

Central *focus* ^{fall 2005}

the magazine for alumni & friends of central connecticut state university



New Man On Campus

CCSU Welcomes
President Jack Miller

Letter from the President of the Alumni Association



Autumn is here, and if you're lucky enough to be on campus on a Saturday morning, you are experiencing a crisp, cool day with the band playing in the background and crowds of students and fans teeming in and about Arute Field.

There is a spirit afresh at CCSU, engendered in part from the presence of the students on campus and, also, from the presence of our new president, Dr. Jack Miller. Dr. Miller hails from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, where he served as chancellor for six years. I have had the pleasure of meeting with President Miller, and his passion for Central and his passion for excellence (I am sure you will agree that the two go hand in hand) has me excited for Central's present and, especially, its future. Please join me in extending a warm Blue Devil welcome to Dr. Miller.

We have engaged Dr. Miller in a question-and-answer session which is included in this edition of *Central Focus*. We hope it gives you an opportunity to get to know our new President better. We look forward to working with Dr. Miller to address the many challenges ahead, and we invite you, our alumni, to play a more active role in determining the future of our *alma mater*.

In the coming months, you will be hearing more about the ways you can help to improve CCSU. Meanwhile, we hope to see you at an alumni event sometime soon, either on campus or at a chapter event in your local community.

Go Blue Devils!!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wendell G. Davis, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Wendell G. Davis, Jr. '89

Welcome to the Class of 2009!

New students joined upperclass students in a variety of *First Week* activities at CCSU, including academic sessions, movies, the arts, athletic events, planetarium shows, and plenty of time to get acquainted with the campus. Ninety percent of the full-time registered students are Connecticut residents. The class, which is split almost evenly among men and women, has members representing 18 states in the nation; it also welcomes 18 students from outside of the country. The top majors identified by the newly-registered, full-time students are: Business, Technology, Education, Criminology, History, Psychology, English, Marketing, and Physical Education.





contents



Cover Story: A Conversation
with the New President of CCSU 3



Alumni Profile: Have Truck, Will Move 6



Sports: Ivy League Leader
Still Blue Devil at Heart. 10

departments

Happenings. 7-9
Class Notes 11-13
In Memoriam. 13

FROM US TO YOU What percentage of CCSU students should have an international experience? How high should the University's graduation rate be? Those of us on campus have had a chance to hear CCSU's new president, Dr. Jack Miller, address these and other important questions facing the University. But for those of you who have not had an opportunity to hear Dr. Miller first hand, we hope the interview featured in this edition of *Central Focus* will help you get to know him better.

This edition is filled with other interesting news, too. Be sure to read the profile of Dan Siracusa '79, who drives big trucks but is known for his even bigger heart. Peruse the story in Sports, which highlights the achievements of your fellow alumnus, Al Bagnoli '75. And browse the inside back cover, which lists upcoming events and describes an exciting tour of Ireland, the first trip the Alumni Association has sponsored in quite some time.

With the devastation wrought by the recent hurricanes, we hope all of our alumni, everywhere, are safe and secure. Events such as these remind us of our need to stay connected. We hope this magazine, and other programs sponsored by the Alumni Association, help you to stay in touch with each other and with the University.

The *Central Focus* Editorial Staff

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Jack Miller addresses alumni at reception

New Man On Campus:

CCSU Welcomes
President Jack Miller

Central Connecticut State University's 12th president, Dr. John W. Miller, arrived on campus last summer. A former chancellor and professor at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Miller, who prefers to be called "Jack," began his career in education in 1974 at Wichita State University, where he served for 12 years as a faculty member in teacher education and, ultimately, as associate dean. He subsequently held positions on the faculty and in the administration at Georgia Southern University and Florida State University. Miller recently sat down for an interview with *Central Focus* and shared his views on a variety of topics related to CCSU and higher education in general.

What attracted you to CCSU?

I am a firm believer in public regional comprehensive universities. I believe they are the margin for excellence in this country. Private institutions and doctoral extensive universities definitely have their place, but I believe that, in general, students who go to those institutions, if they don't go there, they will go somewhere else. If Harvard closes tomorrow, they will go to Yale; if Yale closes tomorrow, they will go to Princeton. The students who utilize that part of the system are going to get an education regardless, whereas in the regional comprehensives, we are often the difference between whether a person has an opportunity or doesn't; whether they earn a college degree or don't.

What can the CCSU community expect from you in the first year?

I am the new person. I don't think everything has to change around me. So a lot of it is my changing to fit Central. On the other hand, people should expect that they are going to have to change certain things to fit my way of doing things. It is a give-and-take. Not everything will be turned upside down the first day. And by the same token, some things will be turned upside down.

For a variety of reasons, we have many vacant, acting, and interim positions. You can't do business that way. So through the course of the first year, we will prioritize those positions, conduct searches for all those we determine need to be kept and, by the end of the first year, we will have a permanent staff in place. We will go out and seek the best people nationally.

We also need to begin to look at new academic programs, specifically, programs that help the economic development of Connecticut. A regional university has to remember that its first responsibility is to the state in which it is supported. So while we will always have people involved in international business development, our real goal is to help improve the economic climate of the state. But those efforts have to be balanced with our desire to liberally educate our students. So there are programmatic areas that will need to be expanded.

We'll also need to look at how we deploy our human resources. While we will continue to strive for additional resources, we will have to take a very careful look at how we are using our existing resources and how we can use those resources more efficiently.

What are your longer term goals?

The longer term goals, and the shorter terms goals, need to be defined in relatively rapid order, but not in advance by me. I can sit here and say, "I think we should do X and Y and Z," and I could give you examples. For example, we ought to have a higher percentage of students involved in an international experience. There are some private institutions in this country that require every student, in order to graduate, to be



Jack Miller speaking with (l-r) John Nowobilski '73 and his daughter, Mary-Kate, a student at CCSU, and Keith Hall '78 at alumni welcoming reception

involved in an overseas experience. But that goal is not realistic for a university where you've got students who are 35 years old and raising three children. So we really need to bring people onto campus—alumni and other interested stakeholders—and define our goals and say, “What is realistic?” Part of my job will be to push the agenda of examining where we want to improve ourselves. Another example is improving our graduation rate. How high should our graduation rate be? I've looked at the statistics and can say that, compared to national standards, this is an area that needs attention. But I need to learn why it is the way it is, and then we need to come together on methods of improvement. My just saying, “50 percent of our students need to have an international learning experience, or 72 percent of the people who come here as first-time, full-time freshmen should have a college degree six years later,” would be ridiculous. And even if they were the right goals, if no one believed in them but me, we're not going to get much done.

Where does CCSU's greatest potential lie? What is the untapped opportunity for the University?

I think we could become the alternative residential institution of choice for Connecticut. For those traditional undergraduate students who don't want to go to a large, research university or to a private college, who don't want to be taught most of their first-year courses by graduate assistants, and yet who want to live in a residential environment with full student services, athletics, and recreation...we could be that institution. That's half of it. The other half is that we could be the number one developer of human resources for the economy of Connecticut. Those two things, I think, are realistic and where our potential resides.

Does that involve changing the University's offerings or simply changing the perception of the University?

Well, you've got to have a good story *and* you have to tell it well. Both have to happen. If we want to be the residential institution alternative, then we need to have more residential students. You can't be viewed as the alternative and house only 1,200 students. We have to have more residential students and more facilities for them. Once we have a better story, then we have to do a better job of getting other people to see our vision and notice that we're accomplishing it.

What is one thing you want alumni to know about CCSU?

That we need their help to achieve a higher vision. If we're going to do a better job of telling the story, then they have to do a better job of telling the story. If we're going to have a better story, then they have to contribute and help us create a better story. It's their university. It isn't my university; I didn't go to school here. It doesn't belong to the people who work here now, no matter how committed we are. It belongs to the alumni and to the citizens of Connecticut, and if they want it to be better, then they have to help make it better. They have to contribute their emotional energy, their time, their financial resources to making it better. So we need their help and we want their help.



Barbara Miller at alumni welcoming reception

Do you think most alumni share that sense of responsibility?

Well, part of it is the nature of the beast. A lot of people have come to Central and gotten a degree here because Central was here and so were they. They lived down the street, they had to work full time, they needed to stay at home because they couldn't afford to live on campus...a whole bunch of things made them say, “I'm going to go to Central.” A lot came here because it's a great place to be.

But a lot came because it was convenient and it got them to where they wanted to go. So when they walk off the campus, they say, “I went there because it was available to me. I paid them, they gave me an education, and it was a fair deal. Do I owe them a contribution for the rest of my life? No.” Now, as life goes on, many of those people look at the world differently. They go out and become successful and do well financially and say, “If it hadn’t been for Central, I’d have gotten nowhere.” And there certainly are alumni who feel very indebted to the institution.

What is the biggest challenge facing higher education today?

For about the last 30 years, the percent of support for higher education that comes from the public has continued to decline, while the percent that the student pays has increased. When I first got involved in higher education, we used to think in terms of three dollars of public support for every one dollar of student-paid tuition. Today it is about half-and-half. That creates all kinds of new difficulties. For example, access and diversity are threatened. It also makes it difficult on financial aid. I think we can look nationally and see that there are declining numbers of minorities accessing higher education, and it has to do with declining public support. That’s probably the single biggest challenge, and it didn’t just happen. And it’s not even necessarily unreasonable. It’s just a different way of looking at things. If you tried to start charging ten percent of the cost of a sixth-grade education to the student’s family, people would say, “You expect me to pay ten percent of the cost of sending my sixth-grader to school? What are you, kidding?” On the other hand, people expect to pay some of the cost of a public college education. How much is appropriate?

What’s the solution?

You can work hard with the people in the state and say, “Do you think it is to our long-term benefit to have decreasing access to higher education for certain groups of people?” You can go to the alumni and say, “We need your help with scholarships for low-income, high-ability students to make sure they can access a Central education, because they’re not going to be able to do it on their own.” And it is to all of our benefit to help them, because that’s what grows the economy. And it is really to Central’s benefit to help people of need, because we’re educating the students who won’t be in the system if they don’t come to a regional comprehensive.

What is your stance on academic freedom?

I went through an experience with a very controversial speaker at my last institution. What I think about academic freedom is this: I am not afraid of people’s words. And I don’t think any of us should be. I don’t mean to imply that I think it’s good for people to be unkind to one another; I don’t see how that gets us anywhere. But I’m not worried that college students’ minds will be tainted by listening to somebody with what I would call

an abhorrent point of view. This sounds trite, but I really do believe that we all benefit from the exchange of different points of view, and I don’t think we are harmed by even the more radical ones. Where I have a problem is with those individuals who don’t think that someone else has the right to express an alternative point of view. Some people want to be able to say anything they please, but then if someone criticizes them, they get all worked up. I don’t think academic freedom is the right to say anything to anybody at any time in any way. Academic freedom is the protection of the context in which we can have a legitimate exchange of ideas, whether in our writing or in our personal interactions.

What do you do in your spare time?

From a physical standpoint, I like to play golf. I enjoy playing pick-up basketball. Recently, I have started swimming. My wife, Barbara, and I enjoy going to plays. And I like recreational reading. We travel some. But, to be honest, I have always really enjoyed my job. I have always had a job I loved, so I don’t feel the need to escape from it.



Eva (Bernstein) Black '25

Then and Now

Eva (Bernstein) Black '25 remembers a school very different from the one our new president oversees today. For one, her classes consisted of women only. The students wore bloomers to gym class. And financing her education was not a problem, since tuition was free.

Back then, the course of study at the New Britain State Normal School was a two-year program that focused on the humanities and teaching methods. Though it did not lead to a degree, Black was hired as a teacher at Kinsella School in Hartford, her hometown, after she graduated. She later moved to New Haven with her husband, Louis Black of the Associated Press, where she raised two children and served as a substitute during and after World War II.

According to the 98-year-old Black, the differences between then and now are tremendous. “Now the state colleges are real colleges,” she notes. “When I enrolled, I had another half-year of high school to complete. But I had accumulated a lot of extra credits, so my parents got a letter from my principal and took it up to New Britain. They read it, and I was accepted—which strikes me as so funny when the kids nowadays have to submit a million applications.” Indeed, times have changed.

Dan Siracusa surrounded by packing boxes for Button Up Connecticut project.



Stephen Dunn/The Hartford Courant

Have Truck, Will Move

Dan Siracusa '79 is living proof that, sometimes, the grass is greener in your own backyard. Having graduated from CCSU more than 25 years ago, Siracusa has found tremendous success within a square mile of the dormitory he lived in as a college student. Today, Siracusa is president of New Britain-based Siracusa Moving & Storage, the fifth largest Allied agent in the country and, valued at nearly \$40 million, one of the largest moving companies in Connecticut.

Siracusa is the quintessential self-made man. A New York native, he sold pocketbooks to help put himself through college. "I met a gentleman who owned a moving company, and he was buying a pocketbook for his wife. The next thing I knew, I was on his truck helping him in the morning before class. And I liked the business. I liked the physical aspect of it. I saw that if you had a customer relations side, you could really make something out of it. Because people want to do business with people they like."

After graduating, Siracusa bought a small pickup truck and started doing odd

moving jobs—"yard sales and auctions and some work for the City of New Britain." Little by little, he added another truck and another crew, and the company grew from there.

While his company expanded, so, too, did Siracusa's passion for being a good corporate citizen. "Our philosophy in doing business is to be very philanthropic," he says. To that end, he founded Button Up Connecticut, the largest coat drive in the nation. Another beneficiary is the St. Elizabeth's shelter in Hartford, which serves about 200 meals a day and for which Siracusa provides "about 65 percent of their budget." More recently, Siracusa donated the use of his trucks to transport food and supplies from the armory in Hartford to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. At a cost of \$1,800 per load and roughly 30 loads, that totaled about \$50,000 in donated services, not counting the company's cash contribution. Siracusa also has maintained close ties to CCSU. "The University did well by me," he says, "so we've done well by the University. They carried me and now I'll help carry them. That's how it works."

Always mindful of where he came from, Siracusa acknowledges that graduates today have it much harder than he did. "When I invested in this industry," he recalls, "I started with a broken down truck that I didn't know how to drive. I had to stop by the side of the road and ask somebody to help me shift. It was done with a minimal investment—maybe six to eight thousand bucks. Today, with the compliance regulations and fiscal requirements, the entry level is hundreds of thousands of dollars. So it is prohibitive unless you have money or are willing to go into debt. I never had any debt."

The same is true, he says, when it comes to jobs. "I tell college kids that organizations are looking for leadership, and leadership is made up of initiative and energy. Those who dedicate themselves to their life's work are the ones who are going to make it. It's not going to be handed to them. Competition for jobs has become world competition. When my company posts a job on the Internet, we get resumés from London and Australia. Everybody is going after the same job." Even so, he believes, "there is still a lot of opportunity. There are a lot of things that have not been conquered or invented."

Never one to settle for the status quo, Siracusa is building a new corporate facility on South Street, not far from his current location. And with CCSU just up the street, he sometimes feels "like the kid who never left home." But, he says, "it's not where you go to college, it's what you do while you're there. It's making the best out of where you're at."

"I've lived the American dream," he continues. "I never take for granted what God has given me. I strongly believe that if you do the right thing by people, it comes back to you tenfold."



Scott Pioli '88 pictured with friends and teammates at CCSU Alumni Association Athletic Hall of Fame induction



(l-r) Winthrop Ballard '40 and Francis Franklin '40 celebrate 65th anniversary of graduation on Alumni Day



Grace (Parejko) Peiffer '89 and Mark Zenick '92 at Fairfield alumni party



Equal Opportunity Program alumni caught up with each other at a reception on May 5, 2005.



Brian Mattiello '88 (rear), Young Alumni Service Award recipient, with family members at awards luncheon on Alumni Day



(l-r) Joe Proffitt '79 and Joe Wolf '99 at Fairfield alumni party



(l-r) Albertha Murrell '97, Andy Kish '51 and Therese Kish at Fairfield alumni party

CCSU Alumni Awards Weekend

Athletic Hall of Fame Induction

The CCSU Alumni Association inducted three new members into the Athletic Hall of Fame and presented the Kaiser Award on May 13, 2005.

Thomas M. Cieslowski '74 was an All-America hammer thrower and former CCSU record holder in the shot put. He recently completed his tenth season as assistant coach, track & field at CCSU. **Scott R. Pioli '88** was a three-year starter at defensive tackle, had three consecutive seasons on the Associated Press All-New England team, and was the Blue Devils' defensive MVP in 1985. He is vice president for player personnel for the New England Patriots. **Mark J. Salge '80** was the Most Outstanding Wrestler in five in-season tournaments as a senior and counted over 100 wins during his CCSU career. He was twice selected All-America. He coaches wrestling at North Brunswick Township High School, where he is an industrial technology teacher.

L. Edward Vescovi '84 earned the Harrison J. Kaiser Alumni Service Award. Vescovi was a starting short-stop and two-time baseball captain while earning a degree in marketing at CCSU. He founded Fidelity Mortgage Services, Inc., a mortgage banking firm, and The Old School,

LLC, a real estate investment company. An active participant in community service projects, Vescovi established a scholarship for an inner city high school in New Haven, CT. His annual golf outing benefits the CCSU Baseball Team and the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

Alumni Service Awards Presented

The Distinguished Alumni Service Award and Young Alumni Service Award were presented on May 14, 2005 at the CCSU Alumni Day Luncheon.

The recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Service Award, **Dr. Bruce Anderson '65, MS '67** has enjoyed an outstanding career in education and philanthropy. He began his teaching career as an instructor at CCSC and later joined the faculty of Old Dominion University, where he earned the rank of tenured professor and served as chair of the educational leadership department. Anderson joined the Danforth Foundation as vice president for national programs for federal judges, state legislators, school board members, superintendents, and principals, and professors of educational administration. He was president of Danforth Foundation when he retired in January 2005.



Distinguished Alumni Service awardee Dr. Bruce Anderson '65, MS '67 and Young Alumni Service Award recipient Brian Mattiello '88

Brian Mattiello '88 was honored with the Young Alumni Service Award for his work on behalf of the University, as president of the CCSU Alumni Association. He has held elective and appointive offices in Connecticut: As 65th District State Representative, he focused on education and human services and played a major role in negotiating the state's 1995 welfare reform measures. Mattiello is currently Chief of Staff to the Department of Children and Families.



Athletic Hall of Fame inductees and Kaiser Award recipient (l-r) Mark J. Salge '80, Thomas M. Cieslowski '74, Scott R. Pioli '88, L. Edward Vescovi '84

Call for Nominations for

CCSU Alumni Association Awards

Athletic Hall of Fame

•
Kaiser Alumni Service Award

•
Distinguished Alumni Service Award

•
Young Alumni Service Award

Log on to www.ccsu.edu/alumni, and click on awards and forms, for criteria and to obtain a nomination form, or contact the Alumni Office for more information.

**Nominations are due by
December 1, 2005.**



Jack Miller with Bill Rowland

Rowland-Reflexite Technology Establishes Scholarship

Hugh and Bill Rowland revolutionized the reflective material industry with innovative technologies that are used to manufacture hundreds of products ranging from roadway construction signs to reflective stickers for clothing and backpacks. In their business, Reflexite Corporation, the brothers fostered a sense of ownership and community among their employees, who exhibit genuine care and interest in the success of the company while, at the same time, becoming actual shareholders through an award-winning employee stock ownership plan.

The company has now directed that creative, generous impulse toward CCSU by establishing a scholarship fund that will benefit Central students. The family of Bill Rowland and Reflexite Corporation will provide \$10,000 annually for five years, beginning in 2005, for the purpose of awarding two \$5,000 scholarships to students in the School of Technology. Eligible students will include those majoring in Computer Electronics and Graphics Technology, Engineering Technology, or Manufacturing and Construction Management. Reflexite will also offer an opportunity for the scholarship recipients to seek part-time and/or summer employment at one of their locations.

The scholarship was announced during a recent ceremony to honor Bill Rowland at Reflexite Technology Center in Avon, CT, during which a sculpture, "Brilliant Corners," which represents the biological/chemical foundation of their technology, was unveiled. CCSU President Jack Miller was present to accept the scholarship.

Distinguished Educational Leaders

The Department of Educational Leadership, along with the CCSU Alumni Association, honored five distinguished educational leaders from Connecticut at a networking reception on April 19, 2005. Honorees included: **Sally Biggs MS '89, 6th Year '95**, associate principal, South Windsor High School, Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) 2004 High School Assistant Principal of the Year; **Helen Byus, 6th Year '82**, assistant principal, Roaring Brook Elementary School, Avon, CT, CAS 2003 Elementary School Assistant Principal of the Year; **Joseph Castagnola EdD '05**, superintendent, New Fairfield Schools, Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, Inc. (CAPSS) 2005 Superintendent of the Year; **Jeff Kitching, Certification '91**, assistant superintendent, Glastonbury School District, 2001 William Cieslukowski Outstanding First Year Elementary Principal of the Year; and **Louis Pear '71, MS '76**, principal, Stevens Elementary School, Rocky Hill, CAS 2003 Elementary School Principal of the Year.



Distinguished educational leaders with faculty of the School of Education (l-r) Dr. Bethany Silver, Dr. Carol Carter-Lowery, Jeff Kitching '91, Dr. Mitchell Sakofs, Joseph Castagnola, Dr. Anthony Rigazio-Digilio, Sally Biggs MS '89, 6th Yr '95, Dr. Judith Faryniarz, Dr. Ellen Whitford, Dr. Olusegun Sogunro, Louis Pear '71, MS '76, Dr. Karen Beyard, Helen Byus 6th Yr '82

CCSU Alumni Association Scholarship

Is your child, or grandchild, currently attending CCSU? He or she might be eligible for a CCSU Alumni Association Scholarship!

- A matriculated undergraduate student with 54 hours of earned academic credit and a 3.0 cumulative grade point average
- Demonstrated qualities of leadership, service and academic achievement

For more information and application log onto
www.ccsu.edu/instiadv/scholarships

Ivy League Leader Still a Blue Devil at Heart

Thirty years and three coaching stops later, Al Bagnoli's memories of his first football practice at CCSU are still as vivid as a bee sting. "I just couldn't get over how big everybody was and how good," says the head coach of the University of Pennsylvania Quakers.

Bagnoli came out of a strong East Haven (CT) High program with a "star" label and serious academic credentials. "But Central," as he points out, "was one of the pre-eminent Division II programs in the country, and that meant undersized defensive backs like me didn't get to play very much."

What he did get to do was use his keen intellect to learn everything he could about the game and the best ways to motivate and challenge players.

Now one of the most admired coaches in the nation, Bagnoli is a virtual lock to make the Coaching Hall of Fame one day. He already has been inducted into the Union College Athletic Hall of Fame for turning what had been a moribund Division III program into a national power in the 80s, and he has begun his 14th season at Penn, where his Quakers have been nothing short of dominant, particularly over the last five or six seasons. Penn has captured six Ivy League champi-



Al Bagnoli '75, University of Pennsylvania head coach

onships under the 1975 CCSU grad, including two of the last three and four of the last seven. The Quakers fell just one game short of making it three straight in 2004.

His official bio on Penn's website points out that the former CCSU "benchwarmer" owns 183 collegiate victories counting the time he spent in Schenectady, and his 97 wins at Penn place him second all-time in the program's 128-year history.

Bagnoli's biography also notes he's just the 12th Ivy League head coach to post 80 conference wins. Ten of the previous 11 Ivy League head coaches to win 80 games have been elected to the College Football Hall of Fame. He's also the only coach ever to post back-to-back perfect seasons in

America's oldest Conference. Not Amos Alonzo Stagg, not Carm Cozza or Bob Casciola, but only Al Bagnoli.

Genuinely modest and given to self-deprecating humor, Bagnoli says the secret to his success has been surrounding himself with top-flight assistants and "the wonderful kids who go to this school." He feels the same was true of his time at CCSU. Bill Loika's teams were 23-5 in the three years Bagnoli played. "Coach Loika was old school, really tough, no question about that. But he had Bob Trishka, Don Mendence, George Redman and others as a counterbalance. I've been fortunate to have great assistants, too, and it makes all the difference in the world."

Bagnoli's world revolves around football and family, although not necessarily in that order. He and his wife, Maryellen, have three children. Their sons, Jeff and Greg are both Penn grads. Their daughter, Amanda, is a sophomore and a member of the Penn cheerleading squad.

He also roots for the Blue Devils. "I follow the team as closely as I can, and I know Tom Masella, who's an old friend, is doing a great job. You always want to see the teams you've been associated with do well," he says. "I'm proud of the fact that the winning tradition has continued at Union, too."

Bagnoli's Quakers were picked to finish atop the Ivy League again this year in several pre-season polls. They were unbeaten in the league at presstime.

36 Ruth (Perkins) Gibson and her husband, John Gibson, will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on a Hawaiian cruise in December.

50 James B. Fortuna is enjoying retirement after 34 years in the business department, and as football coach, at the Gilbert School in Winsted, CT.

51 Virginia (Dirienzo) Ferrari is a broker/appraiser for Prudential Connecticut Realty in Westport, CT.

52 Maureen (Markham) Guttman divides her time between the River Club in Jensen Beach, FL, for which she is editor of the monthly newsletter, and her home in Northport, Long Island. There she continues her affiliation with the United Teachers of Northport (retired) and assists with publications. **Dr. Edward VanDuzer** is retired from SUNY at Brockport, NY and enjoying his newest grandchild, the 20th. He and his wife, Joan, have seven children.

57 Richard C. Lewis and wife, **Nancy (Crouch) Lewis '59**, have published two chapbooks of light verse, *A Packet Full of Wry* and *Wry on the Rocks*. Richard writes a column in verse in a local weekly newspaper, the *Whatcom Independent*. They live in Bellingham, WA.

64 Jean (Fantasia) Rustico MS '71 is listed in the 2005 edition of *Who's Who Among American Teachers*. She is presently a 2nd grade teacher at Walter Derynoski Elementary School in Southington, CT.

65 Richard J. Balducci was elected partner at Doyle, D'Amore & Balducci in Hartford, CT. **Sharon G. Orloski** retired from teaching biology at Bridgeport Central High School's magnet program and is now scoring portfolios for Connecticut's BEST certification and participates on the CAPT advisory science committee.

66 Frances E. D'Angelo is "retired and loving it!!"

68 Elaine (Savage) Greenlaw-Lampe MS '75 retired after teaching kindergarten and 1st grade in Connecticut for 37 years. Elaine is also a travel agent specializing in trips and cruises for teachers. **Peter M. Rosa MS '74** has joined the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving as a program officer.

69 Wesley R. Vasko MS '75 has retired after serving 36 years with Windsor, CT Public Schools in a variety of positions, including graphic arts teacher, chairman of the industrial arts department, vice principal, vocational education director, and coordinator of the recently completed high school renovation.

71 Jeanne Marie Benoit, a 30-year veteran of the classroom and recipient of numerous honors and recognitions, including Putnam, CT Teacher of the Year and an entry in *Who's Who of American Teachers*, was named Connecticut's U. S. History Teacher of the Year in November 2004.

72 Joyce (Pellegrino) Pettinicchi is a plan administrator with Health Net of the Northeast, Inc. in Shelton, CT.

73 The Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants recently appointed **Richard J. Dumont**, CPA of Middlebury chair of its Relations with Colleges & Universities Committee for 2005-06. Richard is a professor of accounting at Post University in Waterbury, CT. **Paul R. Rizzo** is an account executive at Lee Wayne Corporation, and was president of the Rotary Club of Forked River, NJ for 2003-04.

75 Angelo J. Messina has been named CFO for Otis Elevator, a division of United Technologies Corporation. Angelo, who holds a master's degree from MIT and a law degree from UCONN, began his career at UTC in 1983 and has held executive positions at Carrier Corporation, UTC, and Pratt & Whitney. Prior to joining UTC he held finance positions at Price Waterhouse and Gerber Scientific. Angelo is a member of the Connecticut State University Board of Trustees.

76 Carlos P. Artiles, MD is director of MRI at Inova Alexandria Hospital in Alexandria, VA and a partner in the Association of Alexandria Radiologists. **Ileana Cintron (MS)** is a professor in office systems at the University of Puerto Rico at Bayamon. She was selected Educator of the Year by the Eastern Business Education Association in 2003 and is the author of *Tecnicas para Adiestrar*, a textbook on training techniques used in various spanish-speaking universities.

77 Joseph V. Erardi, Jr. MS '86 is the new superintendent for Watertown Public Schools. He was an educator and administrator in Manchester schools for 15 years, and principal of Killingly High School and Rockville High School and, most recently, superintendent of Bolton Public Schools. He was recognized as one of 36 outstanding educators in the country by the American Teacher Awards in 1991. **Timothy R. Gilmore** is assistant director of enrollment at Goodwin College in East Hartford, CT.

78 Donald P. Hensler has been accepted to a masters in history degree program at Trinity College in Hartford, CT.

79 Sandra (Swenson) Kempself retired after a 20-year career in the computer and networking industry and, for the last six years, has spent winters cruising in Mexico and the Caribbean and summers back in the U.S. **Joseph W. Proffitt** is assistant vice president, public entity division, of GENESIS in Stamford, CT.

Marriages

Louis H. Muratore '95 and Amy Lynn Bandzes 6/26/04

Christine C. Vollhardt '99 and David G. Parsons 8/18/04

Jessica L. Rosol '03 and James P. Covaleski 6/3/05

80 Mari (Orlando) Kaszuba is the owner of Tranquility Mind & Body Wellness Spa in Milford, CT. **Loraine (Pfaff) Seder** completed a Certificate in Organizational Communications at Fairfield University and is pursuing a masters degree. She is a real estate specialist at Cendant Mobility.

81 Stephen R. Addazio began a new position as an assistant coach, tight ends at the University of Florida in April. His coaching career includes stints at WCSU, Cheshire, CT High School, Syracuse, Notre Dame and, most recently, Indiana University. Steve and wife, **Kathleen (Donoghue) Addazio '81**, and their three children will soon be at home in sunny Gainesville, FL.

82 Marcia (Kalinowski) Silva MS '95, forensic fraud examiner for the Office of the Attorney General, State of Connecticut, is a recipient of a United States Attorney's Award in recognition of superior efforts in the investigation and prosecution of a significant case.



(l-r) Scott Pioli '88 and Frank Leonard '82 display Super Bowl rings received as a result of New England Patriots third Super Bowl championship.

83 Carrie (Friedman) Haggart is the founder of Out to Pasture Farm & Rescue, Inc., an animal rescue, rehabilitation, and hospice facility for animals in need. **Karen A. Iby-Patricia** started her own business, IBY Communications Services, also called ICS Strategic Communications and Marketing Planning, in Apalachin, NY. **Anthony J. Switajewski, CPA**, tax manager for Blum Shapiro in West Hartford, was honored by the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants (CSCPA) with its 2005 Committee Member of the Year award in honor of his technical expertise and energy demonstrated as a member of the CSCPA State Taxation Committee. He will chair the State Taxation Committee for the 2005-2006 activity year.

86 Ronald R. Stepanek has been named PGA Senior Manager of Player Development for the Professional Golf Association of America located at headquarters in Palm Beach Gardens, FL.

87 Judith (Wheeler) Baker is product manager for Accu-Med Services LLC in Anacortes, WA.

88 Lynn M. Esposti MS '95, a band conductor for Cheshire Public Schools, was recognized by the New Haven, CT Symphony Orchestra for excellence in music education.

89 Todd A. McElwee is vice president of Residential Finance Network, a mortgage brokerage, in Fairfield, CT.

Grace (Parejko) Peiffer is a senior recruiter of accounting and financial personnel for Associates of Westport. **Louise DeChesser, RN, CNOR** has joined Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center as nursing director for surgical services. In her new position she will be in charge of operating rooms, peri-operative areas, and the day hospital. **Lisa (Sargent) DeFreitas** has obtained the Project Management Professional (PMP) designation. Lisa is a project manager at Aetna, Inc. in Middletown, CT. **John P. Walsh** is a producer for Full Sail Real World Education, whose degree programs include computer animation, digital media, entertainment business, film, game design and development, recording arts, and show production and touring.

91 Fern K. Cohen (MS, 6th Yr '01), who, for 20 years has taught music to Newington, CT children, was recognized by the New Haven, CT Symphony Orchestra with a reward for excellence in music education. **Susan J. Slaga** is now a reference librarian at Elihu Burritt Library at CCSU. She lives in Cromwell, CT.

92 Mark L. Zenick is manager of business development for the Worx Group in Prospect, CT.

93 Richard Fattibene purchased and refurbished a hydro-electric plant on the Pootatuck River in Sandy Hook, CT. Sandy Hook Hydro LLC

started selling power to CL&P in April 2005 and can power about 70 single family homes.

94 Morris H. Mendez, a natural bodybuilder, recently won the professional division of the Super Body Championships in South Beach, Miami, representing Hartford, CT, and will be competing in China in September and in Hollywood in November in a Musclemania World contest. He works in behavioral therapy at Cedarcrest Hospital in Newington, CT. **Les Owen** is a supervisory attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice, Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York City.

95 Paul E. Kleinkauf is vice president of Merrill Corporation in Atlanta, GA. He is currently enrolled in a Technology and Human Resource Development graduate program at Clemson University. **Dr. Kelly E. Moulton** has relocated back to the east coast since finishing her pediatric residency in Detroit, MI, to start a fellowship in Neonatology at SUNY Stony Brook Hospital and Health Sciences Center.

96 Michelle (Litwin) Johnson is a senior staffing consultant at The Hartford in Simsbury, CT. **Patrick B. McMahon** is owner and operator of Dog Star Marine Electronics, LLC in Portsmouth, NH and "...can eat my weight in ballpark nachos!" **Timothy J. Mello** graduated from Yale University School of Medicine Physician Associate Program and has been practicing as a PA since 1999, most recently in Springfield, VT.

New Arrivals (Births/Adoptions)

Judith (Wheeler) Baker '87 and Craig C. Baker: a son, Marley James

Robert S. Dubiel '91 and Aline Dubiel: a daughter, Ella

Jonathan G. Daigle '85 and Patricia Reynolds: a son, Michael Patrick

Kristen (Gregor) Durham '94 and Jonathan S. Durham: a daughter, Cadence Carol

Jennifer (Powers) Dimech '95 and Michael L. Dimech: a son, Matthew

Amy (Slaga) Appell '95 and **Brian D. Appell '96**: a daughter, Ella Rose

Michelle (Litwin) Johnson '96 and Laird Johnson: a son, Tyler Christopher

Cara (Zembrzuski) Foley '97 and **Thomas J. Foley '98**: a daughter, Katherine Ann

Erin (Morgan) Gerstbrein '98 and **Kevin C. Gerstbrein '98**: a son, Brendan

Christine (Vollhardt) Parsons '99 and David G. Parsons: a son, Andrew

Amanda (Brodeur) Lintzner '00 and Steven Lintzner: a son, Andrew Steven

Michelle (Bartholomew) Kehaya '01 and David Kehaya: a daughter, Elise Michelle

97 Tyrone Banks has published his second book, *Ayinde: They Gave Praise and He Came*. He and wife, **Nyidian (Cruz) Banks '97**, and their two children live in West Hartford, CT. **Florin I. Firimita MS '05** is a visual artist and author whose art is the subject of a film, *The Art of Leaving*. He teaches art at Pomperaug, CT High School and is the recipient of several painting and writing awards. **Albertha J. Murrell** is campus director at Gibbs College in Norwalk, CT.

98 Tanya (Diggins) Kory is director of operations for ProFitness Health Solutions in Shelton, CT.

99 Dr. Daniel J. Cszasz was awarded the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. **Christine (Vollhardt) Parsons** is a 3rd grade teacher for Bridgeport, CT Public Schools. **Joseph A. Wolf** is a certified public accountant with the firm of McGladrey & Pullen in New Haven, CT.

00 Angela (Tessitore) Gentile is a wedding coordinator at the Paris Las Vegas Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, NV. She got married on 4/29/05. **Amanda (Brodeur) Lintner** is a 5th grade teacher at Frisbie Elementary School in Wolcott, CT.

01 Sharon K. Grubb is working on her helicopter flight instructor ratings at Guidance Helicopters, Inc. in Prescott, AZ. **Andrea S. Lazaroski** (6th Yr '01) was named principal of Clover Street Elementary School in Windsor, CT.

02 Dr. Kacie A. Breault graduated from Pennsylvania College of Optometry with a doctorate in optometry. **Adam W. Lansing** is a sales representative for Dichello Distributors, Inc. in Orange, CT. **Paul A. Lusitani** was promoted to assistant project engineer III at Clough Harbour & Associates LLP in Hartford, CT. **Danielle Owdienko** is a physical education and health teacher, and coaches girls modified lacrosse, at Canandaigua Middle School in Canandaigua, NY. She is also

an assistant coach for the University of Rochester women's basketball team. **Christine (Distasio) Wiesner** relocated to Enterprise, AL where husband, Jeffrey, is attending flight school at Fort Rucker. Christine has applied to a graduate program in counseling at Troy State University.

04 Edward A. Ramsdell, command sergeant major in the US Army with the 301st Area Support Group, is currently deployed in Iraq.

— Campus Obituaries —

Nancy D. Dobreski, administrative assistant to the dean of the School of Technology, passed away on July 23, 2005. A native of Bristol, CT, and a graduate of Briarwood College, she joined the University in 1985.

Gertrude Wilson Marsh, assistant professor of art, emerita, died on March 15, 2005 at the age of 88. She was an art educator in the Hartford and West Hartford school systems as well as at CCSU. She was a graduate of Pratt Institute and Alfred University.

In Memoriam

1927 Anna Mae Sorensen 6/11/03	1945 Elizabeth Hamich Clark 6/17/05	1964 Patricia M. Gaj 4/29/05 Richard J. Gorlewski 6/22/05 Speridon A. Leppones 7/21/05	1974 Raymond J. Cosgrove 12/29/02
1931 Elizabeth Corbly Farrell 3/19/96	1951 Edward P. Goodrow 6/17/05 Mary F. Perretta 2/24/05	1965 Rosalind Duesler Wallace 4/15/00	1975 Wayne G. Rydecki 7/16/05
1936 Alberta L. Heise 4/30/05	1952 Sophie Jaffe Banasiak 5/26/05	1966 Joseph H. Batogowski 5/12/05 Maurice J. Primeau 6/8/05	1976 Avak J. Y. Assadourian 3/6/05 Miriam Griffin Macfarlane 7/9/05
1937 Josephine Higgins Bill 4/3/05 Veronica Shea Fitzpatrick 7/22/05	1954 Edwin R. Spring 5/15/05	1968 Peter N. Baccaro 2/24/05 Stephen R. Sanada 7/17/05	1978 Kevin M. Benoit 6/7/01
1938 Regina Truskoski Callahan 1/9/99 Walter M. Johnson 6/3/05	1955 Aletta Strauss Cianciolo 6/4/05 Sylvia Jurgenson Easterbrook 3/10/05 Edward J. Owskiak 6/26/05	1969 Maureen Hicks Moran 5/2/05	1979 Gladys M. Jones 7/17/05 Carol Ann Smith McDonald 6/29/05
1940 Bessie Friedman Kaufman 1/17/04	1956 Carole Morin Coratola 5/1/05 Helen Clarke Devin 12/6/04	1970 Kathleen Kennedy Boyle 3/6/05 Melvin L. Gahr 4/28/05 Harold R. Larsen 5/7/05	1980 Tom E. Harlan 5/29/05
1941 Mildred Quaile Barry 6/4/04	1957 James G. Doyle 5/25/05	1971 Ida Kamins Jacoby 7/5/05	1982 Patricia Mummery Profit 5/29/05
1942 Richard H. Booth 1/22/01 Edward F. Donahue 7/22/05	1960 Phyllis Avery Beres 6/26/05	1973 Anthony P. Parise, Jr. 6/16/05 David J. Brady III 7/9/05	1986 Joseph D. Mazzotta, Jr. 4/12/03
1943 Gertrude Hannan Esposti 4/5/05 Barbara Burdick Groth 7/24/05 Robert H. Lindauer, Sr. 5/8/05	1962 Shelby L. Peck 9/1/04		1990 Ronald E. Brooks 4/25/05
			2002 Michelle I. Nichols 7/17/05

CCSU TRAVEL 2006

CCSU Alumni Association Announces a one-of-a-kind Travel Seminar to

Ireland

Departing on **July 13, 2006**, the eleven-day deluxe tour will include Dublin, Waterford (home of the famous crystal), Blarney Castle and the Blarney stone, the ring of Kerry and Killarney, the Aran Islands, Galway, and many other unique, yet rarely seen, parts of Ireland. Dr. Richard Benfield, associate professor of geography, who has done extensive research in Ireland while a student in the UK, and who now teaches Regional Geography and European Union at CCSU, will lead our group, providing lectures, interesting guided discovery walks, and his own unique appreciation of Irish culture and economy.

Contact the Office of Alumni Affairs to receive an information packet and reserve a place:

Phone: **(860) 832-1740**
E-mail: **alumnidept@ccsu.edu**



Read Across America Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mark your calendar for NEA's Read Across America Day, Thursday, March 2, 2006. Once again we invite alumni to participate in the initiative sponsored by the CCSU Alumni Association to help the NEA promote the joy and importance of reading. Last year, more than 450 CCSU alumni readers, including teachers, parents and grandparents, volunteered for this project, and some 50,000 children

received a commemorative bookmark from the Alumni Association to mark their participation.

Information packets will be mailed to the principals of every elementary and middle school in Connecticut, and CCSU alumni teachers may obtain information from them. Please contact the Alumni Office if you are a CCSU graduate volunteer reader who wishes to participate. The CCSU Alumni Association will supply bookmarks for schools where alumni take part in Read Across America activities. Details also are available on the web at www.ccsu.edu/alumni/events, by e-mail at alumnidept@ccsu.edu, or by phone at **(860) 832-1740**.

CCSU Alumni Association-Sponsored

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hoop Group Lunch Series w/Coach Howie Dickenman

Tuesday – Nov 15th
Tuesday – Dec 13th
Tuesday – Jan 10th
Tuesday – Feb 14th
Final Hoop Group Lunch – TBA

Angelico's Café
542 East Main Street
New Britain, CT

Basketball Halftime Alumni Receptions

Check the website for dates/times
www.ccsu.edu/alumni/events

CCSU Alumni & Friends Florida Reunion

Sunday, February 26, 2006
3:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Dwyer's Pub & Restaurant
Fort Myers, FL

Read Across America

Thursday, March 2, 2006

CCSU Alumni Association Awards Weekend

Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet
Friday, April 28, 2006

Alumni Day

Saturday, April 29, 2006

CCSU Alumni Travel Seminar

Ireland
July 13 – 23, 2006

Stay [In] Touch!

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New Britain, CT 06050

e-mail: alumnidept@ccsu.edu

phone: (860) 832-1740

fax: (860) 832-2585



Forrest Wilson '93 and Bryn Dodge Wilson

Forrest Wilson '93:

Pilot, Marathoner, Retirement Professional, Annual Fund Supporter

Forrest Wilson has always been a man on the move. While a marketing major at Central, he was a member of the golf team and served as president of his residence hall. While working for Aetna after graduation, he ran marathons when he wasn't traveling to Boston or New York on business. While at Fidelity Investments in New York, he worked on his MBA at night and, in his spare time, earned his pilot's license and volunteered for a non-profit organization that transports medical patients who can't afford airline tickets. Last year, Wilson took a new job with his old employer, ING, and relocated to Raleigh, NC, where he manages five offices and a staff of twenty in the region that stretches from North Carolina to Florida. Amid this hectic schedule, he and his wife, Bryn, an attorney, look forward to the arrival of their first child in March.

This success-oriented graduate has a tremendous enthusiasm for life as well as for the university that helped him get his start. "CCSU is where it all began for me," Wilson says. "I built many skills while on

campus, and I took advantage of many opportunities." One such opportunity was serving as president of Robert Vance Hall. "I was nervous when I had to chair my first dorm meeting. But over the course of that year, I became more comfortable with leading meetings and presenting to groups—skills that I use all the time today." In addition, Wilson notes that "CCSU's co-op program gave me the opportunity to intern at Aetna, where I went to work for five years. Today, I find myself back at the same company, now ING." His experience on the golf team, he says, taught him "about discipline, preparation, and the importance of being strong mentally." For these reasons, and many others, Wilson supports the CCSU Annual Fund each year. "As with any school, you have to go out and make it happen, but at CCSU there are many possibilities. I hope that current and future students have as much fun and as many opportunities and learning experiences as I had. And I hope other alumni will join me in supporting Central to help make this possible."



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