

Central *focus*

Summer 2009

the magazine for alumni & friends of central connecticut state university

A Great Education and More
Central's Commitment
to Connecticut

Letter from the President of Central Connecticut State University



John W. Miller

By nearly every measure, Central Connecticut State University has a major positive impact on the state of Connecticut. In May of this year, we graduated some 1300 students with bachelor's degrees and over 450 with graduate degrees. If that were all we did each year as a university, we would make an enormous contribution to the state and its citizens by providing this excellent educational opportunity for Connecticut students. But, as you will see in this issue, CCSU's commitment to the state and region carries well beyond that.

The University's estimated annual economic impact of nearly \$600 million circulates throughout the Connecticut economy and bespeaks the magnitude of impact we have as an institution. More directly, our outreach to the community makes a real difference in the individual lives and the livelihood of the people of Connecticut.

Our Institute of Technology and Business Development, for example, fosters business growth and productivity. The Center for Public Policy and Social Research, the Institute for the Study of Crime and Justice, and the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy all play crucial roles in the formulation of state policies that affect the way we all live. Our faculty and students enrich our communities through service learning, volunteerism, and educational, social, and cultural programming. As Provost Carl Lovitt notes, "CCSU has increasingly embraced community engagement as a top institutional priority." And, I would add, we are proud to serve as a vital resource for Connecticut.

Our efforts to offer an excellent education and to be of service to our state were recently recognized. As you may remember, CCSU underwent a rigorous self-examination and then a thorough review by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges' Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (NEASC) as part of our decennial re-accreditation process. I am very pleased to tell you that NEASC has reaccredited the University for another 10-year term. I think it is fitting to close with their words, words that we all—alumni, students, faculty, and administration can be proud of: "There is no doubt that Central is a successful institution."

Dr. Jack Miller



President



Pictured (l-r): CCSU Alumni Association President Fred Agee '80, Vice President Fernando Rosa '75, Treasurer Andy Felder '02, MBA '08, Past President Christine I. Sullivan '73, MS '81, CCSU Vice President of Institutional Advancement Chris Galligan, and President Jack Miller.

\$120,000 Alumni Association Gift Benefits CCSU Foundation

The CCSU Alumni Association recently presented a gift of \$120,000 to the CCSU Foundation, Inc. to benefit the Alumni Scholarship Fund. In recognition of the gift, the new Way Finder signs on campus will be named for the Association. The Way Finder signs provide the campus with an electronic messaging system to broadcast events, programs and emergency notices.

The CCSU Alumni Scholarship Fund benefits children and grandchildren of alumni of CCSU and its predecessors. More information on the scholarship is available at www.ccsu.edu/alumni.

Central *focus*

Summer 2009 • Volume 6 Issue 2

contents



A Great Education and More: Central's Commitment to Connecticut 4



Feeding a Growing Appetite for "Lean" 7



The Birdman of CCSU 12



Sports: Following the Lead of a New Piper 13

departments

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Happenings | 10-11 |
| Class Notes | 14-18 |
| In Memoriam | 18 |
| Upcoming Events | 19 |

FROM US TO YOU We all think of CCSU as a great educational institution. But that's not the only role it plays. As you'll find in our cover story it's also a major economic engine, with a huge impact on the region.

This issue of *Central focus* is packed with interesting facts. For instance, in just six years Professors Bob Emiliani and Larry Grasso have turned Central into a respected resource on "Lean," the highly efficient management/production system created by Toyota. We've got the story.

In 2007 CCSU Athletics Hall of Famer Beryl Piper '87 became Central's fourth women's basketball coach. Learn how she led the team to an 18-14 record last season, the best one-year turnaround in the nation.

Get to know Prof. Parker English, a former Marine Corps air strike control officer and lumberjack, who became one of the nation's foremost experts on African philosophy, and who has created a highly unusual scholarship to honor his parents. And catch up with Floyd Scholz '80, Central's first NCAA champion and now a world-renowned bird carver.

It's all in this issue of *Central focus*.

Enjoy!
The Central *focus* Editorial Staff



CCSU Alumni Association

Officers

- Fred Agee '80, President
- Fernando G. Rosa '75, 1st Vice President
- Andrew J. Felder '02, MBA '08, 2nd Vice President
- Ed Vescovi '84, Treasurer
- Kelley A. Hedley '97, Secretary
- Christine I. Sullivan '73, MS '81, Past President

Directors

- Joe Arnone '59
- Elaina Brachman 6th Yr '97, Ed.D. '05
- Paula Chapla '78
- Kevin Cranford '81
- Keith T. Hall '78, MS '85
- Norman F. Hausmann '54
- John "Corky" S. Mazurek '83, MSOM '91
- Oleg V. Ouchakof '74
- Justin J. Pagano '64
- Jaclyn N. Piscitelli '07
- Karie G. Sowa '06
- Richard A. Sullivan '75
- Kim L. Wachtelhausen '81
- Curtis J. Wiggins '93
- Richard A. Wiszniak '73

Students

- Christopher W. DeLauretis
- Lauren J. Horsfield

Ex-officio

- John W. Miller

Central *focus* Staff

Managing Editor: Jim H. Smith

Assistant Managing Editor: Dorothy Finn

Cynthia B. Cayer MS '00

Joseph Gordon Jr. MS '96

Catherine (Healy) Jost '74

Photography

Robert J. Wessman '70

Design and Layout

Slingshot Multimedia

Contributors

Staff members of the offices of Development & Alumni Affairs, Marketing & Communications and Sports Information.

Central focus is published by Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT 06050 for alumni and friends.

Central Connecticut State University is an AA/EO institution and a university of the Connecticut State University System.

A Great Education and More

Central's Commitment to Connecticut

Like more than 90 percent of people who attend CCSU, George Hermann '80 is a lifelong Connecticut resident. He was raised in Stratford, one of seven children, and by the time he graduated from high school his parents had ingrained in him the value of the college education. He found that value – as did three of his siblings – at Central.

“Simply from an economic return standpoint, it was a great education,” says Hermann, now the presi-

dent and CEO of the First National Bank of Suffield. “It was high quality and extremely affordable. The student-to-faculty ratio meant students could really get to know the professors. Since large numbers of Central alumni have, traditionally, remained in Connecticut after graduating, and many of the administrators were also Central alumni, there were exceptional opportunities for networking, another real advantage.”

“Local employers understand the quality of students that graduate from Central. They are quick to hire.”

George Hermann '80

George Hermann '80, left, with CCSU student William Hill, a First National Bank of Suffield employee.





“*The university supplies us with the workforce we need. You can’t move forward without a strong workforce.*”

Lawrence D. McHugh

concern to the companies. Fully 59 percent of executives said they would like to see more rigorous math and science curricula that stress the skills needed in the workplace.

“The Connecticut State University System is a prime economic engine for Connecticut,” said Lawrence D. McHugh, president of the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce. “If we are going to rebound and remain strong, business and education need to be on the same team.”

McHugh, who is also former chairman of the CSUS Board of Trustees, is in an ideal position to know the kind of economic

role Central Connecticut State University plays in the region it serves. “The economic impact of Central in our region, the heart of Connecticut, is unbelievable,” he says. “Almost all of our member businesses employ CCSU alumni. The university supplies us with the workforce we need. You can’t move forward without a strong workforce.”

Just how significant is the economic influence Central exerts on the state? In addition to the fact that the University’s direct economic impact on the area is nearly \$600 million annually, consider a few additional statistics:

- In 2008 the University granted 2,294 degrees, including 1,677 bachelor’s and post-baccalaureate degrees and 616 master’s degrees. Since nearly all CCSU students remain in Connecticut and establish their homes and careers here, that amounts to a large and renewable workforce feeding the region’s businesses annually.

▶ continued on page 6

An adherent of the philosophy that “you get out of an education what you put into it,” Hermann began his career soon after graduating, and effective networking played a role in his success. Noting that many of his classmates quickly found jobs as well, he sees himself as an example of one of the values Connecticut derives from the state’s investment in CCSU. A high percentage of Central alumni, famously loyal to the Nutmeg State, make a significant contribution to Connecticut’s workforce. “Local employers understand the quality of students that graduate from Central,” he says. “They are quick to hire.”

Hermann is speaking not only of business majors, like himself, but students who graduate from Central in a host of fields. His perspective is echoed by Dr. Elaina Brachman 6th Yr '97, Ed.D. '06, principal of the University of Hartford Magnet School. In her current position and previously, as an educator in East Hartford, she has worked with dozens of Central alumni, including teachers, student teachers and interns.

“Central provides an outstanding education for education students,” she says. “The University has gone above and beyond to create a great educational experience and students are expected to meet high standards. Consequently Central grads are in demand to fill teaching positions.”

“Prime Economic Generator”

Indeed, when the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA) conducted a survey of Connecticut employers, earlier this year, the organization found that a skilled workforce is of particular



“*The University has gone above and beyond to create a great educational experience and students are expected to meet high standards. Consequently Central grads are in demand to fill teaching positions.*”

Elaina Brachman
6th Yr '97, Ed.D. '06

A Great Education

◀ continued from page 5

- More than 12,000 students are on the CCSU campus every day throughout the school year. Their estimated annual spending of \$58 million (in addition to tuition, fees and room and board) generates an estimated economic impact of \$123.5 million in the region.
- There are approximately 40,000 Central graduates, ages 65 and younger, living in the state. On an annual basis, they earn over \$22,000 more than they would have earned with only a high school degree. Central alumni generate some \$880 million in value-added annual earnings and those dollars circulate throughout the state's economy providing revenues for Connecticut and its many businesses.
- Within a year after graduation, fully 77 percent of CCSU alumni find jobs.
- Each year CCSU's Institute for Technology and Business Development (ITBD) contributes significantly to the health of the state's economy by providing business incubator services, professional training programs for businesses and corporations, and community business development programs.



“The rich pool of intelligent graduates also encourages many employers to locate in the state.”

Angelo Messina '75

“An important Force in Our Lives”

It's a set of facts not lost on New Britain Mayor Tim Stewart. With more than 1,700 full- and part-time employees (not to mention nearly 900 students employed by the University every year), CCSU is New Britain's third largest employer.

“Not every community has the luxury of an educational institution as significant as Central,” says Stewart, who points not only to the University as a whole, but also to

the University's Institute of Technology and Business Development (ITBD), which occupies a prominent Main Street location in the heart of downtown New Britain and has a track record of success as an incubator of new businesses. “New Britain has a mutually beneficial relationship with Central. It is one of the city's greatest assets.”

“CCSU provides an excellent education at a great value,” says Angelo Messina '75, vice president and chief financial officer of Farmington-based Otis Elevator. “Nearly half of all Central graduates are the first person in their families to have attended college. Being able to afford a college education makes an enormous difference in their lives.”

But it's a win for the state and area businesses, as well. “The rich pool of intelligent, educated graduates also encourages many employers to locate in the state, providing a good return on Connecticut's investment in education,” Messina adds.

“The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) found that attending ‘a high-cost, highly-selective institution does not guarantee higher earning,’” New Britain

Chamber of Commerce President William F. Millerick wrote a few years ago, after former Central Professor Armand Zottola released the first comprehensive report on the University's economic impact on Central Connecticut. “It also found that attending ‘a lower cost public college or university does not guarantee lower earnings.’

“Why not? Because the most important factor in the equation between education and earnings may be ‘personal fit.’ A student attending a school that better fits his or her major interest and later occupation will achieve more. Says the NCES, the bottom line is that ‘students may select a less expensive alternative that better provides or fits the direction (in which) they are interested.

“If CCSU offers courses, programs, internships and all sorts of opportunities that a more expensive school offers, CCSU may prove the wiser choice,” Millerick added. “If you couple that concept with the fact that CCSU uniquely understands central Connecticut and has unique ties and opportunities here, you can see why it is such an important force in our lives.” 

Feeding a Growing Appetite for “Lean”

In 1991, the Wiremold Company, a prominent West Hartford-based producer of cable and wiring systems, began a remarkable, 10-year metamorphosis, transforming itself from a hide-bound, inventory-based manufacturing company to an exemplar of “Lean,” the highly efficient management and production system pioneered by Toyota. In 2003, Professor M. L. “Bob” Emiliani, who was teaching at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Hartford at the time, wrote a book about the Wiremold experience. The first in-depth chronicle of a comprehensive, companywide Lean transformation, *Better Thinking, Better Results: Case Study and Analysis of an Enterprise-Wide Lean Transformation* won a Shingo Prize, the operational excellence prize named for Shigeo Shingo, the Japanese engineer who helped develop the Toyota Production System.

Two years ago, Emiliani, now associate professor of manufacturing and construction management at Central Connecticut State University’s School of Engineering and Technology, published an updated edition of the book, reporting on how the Wiremold story has played out since 2001. It’s one of four books about Lean management he has published in the past two years, firmly establishing his growing reputation as an expert in the field.

In 2003, Dr. Larry Grasso, professor of accounting and one of Emiliani’s collaborators on *Better Thinking, Better Results*, joined the faculty of Central’s School of Business. Like Emiliani, he had taught at Rensselaer, where he first began to explore the implications of Lean with respect to accounting. When Emiliani joined him in New Britain in 2005 they turned CCSU, practically overnight, into a Connecticut center for both education and research on Lean.

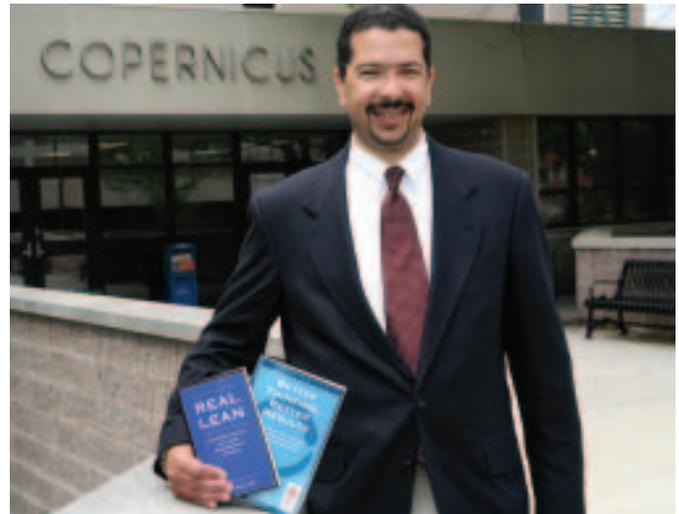
Both men have published extensively on the subject and both teach it in many of their courses. They agree that Central is playing an increasingly important role in addressing the needs of Connecticut employers, many of whom look to the University for their employees of the future.

A Unique Program

“To retain Connecticut’s manufacturing base, companies must go Lean,” says Grasso. “Connecticut is a high cost state. In order to compete companies need short cycle times, on-time delivery and top quality production. Those are all issues addressed by Lean.

“Fifty percent of courses in the University’s technology management master’s degree program deal with Lean Management.” But, he adds, “There are few schools in the country that offer courses in Lean accounting in combination with technology management. We’re probably unique in the United States.”

Emiliani is quick to note that while Lean can be especially valuable for the state’s manufacturing companies it is not simply a manufacturing tool. “It’s important to understand that Lean is about management, not about manufacturing,” he says. “That’s a common misconception. Lean can apply to any organization, not just manufacturing companies. All aspects of an organization’s productivity and efficiency are interconnected. We try to teach people through proper understanding and application of Lean management that it’s beneficial to all key stakeholders in a business.”



Prof. Bob Emiliani has been instrumental in making CCSU a center for “Lean” education.

“Conventional accounting must adapt to accommodate the Lean movement,” says CCSU alumnus Mark DeLuzio ’80, ’84 (marketing and accounting) who is currently discussing ways to apply Lean techniques to the development operation with Chris Galligan, vice president of Institutional Advancement.

CEO of Lean Horizon Consulting in Glastonbury, DeLuzio customized Toyota processes for Farmington-based Danaher Corp. during 12 years as a vice president with that company. “There is increasing awareness of Lean and its value,” he says, “but many companies only use pieces of Lean that seem attractive to them. What you really need to do is adopt the whole culture.”

With more and more CCSU alumni exposed to the Lean idea, thanks to the work of Emiliani and Grasso, more Connecticut companies may start adopting Lean in the future. “A lot of companies are intrigued, but they don’t know how to start it or sustain it,” says Grasso. “We hope to change that. The future will belong to the efficient, and Lean is the way to become efficient.” 

A Foundation for the Future

Established in 1971, the CCSU Foundation was created “to obtain private contributions to support educational programs and research at the University,” says Nick Pettinico, associate vice president of Institutional Advancement. It has more than lived up to that modest goal.

“Because Central is a public university, many people think all of its costs are covered through taxes,” explains Pettinico. “But the Foundation makes it possible for the University to provide many services that it would be unable to provide if the only source of revenue were tax support and student fees.”

The not-for-profit Foundation solicits private contributions that are allocated to support five major program areas: institutional enrichment, scholarships, academic enrichment, research and unrestricted projects. How important it is to Central becomes apparent when you consider just one of those areas.

In 2006-07, the Foundation awarded 197 scholarships, worth \$214,405. In 2007-08, the numbers increased to 202 scholarships, valued at \$231,162. And during the past year, a year

in which the nation’s economy took its worst plunge since the Great Depression, 285 students benefited from scholarships totaling more than \$302,000.

“Without the Foundation, we would lose the capacity to award scholarships that enable many of our students to attend the University,” says Chris Galligan, vice president of Institutional Advancement.

The Foundation also manages endowments supporting a wide range of CCSU programs and services, including the library, cultural programming, four academic chairs and donations in support of athletic programs, most of which come from alumni.

“A lot of the financial gifts that come to the University are in the form of endowments,” says Pettinico. “They are held in perpetuity and programs are supported by the interest on those gifts. But not all gifts are endowments. Many smaller gifts support short-term scholarships. And much of the athletic support is from one-time donations. We are grateful for all gifts.”

▶▶ continued on page 19

A New Appreciation for Human Diversity

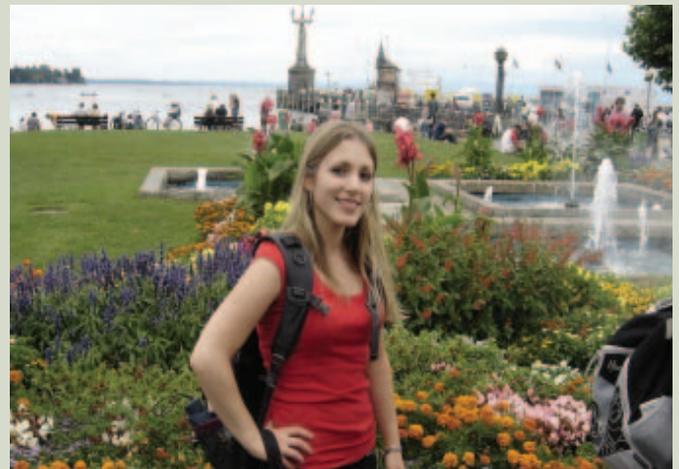
Quality and affordability were always important factors in deciding where I wanted to go to college. CCSU was not only affordable, but it had a strong reputation. And since both of my parents are alumni, it was a good option for me.

My classes at CCSU have been rewarding not only because of the high-quality education I’ve received from the professors, but also because many of the professors come from, and have taught, all over the world. So, as the end of my undergraduate career neared the thought of studying abroad grew stronger.

I knew that the choice to go abroad was a big commitment, both in time and money. My worry about being able to afford to study abroad was put aside when I was fortunate enough to receive the CCSU Alumni Scholarship.

Thanks to the Scholarship, I have been able to spend my 2008-2009 academic year at the University of Heidelberg in Germany. This experience has educated me in so many ways that I could have only learned from being outside of the classroom and living in another country.

Being abroad has given me the ability to travel to 13 European countries and visit most of the major cities in Germany. I have met and taken classes with students from almost every continent in the world. It has been very rewarding and humbling to meet so many diverse people.



Gabrielle Byko, visiting Lake Constance, in Germany, exemplifies the value of a CCSU Alumni Scholarship.

Studying abroad has opened me to a whole new perspective on the world. It has changed the way I think, and given me a new appreciation for human diversity. I feel that my time in Germany has helped prepare me for life after graduation by making me more confident and more understanding of the world around me. I have become a more experienced and knowledgeable person, which was all made possible by the help of the CCSU Alumni Scholarship.

—Gabrielle Byko



At the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF), held in April at the Kennedy Center for the Arts in Washington D. C., **Doug Oliphant '09** (left) was awarded the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers' National Directing Fellowship by the American College Theatre Festival. CCSU was also represented at the Festival by Ashley Carvalho, who won the Irene Ryan Acting Award at the regional competition in January.

Oliphant and Carvalho were among five CCSU students who won in their categories at regional competition. Some 18,000 students, representing 600 colleges and universities, participated in the KCACTF. Oliphant and Carvalho were the first two Central students ever invited to compete in the nationals.



Two CCSU students captured the first-place prizes at the 2009 Connecticut Collegiate Business Plan Competition. From a pool of 16 teams representing seven universities, the "Mobile Bike Repair Shop," comprising CCSU students **Dean Whipple** (left) and **Eric Francis**, won first place in the Personal Business category, and "JS Campus Connect," run by CCSU student **Jessica Schweitzer '08**, won the second place Technology prize sponsored by Connecticut Innovations. The CCSU teams won out over teams from UConn, Quinnipiac, Yale, University of Hartford, Bridgeport University, and WCSU.

Paul O. Beeching, associate dean, School of Arts & Sciences, emeritus, professor and author, died April 13, 2009 at the age of 80. Educated at St. Louis University and the University of Missouri, he taught at both institutions before coming to Connecticut, in 1963, to join the English faculty of Central Connecticut State College. As associate dean of Arts & Sciences he instituted an honors program based on the Great Books Program.

Dr. Jack A. Lucas, professor of anthropology, emeritus died March 16, 2009 at age 84. An immigrant from Austria, he served in World War II. Educated at the Universities of Michigan and Wisconsin, he received his doctorate in anthropology from Columbia University. A lifelong peace activist, he was an active member of the Hartford-Ocotol Sister City Project. He was the long-time president of the Austrian Singing Society, Donau, in New Britain, and sang in the Farmington Valley Chorale.

Dr. Marc A. Triebwasser, professor of political science, emeritus died April 12, 2009 at age 67 after a lengthy illness. Marc was an innovator and forerunner of technology applications in the classroom. He was active in the American Political Science Association, teaching at the national conference level. Before becoming ill he had been a staunch ally of the homeless in the Hartford community, and a frequent soup kitchen volunteer.

Peter T. Vieira, special associate for corporate and foundation relations, emeritus died at age 76 on March 14, 2009. A U.S Army veteran, he earned degrees from the University of Rhode Island and the University of Hartford before joining CCSU where he served as an administrator for 28 years. Generous and civic-minded, Pete was also a talented tennis professional for more than 40 years and, in 1996, was inducted into the New England Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, RI.

Richard A. Williams, associate professor of history, emeritus died on June 3, 2009 at age 74. He learned to speak Mandarin Chinese while serving in the U. S. Air Force and developed a lifelong interest in Asian culture and people. Dick attended Yale University and received Woodrow Wilson, Ford and Fulbright Fellowships to study abroad. During his a 26-year career teaching East Asian Studies at Central, he led many student groups on visits to mainland China.

*Memorial gifts may be made to the
CCSU Foundation, P.O. Box 612, New Britain, CT 06050
or online at www.ccsu.edu/give*



• (l-r) David Monti, Jr. and **David Monti, Sr. '64, MS '68** anticipate some friendly competition at 2009 Blue Devil Golf Classic.



• **Class of 1954** at 55th-reunion celebration.

• (l-r) CCSU student Ryan Cortese, Diane and **Thomas J. Fiedorowicz '78**, PGA Tour Senior Vice President of Tournament Business Affairs **Donna M. Fiedorowicz '80** and **Bruce L. Fiedorowicz '76** greet other alumni in the CCSU alumni hospitality tent at 2009 Travelers Championship in Cromwell.



• (l-r) **Amy (Skarbek) Strickland '97, Jaclyn Piscitelli '07, Molly McCarthy '93, MS '97** and Doreen Piscitelli enjoy the CCSU Alumni & Friends private shopping event at Lord & Taylor, Westfarms Mall.



• **Alumni and friends** mingle at a reception preceding a special performance of *Chicago* by the CCSU Theater Department.



• **Class of 1959** at 50th-reunion celebration.

2009 CCSU Alumni Association Awards

Distinguished Alumni Honored

Life-long New Britain resident **Paul Gianaris '70**, recipient of the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Service Award, was an auditor, then assistant manager at the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services from 1969 to 1993. Now retired, he volunteers for the New Britain Symphony Orchestra, New Britain Museum of American Art, and Trinity on Main.

An avid Blue Devil sports fan and treasurer of the Alumni Track Club, he is a member of the committee raising support for the Veterans Excellence Scholarship. He helped facilitate the largest gift ever made to CCSU and established the Gianaris Family Scholarship to support students pursuing entrepreneurial careers.

Curtis Wiggins '93, recipient of the 2009 Young Alumni Service Award, financed his education by working at Sears, where he became men's department manager. After graduating, he joined First Investors Corporation. Soon promoted to sales supervisor of the Hartford office, he became regional training coordinator in 2002 and division manager in 2004. Today he is assistant vice president in the Hartford office. Wiggins has remained active at CCSU as a career services speaker, mentor and advisor to cooperative education students.

After graduating, **Al Barbarotta Jr. '74**, recipient of the 2009 Kaiser Alumni Service Award, taught at Hartford Public High School, coached football and baseball and taught driver's education. He is now president and CEO of AFB Construction/Facilities Management Company, which he launched in 1991.

Vice president the Walter Camp Football Foundation, he has been a sponsor of CT Special Olympics and the annual Blue Devil Golf Classic.

Five inducted into CCSU Alumni Association Athletic Hall of Fame

Wrestling team captain his senior year, **Dave Cameron '81** was a two-time East Regional Champion. After graduating, he earned a BS from UConn in physical therapy and a PhD in pathokinesiology from New York University. Clinical assistant professor at Sacred Heart University, he directs the Human Anatomy and Motion Analysis Laboratories.

All-New England and All-ECAC, captain of both football and wrestling teams, **Sal Cintorino '87, MS '03** became the first Blue Devil to earn Kodak All-America honors, in 1984. He was named a Walter Camp Foundation All-American and was a tri-captain of the team in 1985. He was also tri-captain of

the wrestling team, helping lead CCSU to the New England wrestling title in 1987. Head coach of Blue Devils football from 1992-2000, he is assistant chief administrative officer at CCSU.

A graduate of the CCSU honors program, **Heather Gardiner '03** holds five school cross country and track records. As a senior, she received the Gail Rutz Award. Gardiner won four individual Northeast Conference titles and finished in the top five 15 times during NEC Championship meets.



(l-r) **Al Barbarotta, Jr. '74, Sal Cintorino '87, MS '90, Dave Cameron '81, Heather Gardiner '03, Curtis Wiggins '93, Rick Mickens '00, Paul Gianaris '70, and Dave Szewczul '76.**

She currently manages the Morristown, NJ Running Company and is race director of Morristown's St. Patty's Day 5K Race.

Rick Mickens '00 helped lead CCSU to its first-ever trip to the NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament in 2000. Northeast Conference Player of the Year in 2000, he is Central's fifth all-time leading scorer, first in career and single-season steals and ranks in the CCSU top-10 in seven categories.

The Blue Devils went 25-6 his final season, won the NEC title, and narrowly missed upsetting #2 seed Iowa State in the NCAA Tournament. After playing professionally for four years, Mickens became a New Britain firefighter in 2004.

David Szewczul '76 and his golf teammates qualified for the NCAA Championships every season during his tenure and won New England Collegiate Championships in 1972 and 1973.

Individually, Szewczul won the Dartmouth Invitational in 1972 and the Toski Invitational in 1973. He has won several Connecticut amateur tournaments, participated in the 2004 USGA Senior Open and was low amateur in Senior Open qualifying in 2008.

Szewczul is director of sales and marketing at Merrill Industries in Ellington.

Apparently unexceptional, Floyd Scholz '80, was a tall, gangly kid with a guitar when he arrived at CCSU. "I was a late bloomer," he says, "physically insecure."

A woodworker by inclination, Scholz majored in industrial education. A high school industrial arts teacher had suggested he consider teaching. He could imagine himself teaching.

But Scholz had some prodigious, if undeveloped, talents. He just hadn't figured out how gifted he was.

The Birdman of CCSU

Turpentine and Pine Shavings

Scholz' uncle, George Csefai, was a machinist who had immigrated to America in 1956, during the Hungarian Revolution. "He was a wonderful guy," says Scholz. "Very creative. An avid outdoorsman and hunter. And he loved kids."

Scholz, who had begun exhibiting a flair for art at a young age, was entranced by the remarkably life-like duck decoys his uncle carved. Csefai taught his nephew how to shape wood into elegant sculptures and took him to a national competition on Long Island when he won "best in show."

It was a life-changing experience for the boy who yearned to follow in his uncle's footsteps. Sadly, George Csefai was diagnosed with terminal lymphoma soon after that weekend. Scholz found solace in his uncle's studio where the smells of turpentine and pine shavings took on resonant meaning for him.

Scholz' aunt gave him some of George's tools and a few unfinished carvings and the youngster took them home and worked on them. One of the carvings he produced was a small duck, which his parents took to the hospital for George.

"My aunt said he beamed when he saw it," Scholz says. It was his last connection with his uncle. George Csefai was 34 when he passed away a week later.

"Best in Show"

After that, carving became a serious enterprise for young Scholz. So did running.

He was 14 that year and just entering high school. Six feet three inches tall, he weighed a scant 120 pounds. "I wanted to be a football player," he says, "but the football coach told me I wasn't athletic."



The coach couldn't have been more wrong. Blessed with foot speed and the capacity to jump, Scholz soon found a place on the track team. During his junior and senior years, he won state meets. He was competing in the decathlon at a

meet in New Britain when Central Track Coach Phil Henson spotted him.

He soon became Central's first NCAA champion. And as such, he would have qualified for the Moscow Olympics in 1980, his senior year. But he never got his chance to compete, because Pres. Jimmy Carter boycotted the competition to protest Soviet engagement in Afghanistan.

By then Scholz' Central experience was over. The skinny kid who had arrived at CCSU in 1976 left the university transformed into a self-assured young man.



He moved to Vermont, where he planned to teach, but found he could make more money as a logger. In his spare time he learned to play the banjo, joined a popular jug band, found a new circle of friends and kept on carving birds.

In 1983, one of his pieces won "best in show" in the same Long Island competition his uncle had won years before. When Scholz subsequently sold the sculpture for \$7,000 he resigned his job and never looked back.

Today he and his wife, Beatrice, a civil engineer from Venezuela whom he met in 1990, live on a Vermont mountaintop. They also have homes in Florida and Caracas. His sculptures are part of private and museum collections worldwide and he has published five bestselling books, which are dedicated to his uncle George.

"Central played a big role in my success," he says. "My college experience gave me a positive attitude, confidence in my abilities and the ability to relate to other people."

And those tools enabled him to put his gifts to work, creating a life for himself that he could not have imagined as a shy, awkward youngster growing up in Fairfield, Connecticut. "I'm really proud to be a Central alumnus," he says.

Following the Lead of a New Piper

When the CCSU women's basketball team met Boston University in the first round of the Women's National Invitational Tournament on March 19 they came ready to play. Leading the Terriers 41-37 at the half, they improved their position to 45-40 early in the second half. But, then the Terriers stepped up their game down the stretch, eventually vanquishing the Blue Devils.

“As a coach I will use the same work ethic to make the University and community proud of the women's basketball program.”

Beryl Piper '87, CCSU Women's Basketball Coach

Tough loss? Sure, but there's another perspective. For the Blue Devils, making it into a national tournament for the first time since becoming a Division I program was a victory in itself.

Hats off to the team, of course, but also to Coach Beryl Piper '87 who, in June 2007, became Central's fourth women's basketball coach. A member of the CCSU Athletics Hall of Fame, Piper was previously women's basketball coach at New Britain High School, where she compiled a 289-151 record and led New Britain's Golden Hurricanes to three state championships, including back-to-back titles her last two seasons.



In 2007-2008, her first year at Central, the Blue Devils' record was an unimpressive 4-25. But Piper's influence, and the team's commitment to improve, became evident early last season. When all was said and done, the women's 18-14 record qualified as the best one-year turnaround in the nation.

As a student at Central, Piper consistently demonstrated the same drive that has made her a successful coach. A four-year player and co-captain of the 1985-86 team, she led the Blue Devils to a 24-4 record her senior year, when she was presented with the Gail Rutz Award for outstanding female student-athlete. The 1985-86 team, which made it to the NCAA Division II quarterfinals, set the CCSU records for most wins and best winning percentage.

“Central gave me a chance to be a player and now is giving me a chance as a coach,” Piper said, when she was hired for her new job. “I worked hard to be successful as a player. As a coach I will use the same work ethic to make the University and community proud of the women's basketball program.”

Swimmers Remain Dominant

Despite losing 11 members of last year's championship team, a tremendous drain of talent, Central's swimming and diving team showed what it was made of, holding off all comers to repeat as Northeast Conference Champions with a dominating 17-point victory at Yale in February. CCSU won 16 out of 20 events and claimed four out of five individual awards at the meet.

Head Coach Bill Ball was named NEC Coach of the Year for his team's performance. “We lost 11 champions from last year,” said Ball. “We were short-numbered with only 16 scorers, so for us to pull this off is somewhat of a minor miracle.”

Diving Coach Dave Maliar and Freshman Mallory Miller captured both of the individual diving awards, with Maliar being named NEC Diving Coach of the Year for the second straight year and Miller earning NEC Diver of the Meet in her first year of collegiate competition. Alex Czaplicki took home NEC Rookie of



the Meet honors for her victories in the 200 IM and the 100 and 200 backstroke, as well as her contributions to 800 free and 400 medley relay victories.

37 Adeline (Jaskiewicz) Fleming celebrated her 93rd birthday with her children in Palo Alto, CA and had the pleasure of attending a Stanford women's basketball game that brought back happy memories of her days as a student athlete. Adeline, who lives in San Jose, CA, sends best wishes to her classmates and athletic chums.

56 Michael J. Bontatibus, Jr. MS '62 was inducted into the Connecticut High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame at Rentschler Field in November 2008. Mike and **Frances "Fran" (Nesci) Bontatibus '59, MS '84** reside in Naples, FL and Westbrook.

57 Barbara (Remeika) Kirchner, retired from teaching, is an active SCUBA diver and traveler. **Jane (Marchione) Thomas** is retired as a professor of early childhood education, and currently serves as outreach liaison for U. S. Congresswoman Melissa Bean who represents the 8th district of Illinois in Chicago, IL. Novelist **Richard White** was named writer-in-residence at The Williams School in New London where he is a member of the English faculty, allowing him the opportunity to teach one of his books to his 12th grade English class.

60 Bruce M. Williams is a player's club associate for the MGM Mirage in Biloxi, MS, following a 20-year career as a Catholic elementary school teacher in Long Beach, MS. He continues to portray St. Nicholas for the annual feast day at his home parish of St. Peter's By-the-Sea in Gulfport, MS.

63 Mary Ann (Popowski) Drayton-Rogers is first selectman, the chief elected official, of the town of Oxford.

64 Linda (Miklos) Syler is residing in Peoria, AZ and serving her second term as president of the National Family Association for Deaf-Blind.

66 James L. Grabowski MA '68 taught for several years after graduating from Central, but for the past 20 has devoted himself exclusively to his art. He has received commissions for his abstract paintings from more than 100 national and international corporations. He is known primarily as a painter of expan-

sive canvases filled with bold color and motion, but his more recent work includes impressionistic landscape paintings that are more quiet, often inspired by the Connecticut countryside around his home in Marlborough.

67 Diane (Gorski) Ballou has worked in a variety of teaching and administrative positions since leaving CCSU and is currently assisting her husband in his HVAC business while enjoying being a grandmother. **Barbara (Hartl) Petry MS '73, 6th Yr '79** retired as a literacy specialist after 41 years of teaching. She and husband, **Bill '73**, live in Milford.

68 John W. Calla, Jr. is the managing partner of Liberty Aviation Management, Liberty Sport Aviation LP, Adventure Flight Training LP, and Advanced Aircraft Services, located at the Lancaster Airport in Lititz, PA. Dr. **Peter M. Rosa MS '74**, a program officer at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, was honored with the Outstanding Support of Hispanic Issues in Higher Education Award by the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education.



Chosen from over 10,000 registered Pet Partners teams representing 13 countries **Paul Rothberg '69 (MS)** of Newington and his Bichon Frise, Marshmallow, are one of just four Pet Partners (therapy animal) teams honored as winners in the international Delta Society Beyond Limits Award sponsored by Purina. Delta Society Pet Partners are specially trained volunteers who, with their pets, help improve others' lives in their communities in many ways, such as visiting hospitalized patients and seniors in assisted living centers, comforting hospice patients and helping children learn to read. Paul and Marshmallow won the Rookie category which recognizes Pet Partners with one to two years of experience. In the photo Paul and Marshmallow visit with a resident of Manchester Manor.

70 Marianne (McGuire) Byrne-Moore is a professor of business information systems/business administration at Suffolk County Community College, State University of New York, located in Selden, NY.

Kerry P. Donovan retired from the financial services/IT field after 38 years. **Elizabeth (Potocny) FitzGerald** is a database manager for the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses in Washington, DC. **Christopher J. Wolf**, co-founder of the former accounting firm of Scully & Wolf LLP, was appointed finance director of the City of Hartford.

72 Marvin H. Weil is self-employed as a consultant-manager and QuickBooks pro advisor. His company, Consulting by MHW LLC, is located in East Hartford.

73 James E. Stofan (MS) has been named associate vice chancellor of alumni relations at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN.

74 Deborah (McGlynn) Bruen is head librarian at Sacred Heart Academy in Hamden. **Wendy (Jolly) Ciparelli** teaches sixth grade at Kennelly School in Hartford, and enjoys knitting, reading, and camping with friends. She and **Peter '73** live in Colchester. **Virginia "Ginny" (Donahue) Novak** and her husband, Chet, were recently featured as the "Love Story" in the Sunday *Hartford Courant* on the occasion of their 63rd wedding anniversary. Virginia began her college studies when the youngest of their 10 children was two years old, and graduated at age 56 with a teaching degree. After 10 years in East Hartford public schools Ginny ran an in-home day care. She and Chet, who are both first aid- and CPR-certified, are still actively involved in childcare.

76 Dr. Charles R. Kelly MA '95, associate professor of human services at Post University in Waterbury, was appointed academic program manager for the University's Master of Human Services degree program. **Scott C. Novak MS '82** retired after 32 years in Vernon Public Schools, the last 22 at Rockville High School where he taught psychology and world history.

78 Joseph A. Ciampi, a retired professor of

computer science in Oregon, currently serves as a senior computer engineer for Florida Power & Light in Daytona Beach, FL. **Richard S. Novacki**, senior director, compensation for ESPN in Bristol, is responsible for compensation pay programs for the company's 5,700 employees worldwide.

79 Sarah (Connolly) Cardetti is a laboratory technician at Cold Spring Brewery in Cold Spring, MN. **Joseph A. De Feo**, president and executive coach at Juran Institute Inc. in Southbury, is co-author (with the late Dr. William W. Barnard) of *Six Sigma Breakthrough and Beyond*. His most recent publication (co-authored with Dr. Richard Chua and the late Dr. Frank Gryna), *Quality Planning and Analysis for Enterprise Quality*, is used as a university text by more than 55 professors around the country, and has emerged as a standard for training quality engineers and black belts.

80 Senior director, production operations for ESPN in Bristol, CT, **Michael W. Boissonneault** also helps lead ESPN's college recruitment efforts nationwide. **Cassandra (DiNicola) Boryslawskij** is founder and owner of Spiral Shell Web LLC, a web developer offering web design services and consultation in Internet technologies to small business owners, non-profit organizations and individuals. **Thomas A. Coffey**, R.N., a state and federal surveyor for the 240 skilled nursing centers in the State of Connecticut for the past 10 years, joined Genesis HealthCare, a provider of long-term care services in New England, as a regulatory compliance manager for the northeast area. Lake Compounce Family Theme Park, in Bristol/Southington, announced the appointment of **Clifford W. Pilarski** as controller.

81 (Kevin) Tebbé Davis is marketing director at Sundance Power Systems, a company specializing in design and installation of solar electric (photovoltaic) systems, solar hot water, wind, and hydro electric systems for both on and off grid applications, in Weaverville, NC. Atty. **Anne C. (West) DiMatteo**, a partner in the law offices of Hurwitz & DiMatteo in Buffalo, NY, specializes in social security law, disability claims, and workers compensation. Atty. **James D. Donovan** became a partner in the firm of Thompson, Vollono and Donovan LLC in Plainville.

82 Patricia E. Langdon, a former health education teacher at DePaolo and Kennedy Middle Schools in Southington,



Janet (Sperdini) Nahorney '83, CPA, was elected partner at Blum Shapiro in West Hartford where she has worked since graduating from Central. She served as director of retirement planning and employee benefits services for 12 years. As a partner, Janet directs Blum Shapiro's Employee Benefit Assurance Services Group. She specializes in planning, design and audits of qualified retirement plans and employee welfare plans for privately held businesses. She also provides accounting and auditing services to a variety of privately held businesses.

was honored as Granny Apple at Southington's 2008 Apple Harvest Festival. She was nominated by her eight-year-old grandson, Keegan Jarvis, who was born just after Patricia retired and whom she cared for while Keegan's mother (her daughter), **Kelly Jarvis MS 2002**, completed graduate school at Central. **Thomas N. McAvoy, Jr.**, a certified trust and financial advisor with more than 25 years of banking and investment experience, is senior vice president at Dime Bank Trust Services in Norwich.

83 T. Garth Connelly has completed his fourth book, *110' Sub Chasers In Action*, about the 110-foot wooden hulled sub chasers of WW2. A Fall 2009 release is projected. **Brian F. X. Connolly** has joined Maier Advertising in Farmington as director of client services. Prior to being hired at Maier, Brian was vice president and marketing director of Northern Lights Communications in Bristol. **William E. MacDonald** is senior vice president and chief audit executive at XL Capital in Hartford.

84 Michael D. Nicastro was appointed to the Board of State Academic

Awards which grants degrees through Charter Oak State College, a nontraditional college designed to provide adults with an alternate means to earn degrees that are of equivalent quality and rigor to those earned at other accredited institutions of higher learning. Mike is president and CEO of the Central Connecticut Chambers of Commerce serving Bristol, Burlington, Farmington, Plainville, Plymouth and Wolcott. Before that he was senior vice president and chief marketing officer for Glastonbury-based Open Solutions Inc.

85 Denise (Bolduc) Langdon is employed as a human resources training specialist for United Illuminating Company in New Haven. **Peter F. Samson** has joined TD Banknorth in Glastonbury as senior vice president in the commercial lending division. Samson was previously vice president of commercial banking at Webster Bank.

86 John A. Festo is vice president, information technology, at Patriot National Bank in Stamford. **Pamela J. Tinto** is student activities coordinator on the residence life staff at Hampshire College in Amherst, MA. **Ronald R. Stepanek**, director of player development for PGA America, is responsible for the development, with other golf industry leaders, of *Get Golf Ready*, an innovative Play Golf America program designed to bring new golfers into the game in a fun and casual format and get them playing in five days. Ron has worked for The PGA of America in Palm Beach Gardens, FL since 1997 and, in his current position, since 2005.

87 Jane (Spanilo) Butterworth is manager – development finance at Pfizer, Inc. **Donna (Veillette) Finocchiaro** is an entrepreneur, business woman, and professional organizer. She owns and operates Organized East of the River lo-

MARRIAGES

Paula (Hyman) Campo '92
& Kevin L. Rugg 11/23/08

Dina A. DeNicola '92
& David R. Bonola '93 9/20/08

Lisa M. Gambino '99
& Christopher Mendes 7/12/08

Dianne V. Baron
& Jeffrey R. Kolodjay '00 5/30/08

Casey L. DiBella '03
& Mark Schneider 7/19/08



Jeffrey W. Focht '90 is dean of business & Technology at Northampton Community College in Bethlehem, PA. Previously Jeff was assistant professor of marketing at NCC, and a full time faculty member at CCSU. Prior to academia, he was owner/president of a New Jersey-based discount retailer. His business development career began in the consumer products industry with Unilever, a Fortune Global 500 company. He is a consultant to businesses in the area of marketing strategy and leadership and continues to teach in the classroom.

cated in Marlborough. **Jerrold N. Rothchild** is a senior technical recruiter in the Shelton office of Butler International, a global engineering design and IT service provider.

88 Jeanne (Giedra) Catuccio is a senior drafter at Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford.

89 Kathleen (Conlin) Greider MS '94, deputy superintendent of schools in Greenwich, has been selected as the new superintendent of schools for Farmington. **William M. Berloni** has published his first book, *Broadway Tails*, which chronicles his life as an animal trainer for some of the biggest shows on Broadway. A number of Bill's dogs are currently starring in the Broadway and touring companies of *Legally Blonde: The Musical*. Manchester High School art teacher **Karen (Kozlowski) Stavolone** has been awarded a \$5,000 grant by the Art Renewal for Teachers program which is supported by an anonymous donor and gives grants to selected art teachers who would like to spend the summer renewing themselves as artists. Stavolone plans to use the grant to build a studio space and enroll in a summer sculpture class at the Hartford Art School. She also plans to research and document local

shade tobacco farms, and produce large-scale ceramic work relating to the industry. **Terri (Whitney) Switzer** is co-owner of TL Switzer and Associates LLC, a full service consulting firm in the areas of human resources, security, loss prevention, risk management, customer service, technology, marketing, and merchandising. **John P. Walsh** recently worked on *The Hubble Space Telescope* IMAX 3D feature film for IMAX Space Productions Limited. The film is slated to be released by Warner Brothers in 2010. John is an associate course director, film final project, at Full Sail University in Winter Park, FL.

90 Greg L. Kennedy, owner of Kennedy Photography in Orlando, FL, is a 20-year veteran of the photography industry in central Florida.

91 Gwen (Ziring) Campbell is an account executive for Combined Insurance headquartered in Chicago, IL. Gwen and her family live in Sandy, UT. **Sean R. Childs** is employed at Gerber Scientific Products in South Windsor as a product manager. **Wendy I. Hummel** is a solutions consultant for IBM in Southbury. **Michael E. Kane (MSOM)** is vice president of manufacturing at Tiffany & Co. in Pelham, NY.

92 Pamela (Hyman) Rugg is vice president – event planning for Bessemer Trust, a wealth management company in New York City. Dr. **Z. Michael Taweh** has been a staff physician at Danbury Hospital since July 2000. In 2003, in memory of his son, Kevin, he founded Kevin's Community Center Free Clinic, a Newtown health care center dedicated to serving uninsured and underinsured adults. He was presented the prestigious 2004 Dr. Melville G. Magida Award sponsored annually by the Fairfield County Medical Association and the Richard & Hinda Rosenthal Foundation. The award recognizes a young physician who has shown a notable capacity for patient treatment and care, and a special sensitivity to patient-physician relationships.

93 Former NCAA national office staff member **Troy L. Arthur** has returned to familiar territory as director of diversity and inclusion at the NCAA's Indianapolis headquarters. He rejoined the national office from Learfield Sports where, since September 2006, he has been general manager for BCA Properties, a partnership between the sports marketing firm and Black Coaches & Administrators. **Curtis S. Brey** is director of digital solutions at Gerber Scientific Products in South Windsor. **Sean R. Fitzgerald** has been hired as town manager of Peabody, MA. Sean has 15 years

of experience working in local and county government, including serving as chief of staff to Peabody's mayor for the past seven years. **Paul A. Heyman** has joined Barnum Financial Group (BFG) as a financial services representative, working out of the Wethersfield office. Prior to joining BFG Paul worked in various roles for Aetna, Putnam Investments and MassMutual. **Gina Laird-Dion** is an engineer and project lead at Hamilton Sundstrand in Windsor Locks. **Kathy A. Mendall MS '95** is associate director of conference services at Long Island University, C. W. Post campus, in Brookville, NY. Rev. **John M. Santone** is parochial vicar at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Simsbury. **Sandi (Stanhope) Siedel** was elected president of the Connecticut chapter of Institute of Real Estate Management. Sandi works as the senior property manager for over 200 residential units in downtown New Haven for C. A. White Inc., as well as approximately 500,000 square feet of commercial space including retail and office properties. Officer **Kimberly A. Sullivan**, 15-year veteran of the West Hartford Police Department, was promoted to sergeant. Kimberly has been a hostage negotiator for years, as well as advisor to Police Explorers, peer helper and employee-assistance coordinator. **Robert E. Taylor** is vice president of client services at DST Output, provider of paper and electronic bills, statements, and other documents in South Windsor.

94 Jeffrey M. Cretella is regional sales manager for C & D Technologies Inc. in Frisco, TX. Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam has appointed **Julie M. (Pritchard) Drouin** its vice president of finance and chief financial officer. Julie's experience



photo credit: Steven Laschever

Lina Reis Curtin '87, senior vice president and chief financial officer of the Connecticut River Community Bank, was part of the start-up team for the Wethersfield-based bank in 2000, after working 10 years in community banking. In 2008, she was named the *Hartford Business Journal's* CFO of the Year.



David L. Mitchell '94 has been promoted to senior vice president and chief marketing officer at Open Solutions, Inc. in Glastonbury, a provider of integrated enterprise-wide data processing technologies for banks and credit unions in the US, Canada and other international markets.

includes 14 years of progressive health-care financial management. Her most recent position was corporate controller of Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford. An Honor's Program Scholar at CCSU, she began her career in healthcare finance in 1995 and subsequently earned an MBA from Nichols College. Julie resides in Westbrook with her husband and two sons. **Dongkwan Kim** is financial manager for Cal-Kor Insurance Services in Los Angeles, CA. Previsite, producer of rich media content creation for the real estate industry, has appointed **Richard J. Modica** vice president of sales, North America, in the New York office. U. S. Air Force Master Sergeant **Robert T. White** is serving in the position of air terminal manager at Joint-Base Balad in Iraq.

95 Damon G. Cooke is project manager at O & G Industries in Torrington. **Katherine (Tonucci) Covey** is a program assistant at the University of Connecticut. **Paul E. Kleinkauf, Jr.** is regional director, DataSite, at Merrill Corporation – Southeast based in the greater Atlanta, GA area. The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations has chosen Dr. **John D. Tully** (MS), assistant professor of history at CCSU, as its national director of secondary education for a three-year term.

97 Kinshasa (Gallimore) Alston has been employed by the Connecticut Department of Children and Families for 11 years since graduating from CCSU. She is married and has two sons. **Ronald L. Eddy**, director of property management at Griffin Land in Bloomfield, real estate division of Griffin Land & Nurseries Inc., has been promoted to vice president. Before join-

ing Griffin Land, Ron held the position of project manager for Garson Corporation, a general contracting firm. **Angela Gallo** is assistant professor of dance at Coker College in Hartsville, SC, and artistic director for Sapphire Moon Dance Company, a contemporary dance company based in Columbia, SC. Rev. **Robert Villa** has been named pastor and permanent administrator of St. Margaret Church in Waterbury. **Suzan Scott** has been involved in the arts for nearly 20 years as an artist, consultant, curator and owner of Suzan Scott Fine Art in Cheshire. **Steven J. Westerberg** has joined Sarazin General Contractors in North Windham as a project manager. **Pauline (Nicholas) Williams** is a plan manager at ING in Windsor.

98 Dimari Flores-Braxton serves as a trainer and QA coach for Community Solutions Inc., a nonprofit organization that promotes self-reliance, responsibility and accountability for at-risk and disadvantaged youths and adults in Windsor. **Jennifer A. Johnson** is director of advisory services at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP in Toronto, Canada.

99 Lisa (Gambino) Mendes is a second-grade teacher at Barnard Environmental Studies Magnet School in New Haven. **Krista E. Morton** (MS, 6th Yr '04) is school director of Richard Milburn Academy, a public charter alternative high school for troubled teens and young adults, in Bradenton, FL. **Christy Thoma** is employed by BioRelix Inc. as a research associate-microbiologist in New Haven.

00 Edmund T. Cabellon (MS) is director of the Rondileau Campus Center at Bridgewater State College in Bridgewater, MA. Ed and his wife, Becky, and their two daughters live in Brockton, MA. **Lisa M. DiCioccio** is a QA engineer for Fidelity Investments in Merrimack, NH. U. S. Army Reserve Capt. **Edward G. Gyukeri, Jr.** (MS), a nurse anesthetist from Glens Falls Hospital in Glens Falls, NY, served as a nurse anesthetist with the 345th Combat Support Hospital in Al Asad and Umm Zahr, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, administering anesthesia to coalition forces and Iraqi civilians.

01 Marianne Chamberlain MBA '06, a certified public accountant, was promoted to the position of manager in the Glastonbury office of Mahoney Sabol & Company LLP. Marianne specializes in construction, manufacturing and not-for-profit organizations, with expertise in accounting, auditing and business consulting. Helicopter pilot **Sharon (Grubb) Vickers** is a captain at PHI Inc. located in Lafayette, LA, offering helicopter transportation services for offshore oil and gas, onshore mining, international, air medical, and technical services industries.

02 Nadege Auguste is employed as a social worker at Casey Family services in Bridgeport. **David J. Biancamano** serves as assistant director of major gifts at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA. Runner **Eric M. Blake** finished 10th in the by-invitation-only 35th annual Empire State Building Run-Up in New York City, just one of many challenges he sets for himself each year. Eric is assistant coach for men's track and cross country at CCSU. **Kristin Ehrismann** is a graphic design manager for CTM Media Group Inc. in Stamford. **Erin Logan** works as a client services consultant for DST Output in South Windsor. **David C. Sacharko, Jr.** is an investment associate for Merrill Lynch in Hartford. **Andrew N. Sousa** is vice president of his family-owned business, The Sousa Corporation, a commercial metal processing facility in West Hartford.

03 Samuel Boisrond is employed as a local area network engineer analyst at Sodexo in Simsbury. **Brian P. Donahue** is a physical fitness teacher for grades four through eight at Old Saybrook Middle School in Old Saybrook. **Ashley R. Meyer** is an independent agent representing Aflac Insurance in New Britain.



Classmates and friends at Ossipee Lake, NH: (l-r) **Dean Hickey '87**, **Len Gengel '87**, Fr. Bob Lord, **Vinnie Pugliese '86**, and **Tony Terzi '88**.

CLASS NOTES

04 Michael-John Komidar is employed as a senior IT specialist for Women In Need, a non-profit providing housing, help and hope to New York City women and their families who are homeless and disadvantaged. **Kelly J. McDermott** is Advancing Capacity Together (ACT) program coordinator for the City of Bridgeport. **Mathew A. Spinelli** is a teacher at Amity Regional High School in Woodbridge.

05 Maria S. Babaeva is a finance analyst for Hewlett-Packard in Moscow, Russia. **Eric S. Champagne** is vice president and general manager for Topper & Griggs Group LLC, a structural steel and miscellaneous metals fabrication and

erection business in Plainville. **Michael L. Mowel II** is a supervisor, Generally Accepted Accounting Principles financial reporting for Allied World Assurance Company in Farmington. **Matthew J. Saccullo** runs Knuckle Sandwich Productions, a short film and skit production company he formed during his freshman year at CCSU. His latest project is a series of short comedic skits titled *Notes on a Napkin*. **Daniel P. Savelli** is employed as an information technology analyst for the Town of West Hartford.

06 Jeffrey F. Carpenter is director of accounts for SEOMatrix LLC in New Haven. **Vanessa M. Porretti** is a senior tax

accountant for Whittlesey & Hadley PC in Hartford.

07 Jamilah A. Corbitt is assistant sports information director at Alabama A & M University in Normal, AL. **Dana Merise** is in her first year as a paraeducator in the English Language Learner program at Greeneville Elementary School in Norwich. **Krzysztof A. Szumilas** is employed by UPS as a supervisor.

08 Kyle Lima is residence director of Callahan Center at Endicott College in Beverly, MA. **David L. Wallis** (MS) is a technology education teacher at Southwick-Tolland Regional High School in Westfield, MA.

In Memoriam

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| <p>1927 Margaret Hart Ross 10/24/08</p> <hr/> <p>1930 Elizabeth Sullivan Hudon 3/12/09</p> <hr/> <p>1932 Ruth E. Geffken 4/7/09 Lillian Goldenberg Sodafsky 5/7/09</p> <hr/> <p>1937 Martha DeMara Richards 1/26/09</p> <hr/> <p>1938 Charles "Chick" Quinn 2/20/09</p> <hr/> <p>1939 Marjorie J. Hackbarth 2/7/08</p> <hr/> <p>1941 Charlotte Anderson Aston 9/21/08 Anita Furman Schulman 12/24/08</p> <hr/> <p>1942 Navio Ottavi 2/22/09</p> <hr/> <p>1943 Louise Bauer Allen 11/12/08 Betty Ann Allison Squires 6/14/08</p> <hr/> <p>1945 Angel Milazzo Vanacore 12/7/08</p> <hr/> <p>1947 Leo Perkell 9/18/08 Angela Spinelli 10/22/08 Irving W. Wilber 3/20/09</p> <hr/> <p>1948 Phyllis Johnson Sjolander 10/18/08</p> <hr/> <p>1949 Blanche Spring Landwehr 2/12/09 Saverian J. Torino 12/30/08</p> <hr/> <p>1950 Jessie E. Bertash 12/27/08 Paul J. Koszalka 10/9/08 Gertrude Schaefer Rosensweig 1/20/09 John R. Valli 10/12/08 Leon E. Wilchynski 2/8/09</p> <hr/> <p>1951 Kathleen A. Denslow 1/19/09 Arthur W. Hatje, Sr. 10/9/08 Roselyn McSweegan Turgeon 10/21/08</p> | <p>1952 Joseph A. Zaranka 9/21/08</p> <hr/> <p>1954 Carol A. Foley 1/17/09 Philip A. Glynn 1/8/09 Nancy Sicilian Tolley 4/3/09 Patricia Keenan Welch 10/3/08</p> <hr/> <p>1955 Gayeth Spencer Stickles 12/31/08 James R. Suito 9/9/08</p> <hr/> <p>1956 Maria Guidace Insalaco-Grant 3/9/09 Dainey M. Johnson 3/13/09 Rosemarie Varriale Witkewicz 10/18/08</p> <hr/> <p>1959 Patricia Parulski Armington 10/21/08 Fred H. Kalbach 5/5/02</p> <hr/> <p>1961 Leigh B. Shearer 2/23/09</p> <hr/> <p>1962 Melvin R. Parrette 2/16/09 Louis E. Sanzo 1/5/09</p> <hr/> <p>1963 Paula Targonsky Pascale</p> <hr/> <p>1965 Marie-Anne Gauvin 4/14/09 Gail Waxenberg Geraghty 2/5/09 Barbara Szymanski Kaston 2/12/09</p> <hr/> <p>1966 Raymond J. Davis 4/3/09 Gertrude Erhart 10/26/08</p> <hr/> <p>1968 Raymond A. Aron 4/21/09 Priscilla Hardy Bennett 6/6/08 Frederick P. Richard 2/23/09</p> <hr/> <p>1969 Walter S. Truscinski 4/11/09 Edward P. Nyerick Sr. 10/21/08 Richard J. Whalen Sr. 9/13/08</p> <hr/> <p>1970 Loren E. Bernau 10/9/08 Carolyn Hobbs Holgerson 11/17/08</p> | <p>1971 Dorothea Shields Bartholomew 7/7/08 Brenda Gaffney Hedenberg 2/6/09 Rita Cote Lessard 3/10/09 Maria Lopez Moylan 1/4/09 Perley J. Nye 2/18/09 Nancy Anderson Putinski 4/9/07</p> <hr/> <p>1973 Brian A. Beeler 4/25/09 Vincent Costanzo 2/10/09 Donna M. DeMaria 11/26/08 Josephine Gaetano Shinder 5/14/09 Mary Passamano Welch 11/25/08</p> <hr/> <p>1974 Patricia Leone Gould 5/4/09 Nancy Lincoln House 1/10/09 Patricia Dorio Ligas 12/18/08 Nicholas W. Mecca Jr. 10/22/08 Thomas J. O'Connor 10/5/08 Lucille M. Rackliffe 5/12/09</p> <hr/> <p>1975 Carol May Karabetsis 1/5/09 Karen Schlotterbeck Salisbury 1/7/09</p> <hr/> <p>1976 Susan Olsen Dean 4/17/09 Deborah Quinn Miller 5/5/09</p> <hr/> <p>1977 Chester L. Sklodosky 4/11/09</p> <hr/> <p>1978 Patricia Smith Crose 2/19/09 Sandra Kucharski Meredith 11/17/08 Michael S. Michalowski 2/16/05</p> <hr/> <p>1979 Johnnie Moody 2/14/09 Jeffrey M. Ziruk 3/11/09</p> | <p>1981 Leona Alexander Miner 10/8/08</p> <hr/> <p>1985 Lewis "Sugarbear" Austin 3/19/09 Lynn Folger Baranoski 9/27/08</p> <hr/> <p>1987 Patricia Turner Engelbrecht 12/26/08 Wesley E. Eustice III 1/19/09</p> <hr/> <p>1989 Lillian Rowland Gittings 1/20/09 Leonora Banis Nolan 3/29/09</p> <hr/> <p>1990 Christine Gioia Vespa 3/27/09</p> <hr/> <p>1991 Karen Biskupiak Guyette 5/13/09 Helen J. Friedman 11/30/08 William J. Murray 4/22/09</p> <hr/> <p>1993 Patricia Skovran Grube 11/13/08 Anda B. Vijups 2/3/09</p> <hr/> <p>1995 Marshall H. McNaney 12/6/08 Daryl N. Mecca 3/18/09</p> <hr/> <p>1996 Adam Z. Kostecki 1/23/09</p> <hr/> <p>1997 Tina A. Kacoyannakis 10/26/08 Steven L. White 12/21/06</p> <hr/> <p>2004 Baha G. El-Eid 10/19/08 Roberta "Robin" Mangiafico 11/12/08</p> <hr/> <p>2007 Michael D. McDonald 11/18/08 Elliot Rivera 1/18/09</p> |
|--|--|---|---|

Memorial gifts may be made to the

CCSU Foundation
P.O. Box 612, New Britain, CT 06050
or online at www.ccsu.edu/give

Foundation for the Future

◀ continued from page 8

The Foundation is currently valued at over \$21 million. Though its return on investments for the six months ending December 31, 2008 was down more than 21 percent, that performance was actually a little better than the average of some 235 education endowments tracked by the Commonwealth Institute for the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. And since none of the investments were with Bear Stearns or any mortgage-backed collateralized debt obligations, they had no exposure to the collapse of those financial institutions.

From fiscal year 2008 to 2009, endowments grew by two percent. Given the state of the economy over the past year, any level of growth should be perceived positively, of course. But Galligan is quick to note that more robust funding would allow the Foundation to accomplish much more than it can currently afford.

Thus, the Foundation's board has set a goal of \$40 million in assets. That might seem ambitious in recessionary times, but Galligan is optimistic.

"We don't expect to achieve that goal overnight," he says, "but we're very positive. An investment in the University is a good investment in the future of Connecticut." 

Nominate an Athlete for Hall of Fame

The CCSU Alumni Association Sports Committee invites alumni and friends of CCSU to nominate deserving alumni athletes for induction into the Alumni Association Athletic Hall of Fame.

If you would like to nominate any individuals who were outstanding athletes at Central, or who otherwise contributed significantly to the university's athletic program, send their names and information about their accomplishments, past and present, to The CCSU Alumni Association, 1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06050. Online applications are available at <http://www.ccsu.edu/alumni>. Deadline for nominations is November 1, 2009.

CORRECTIONS

CCSU Strength and Conditioning Coach **Mike Ericksen's** name was misspelled in the Spring 2009 issue of *Central focus*. Coach Ericksen earned his BS degree at Central in 1998 and his MS in 2000.

Mike Cohen, profiled on the back cover of the Spring 2009 issue, graduated in 1974, not 1970.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Young Alumni Focus Group and Networking Reception

Thursday, September 17, 2009

CCSU Campus

Homecoming 2009

Saturday, October 3, 2009

12:00 pm — CCSU vs Sacred Heart

CCSU Campus

70th Reunion

1939 Undefeated Football Team

CCSU Campus

55th Reunion

1954 Undefeated Football Team

Saturday, October 10, 2009

CCSU Campus

Graduate Program Open House

Thursday, October 15, 2009

CCSU Campus

CCSU Family Day

Saturday, October 31, 2009

CCSU Campus

Connecticut 6 Classic

Basketball Tournament

Friday, November 13, 2009

Arena at Harbor Yard

Bridgeport

Check the alumni website for event updates

Information/Reservations

Contact the Office of Alumni Affairs

phone: (860) 832-1740

e-mail: alumnidept@ccsu.edu

website: www.ccsu.edu/alumni

ENews is the CCSU Alumni Association's monthly electronic newsletter for alumni and friends. It provides up-to-the-minute news from CCSU and the association, including events, membership benefits, club gatherings and campus goings-on. Sign up for the CCSU Alumni Association monthly ENews at:

www.ccsu.edu/Alumni/ENews.htm

Join the CCSU Alumni Group on the LinkedIn professional online network at:

www.linkedin.com

You will need a free LinkedIn account to join.



Central Focus
1615 Stanley Street
New Britain, CT 06050-4010

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NEW BRITAIN, CT
PERMIT NO. 939

Parker English

African Philosophy Scholar Honors Parents with Scholarship

You could call Parker English a leatherneck or a lumberjack. Both are roles English played long before he became CCSU's resident expert on African philosophy. Knowing English once held those two jobs might help you better understand the complex man. But to understand the inspiration behind The Louise Bulloch English and Jacob Thomas English Fund, the scholarship he recently created, you need to know about the time he spent in Africa.

Following service as a Marine Corps air strike control officer during the Vietnam War, English earned his Ph.D. in philosophy at the University of Western Ontario. He did not immediately pursue a career in academia, though. Instead, he worked as a tree feller in northern Ontario for two years, built a log cabin and devoted himself to studying philosophy for the next seven.

Finally, in 1983, he began looking for a teaching job. "I had done some writing," he says, "but I hadn't published. I had been thinking about philosophy and I thought I was ready."

The only job opening he could find, however, was in Nigeria, then the world's sixth largest exporter of oil. "They had lots of money," he recalls, "and they were trying to build an industrial society with the middle class before the money ran out."

One of Nigeria's 19 universities, the University of Calabar needed philosophy teachers. English taught two undergraduate courses per semester and they covered practically the gamut of philosophical topics.

But he was as much student as teacher. His four years in Nigeria were a life-altering experience. "I learned about the power of verbal speech, and I learned about being a minority," he says. They were powerful lessons and they fueled his growing interest in African philosophy.

"African philosophy wasn't very well defined, but they were trying to carve out a similar area for themselves," he notes.



Parker English in his CCSU office. His tie commemorates his colleague and friend, the late Brian O'Connell, a professor of philosophy and computer science at Central.

"It was based partly on traditional African ways of thinking, which concern the oral tradition, communalism and animism."

After returning to the United States and teaching at Ball State University, he joined the faculty of CCSU in 1995. By then he had staked a claim as one of America's handful of experts on African philosophy. It's select company. The International Society for African Philosophy and Studies has about 200 North American members.

The Bulloch-English Scholarship honors his late parents, of whom English says, "They insisted my brother and I learn to make charitable contributions and they taught us by example." Endowed by a portion of English's estate, the scholarship will give students an opportunity to study in Africa. "I learned much that I appreciate in Nigeria," he notes, "but I don't think a person can learn those things unless he or she lives in a foreign country."