirk 10/29/11
 Mary Hallowell Stone 10/28/12

1970

John D. Cullen 1/31/12
 Dominic M. DelConte 7/16/11
 Barbara Yanavich Doyle 7/24/11
 Lois A. Jardine Gross 7/6/12
 Daniel J. Michl 1/6/11
 Charles Perlotto 10/20/11
 David L. Snyder 2/7/12
 Joseph E. Zakrzewski 1/26/12

1971

Patricia E. Duffy 5/18/11
 William L. Ives 9/30/11
 Alan F. Joyce 10/6/12
 Kathleen E. Kepchar Kuhl
 11/21/12

Laurence W. Maybin 8/1/11
 Ellen McQueeney 1/2/12
 Violet A. Muzik 1/6/11
 Leo R. Schultz 1/15/12

1972

Robert Caron 2/23/12
 William J. Hunter 6/12/12
 David A. Martin 12/6/12
 Michael W. Maxim 5/9/12

Charles E. Shaw 11/18/11
 Lawrence C. Shorette 10/5/11

1973
 Lorraine Dubiel Atkinson 9/9/11
 John F. Augustine 10/28/11
 Viola E. Gerry Borstein 5/4/11
 Elizabeth Grant Carlson 7/22/12
 William S. Cross, Sr. 5/17/12
 Mary C. Brancato Lanteri 9/1/12
 Norton M. Seltzer 11/21/12
 David A. Silks 1/7/11

1974
 William E. Arnold 6/22/12
 Linda G. Aube 7/18/11
 David M. Bodwell 4/20/12
 Mona E. Branchini 1/7/12
 Carol W. Holmelund Hansen
 1/22/12
 Kay E. Kaftanowicz 11/28/12
 Peter A. Kloskowski 1/20/12
 Patrick M. Lozier 4/2/12
 Patricia A. Marek 3/2/12
 Steven H. Neumann 11/15/11
 Janis L. Marcolini Rubino 4/7/12
 Angela G. Salzarulo 12/19/11
 Kenneth R. Walker 6/29/12

1975
 Robert E. Charon 8/6/12
 Paul A. Gagliardi 12/15/11
 Brian A. Hogan 8/31/11
 Mary E. Pacyna 1/18/12
 Bernard H. Robillard 5/11/11
 Jane Meyers Toce 7/17/11
 Sheila A. O'Meara Weber 9/19/12

1976
 Michele M. Boulter 1/30/12
 Edward J. Clark 8/12/11
 David A. Doyle 6/24/05
 Camille Albaitis Gaucher 9/14/12
 Kevin M. Harvey 1/26/12
 Kathleen A. Perruccio Linehan
 8/1/12
 Sean F. McGann 8/6/12
 Julia Spatz Morgenheim 6/12/11
 J. Inka Hoffman Peczerski
 11/16/11
 Rose Gruman Pollock 5/27/12
 Winston E. Smith 2/20/12
 Kris Charest Velturo 11/25/12
 Nancy Kneeland Wright 7/28/11

1977
 Julie Asher Foster 5/11/05
 Mary Pannone Parker 7/31/12
 Joseph Spagna 8/28/11

1978
 Carol A. Caruso 11/8/12
 Phyllis E. Muscio Farrell 10/6/12
 Thomas J. McCabe 4/10/12
 Robert A. VanSteenbergen
 8/1/12

1979
 Robert J. Jackson 8/14/11
 Judith E. Charbonnier Lucas
 4/24/07
 Lorraine Edmondson Owens
 6/3/12
 William H. Schwarm 1/19/12
 Clifton E. Thompson 5/18/12
 Mary Reddy Vernesoni 9/4/11

1980
 Francis P. Dilion 6/10/12
 Kathleen M. Murtagh 9/9/95
 Peter D. Quatrocelli 8/20/12

1981
 Carolyn P. Bunch Carter
 11/30/12
 Joseph M. Connolly 11/12/11
 Elthea L. Barclay Coursey 1/9/12
 Elaine W. Hahn 9/20/12
 Janet E. Langwiser 10/15/11

1982
 Carol F. Ashley 7/4/11
 John W. May 5/24/12
 Nancy J. Stasiunas 11/6/10

1983
 James M. Broderick 2/11/11
 Florence C. Brusick 3/22/12
 Mary Humeston Coutant 10/9/12
 Muriel Guerrette 3/6/12
 Elaine Montano 12/8/11
 Joseph S. Rinaldi 3/29/12
 Susan D. Sinclair 12/5/12

1984
 Nancy Hubbard Bergen 10/29/11
 Therese Mclsaac Emery 7/18/10
 Thomas W. Norton 7/28/12
 Frederick J. Painter 12/12/11

1985
 Richard P. Chacho 8/2/11
 Timothy C. Conlin 5/30/12
 Susan Gifford-Deleon 8/22/11

1986
 James M. Burke III 12/1/11
 Anna S. Butterfield 12/6/12
 Allyson W. Lyon Caputo 8/19/12
 Elizabeth H. Koster 12/21/11
 Paul V. Lombardo 12/9/11
 Francine Domenick Lynch
 11/19/12
 Michael L. Rossillo 11/4/12
 Jean Newton Sirois 2/24/12
 Robyn M. Sparks 3/23/12
 Virginia C. Stewart 9/14/11
 Marjorie A. Willis 12/8/11

1987
 Brian J. Coyne 9/12/11
 Larry D. Holder 7/4/12
 Margaret C. Karasinski 9/14/11
 Diana Lanza-Deickler 7/25/12

1990
 Sheila M. Mangan 5/26/12
 William F. Sullivan 12/11/11

1991
 Frances Walshin Honeyman
 10/4/12
 Daniel Marchitello 8/6/12

1992
 Maria J. Cooley Marquardt
 6/6/12
 Gary D. Reynolds 9/30/11

1993
 Philip M. Galvin 10/26/11
 Karen M. Lutz Gervase 10/9/12
 Traci Stergio Hart 9/15/11
 Dawn A. Defilio Hochsprung
 12/14/12
 James S. White 10/3/11

1994
 Julie A. Giantonio 8/22/12
 Peter M. Ratchford 2/23/10
 Linas R. Stasaitis 1/28/12

1996
 Loretta D. Pocock 10/28/12
 Regis T. Shannahan 10/13/09

1997
 Stephen M. Hevenor 8/17/12
 Brooke Joseph-Banks 9/4/11
 MaryEllen T. Steponaitis
 Marques 7/21/12

1998
 Tammy A. Colegrove McDowell
 6/25/12

1999
 Merva Jackson 4/4/12
 Jennifer L. D'Ambrosio Vernali
 7/16/12

2001
 Matthew J. Hurlock 7/6/11
 Joann Emanuele Robinson
 10/13/12

2002
 Conrad S. Cook 11/23/12
 Valerie J. Downes 11/4/11
 Brian M. O'Connor 10/29/12

2003
 Monica B. Mercier 10/24/11

2004
 Timothy J. Allan 6/4/12
 Alejandro C. Alvarez 9/18/12
 Norman C. Michaud 9/30/12
 Nancy Rustico 11/20/12

2005
 Andrew Dudanowicz 4/6/12

2008
 Heath V. Brysgel 11/16/11

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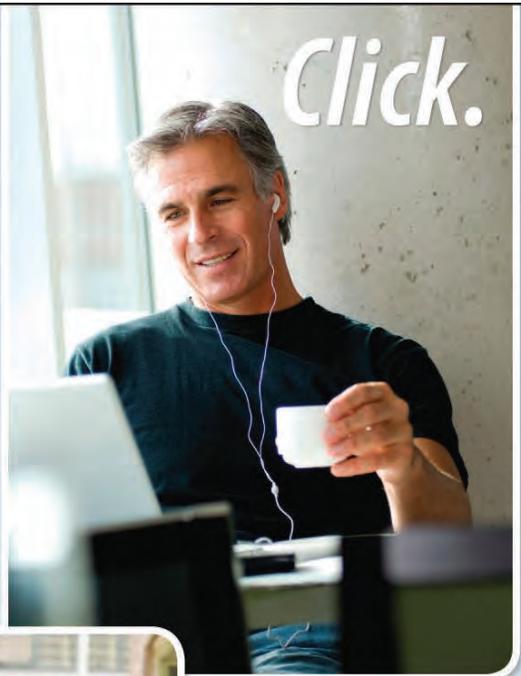
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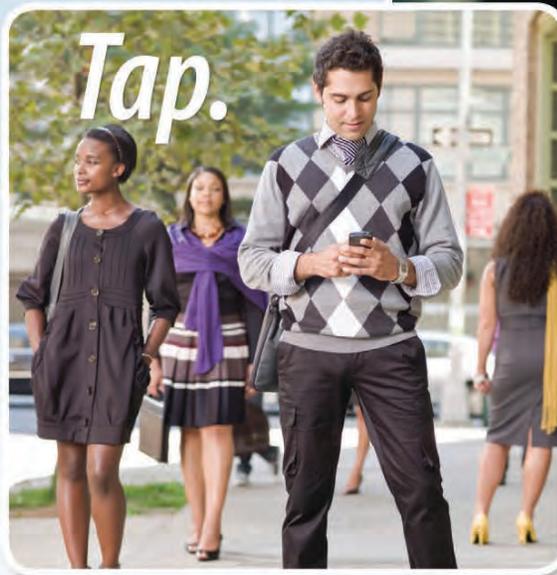
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Homecoming 2013, October 4-5.

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Stay tuned for more information.