

# THE RECORDER

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## Toro: Sexual Misconduct Reports ‘Not The End Of Conversation’



CCSU President Dr. Zulma Toro addressed a crowd of over 100 about the sexual misconduct findings that were released last week.

JULIA JADE MORAN | STAFF

**BY SARAH WILLSON**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Just over 24 hours after the sexual misconduct findings against theater professors Joshua Perlstein and Thomas Delventhal were released, Central Connecticut President Dr. Zulma Toro held an open forum to discuss the future of the university.

The reports by the CCSU-led Task Force and law firm Shipman and Goodwin were released last Tuesday after a nine-month-long investigation that contained thousands of documents, emails, text messages and conducted interviews with dozens of faculty, staff and current and former students.

The reports stated that there was significant evidence Perlstein was

untruthful about having a sexual relationship with a student for an “extended period of time.” The report also said he had a “history of questionable interactions with female students” and was “involved in sexual misconduct with one or more students.”

“It was not easy for me to read those reports,” Dr. Toro said in front of over 100 students and faculty in a packed Memorial Hall. “But I have to tell you that I am convinced now more than ever that we are going to emerge from these situations stronger than before.”

Dr. Toro opened the forum by explaining the steps CCSU will take to “rebuild” the university.

Some changes include the regenerating of both the Office of Diversity and Equity as well as Human Resources. In order to accomplish that, Dr. Toro said

she has been talking with “experts across the nation” to seek their best advice as to what is the best path forward.

As of now, Diversity Associate Sarah Dodd will oversee the Office of Diversity and Equity, who lost its Chief Diversity Officer after Dr. Toro received the report findings.

Along with that, Dr. Toro said she has also directed Chief Administrative Officer George Claffey to start the process of identifying an “institution-wide” reporting monitoring and tracking system that will facilitate all complaints in a single place. That system will be used by the Office of Diversity and Equity, Human Resources and Student Conduct.

Though the reports may have been released over a week ago, one of senior theater major Erin Sagnelli’s concerns was as to

how Dr. Toro will support the theater department in the face of criticism.

“I’m going to support the theater department,” Dr. Toro responded. “The show must go on.”

Dr. Toro also said that the university will send out press releases to keep students updated, adding that students in the department will have the opportunity to purchase large advertisements for each production. Dr. Toro also said CCSU is pursuing a partnership with Hartford Stage.

Alongside this, Dr. Toro also said that she will be hiring two tenured faculty members to ensure that classes and productions resume as normal.

Most students appeared to not be shocked by Perlstein’s dismissal, noting him as often “creepy,” but some students, like Jessica MacLean, said they were “shocked” to learn of Deleventhal’s dismissal.

MacLean said that Delventhal was like a “father figure” and that she was looking forward to taking classes with him for the spring semester.

Like those at the forum, Dr. Toro said she is aiming to move forward to create an open and honest conversation about sexual misconduct.

“This is not the end of the conversation. This is only the beginning,” Dr. Toro said. “No matter how much I work, no matter how much I do as president, I cannot change the culture by myself. I need all of you to join me in achieving that goal.”

## SGA Responds To Campus Sexual Misconduct Report

**BY KRISTINA VAKHMAN**  
NEWS EDITOR

Following President Dr. Zulma Toro’s confirmation that two Central Connecticut theater professors were being dismissed for “[repeated] sexual misconduct and inappropriate behavior with several students,” CCSU’s Student Government Association will take its own steps in upholding campus safety.

“[We need to] make sure that our campus is moving forward and that we’re a more structured, open and helpful community to our students,” SGA President Cassandra Fruin told senators at last week’s meeting.

The SGA introduced “mandatory bystander trainings” in 2017, which required club executive boards to participate or risk losing funding, per the bylaws. The trainings are run by the Office of Diversity and Equity and is aimed at teaching students how to safely intervene in instances of, among others, sexual violence.

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## WFCS HOSTS BLUE DEVIL LIP SYNC BATTLE



Central’s radio station, WFCS, kick started the first Devils Den @ 10 p.m. of the spring semester with a lip sync competiton. Students challenged others in this daring face-off.

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## MCCARTHY REPLACES ROSSOMANDO



Offensive coordinator Ryan McCarthy will take over as interim head football coach for Pete Rossomando, who took the offensive line job at Rutgers.

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## Martin Luther King Jr. Honored At CCSU Breakfast

**BY KEYAN YOPP**  
STAFF WRITER

A room of over 100 filled Alumni Hall as Central Connecticut held its second annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast last Friday, hosted by professor of philosophy and former dean of students Dr. Felton Best.

Keynote speaker Ariva Walker, a public policy specialist at Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, also made the trip to honor King.

Prior to Walker speaking, there was a musical performance by Shane Davis, who finished third on BET’s “Sunday’s Best,” which is a competition amongst some of the nation’s best gospel singers. Additionally, Connecticut

State Colleges and Universities President Mark Ojikian gave a speech, describing the importance of focusing on King’s values and ideals and saying that the United States is farther from equality, justice and advocacy today than two years ago.

“I don’t know what it’s like to be African-American in the world, I don’t know what’s it’s like to be a woman in the world, But I know what it’s like to be a gay man,” Ojikian said.

Ojikian also announced that Ebenezer Bassett, who was the first African-American to graduate from CCSU in 1853, will now have his own building named after him on campus.

Walker, who is from neighboring Hartford, then described King’s legacy,

touching upon how the African-American women he surrounded himself with not only helped him with the Civil Rights Movement, but also by birthing a generation of strong independent woman.

Walker stated that King’s wife, Coretta Scott, was not only his wife but his strategist, confidant and one of the movements’ key fundraisers. She explained that Scott was the architect of the Kings’ legacy and that she had been “holding the glue to the fabric.”

Walker went into great detail about how those characteristics trickled into her family who grew up in the South, helping shape her into the person she is today. As a child, Walker said she had a little “mouth” on her; it would get her in trouble with teachers and her mother.

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‘Recovery Is Not Owned, It’s Rented’

BY KRISTINA VAKHMAN  
NEWS EDITOR

Drugs kill. More than 70,000 Americans lost their lives to fatal overdoses in 2017, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Connecticut contributes highly to nationwide deaths yearly, the state’s Office of the State Medical Examiner charting 515 fatal overdoses in the first half of 2018 alone.

Jennifer Murray was nearly an addition to the statistics – she had three almost-fatal overdoses. Her fight against addiction has spanned over 15 years, beginning in high school.

“It started with marijuana and beer,” Murray said. “Eventually, one drug is not enough to satisfy your cravings and your high.”

After transferring because of bullying, Murray abused drugs and alcohol to “numb the pain.” During her senior year, she began using cocaine, heroin and ecstasy; mixing opiates with prescription drugs Klonopin and Xanax also became a habit. Her new “friends” helped supply her, and the money she earned from working part-time went toward illicit substances. She stole from her parents to buy drugs, too – they’ve forgiven her so she would be able to “move forward with [her] life.”

Her parents, Murray said, knew something was off. She eventually confessed to them that she was addicted, but then insisted she was clean as to not worry them.

“I was very good at convincing them that I was sober. But they could tell by my behaviors that something was still wrong,” Murray explained. “My mother never kicked me out. She kept me home and said, ‘Well, if she’s gonna get high, she’s gonna get high, and if she’s here, I’ll know



Jennifer Murray, middle, poses with Fox 61 reporters for an article earlier this year.

JENNIFER MURRAY

she’s safe and not on the streets dying.”

Family members thought Murray’s mother was enabling her, but the methodology ended up saving her daughter’s life: when Murray overdosed, it was her mother who revived her.

“My mother found me twice of the three times. I was blue,” Murray recalled. “She saved me. It’s a really tough spot for parents to be in.”

After the third overdose, Murray got clean and stayed sober for over five years. However, in 2018, her family home burned down and her pet therapy cat perished in the flames. She also lost her job in the recovery field from state budget cuts. It all led to her relapsing multiple times with heroin and alcohol then.

Yet, Murray immediately got back on the path to recovery, wanting “the feeling that [she] first felt when [she] got clean.”

“I was free. My body wasn’t numb anymore,” Murray stated. She currently goes to a methadone clinic and practices “self-care,” which includes meditation and coloring – she still has trouble staying in the lines. “If you don’t do something every day to work on your recovery, you’re already

setting yourself up for a relapse.”

Nearly all of Connecticut’s drug deaths are related to opioids. According to Diana Lejardi, spokesperson for the state’s Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DHMAS), that makes it an epidemic.

“We’ve seen a significant increase in overdose deaths related to heroin, fentanyl and other opioids. We’ve seen an increase in DHMAS services supplied to people and a significant spike in recent years in the number of people we’re treating for opioid addiction,” Lejardi said.

DHMAS works with the state legislature and the federal government to help those addicted, whether that be through detox or inpatient care. Lejardi mentioned a law passed in 2016 that limits the number of prescription opiates a physician can prescribe to a patient, as well as a \$5.5 million grant from the federal government to help fund related programs.

“The legislature will propose bills and we’ll provide feedback, or ways that we may want to tweak it or how to make it better so it serves its purpose,” Lejardi added.

The epidemic is also

of alarming concern for college campuses. At Central Connecticut, the Office of Wellness Education is working to prevent students from addiction.

“We know that there are a number of students using illicit substances,” Jonathan Pohl, coordinator for the office, said. “We try to help educate them to the general hazards.”

“People believe that prescription drugs are safe, but that’s under a physician’s care. The assumption is that, if it’s prescription, it’s safe and it’s not,” he continued.

Murray is a testament to that. But she’s also a testament to recovery. During the interview for this article, she was in the process of moving to North Stonington for a new job as a caregiver. She wants to return to school to be a social worker in the recovery field and she’s looking after herself to prevent future relapses.

“Recovery is not owned, it’s rented, so get up and pay your rent every day,” Murray said, adding that, while she can’t take credit for the “recovery is not owned, it’s rented” part of the quote, the second half is very much hers and very much what she lives by.

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Martin Luther King Jr. Honored At CCSU Breakfast

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Third-place “Sunday’s Best” finalist Shane Davis performs at last Friday’s breakfast honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

CCSU

However, her grandmother, who was from the south, would always tell her “go ahead, speak your mind.”

Now that Walker is older, she stated she realizes her grandmother was “preparing her to sit where I’m at now and to use my mouth as a tool to challenge systems of power and oppression.”

Following in King’s footsteps, Walker described her goal, which is “to make sure our [African-American women] voices are elevated and that [the world is] shifting power to most who are disenfranchised.”

Coming here to Central, Walker said, was “humbling,” saying that people where she is from do not get opportunities to come to speak in forums such as the breakfast, adding that it showed testament and how hard she has been working in the African-American community.

CCSU junior Peace Uwaya was “amazed” by the event.

“Being here with so much black excellence motivates me to be the best I can be so I can impact people that look like me that are younger,” Uwaya said.



# Campus Bright With New Willard-DiLoreto Building

PHOTOS AND STORY BY BELLA CHAN  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Central Connecticut's Willard-DiLoreto building project is finally complete after two years of construction and is now the new home to offices like the Registrar and Financial Aid. With a modern look and glass atrium connecting the two buildings, the new building is pleasing to the eye for all faculty and students. Despite some minor bumps in the road, many have acclimated to the new building with ease. Including new computer labs, open space and new technology, Willard-DiLoreto is the place to be.



**ROB LINDAUER, NON-MATRICULATED SENIOR CITIZEN STUDENT**

"It's good to see the state of Connecticut and CCSU are investing into the facilities. I've been to other places where things are run down and dirty, but here, they've done a great job at maintaining the buildings so they meet today's standards. I was happier when [the Office of Veteran's Affairs] was separated. I tend to just hang out in the Veteran's office and prefer being a bit more isolated, which is because of security and privacy reasons. When the office was in the basement of Carroll Hall, no strangers ever walked in randomly. Being in a hallway with a bunch of classrooms and so forth, there's no privacy. The new building is great and nice investment, but I'd like to see the Veteran's Office have a bit more privacy."



**WILLARD-DILORETO**



**JOSEPH BAEZ, SENIOR, PSYCHOLOGY**

"I think [Willard-DiLoreto] is nice. Not that Carroll Hall wasn't great, but [Willard-DiLoreto] is brand new, literally completed right over winter break. We have new tables, more computers and more space for different things, like for organization meetings. I know there are a lot of clubs who use [the Latino Caribbean Center] in order to have meetings. Students also come in and do homework here, it's a quiet place and not a lot of ruckus."



**PAUL J. ROSSITO, INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CAREER SUCCESS CENTER**

"I'm excited to be [in Willard-DiLoreto]. It's been a two year process. [The Career Success Center] was in the original Willard building, then went over to Carroll Hall for two years. In [Carroll], we each had a dorm room, so it wasn't too fancy or fashionable, but we're happy to be here and enjoy our office space. It's nice to have everyone in one space, like a one-stop shop. Students can go to one building and get a lot accomplished. Coming into a brand new building with open air and natural light, it feels almost like a shopping mall, which is good. This is the place to be."

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## Professor Takes Lessons Abroad To New Britain Streets

BY MARIA BASILEO  
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Aram Ayalon pressed play on a video on his laptop as a face of a young Iranian teenager flashed in an otherwise dark shot.

"We were sitting in a cafe and he showed me a video of how he smuggled himself from Greece to Italy in a ferry," Ayalon explained.

The two met at a temporary refugee camp for unaccompanied boys on the island of Lesbos in Greece when Ayalon and his wife Michal traveled there in June 2016 as volunteers to teach English.

Ayalon has been an education professor at Central Connecticut since 2001 and has helped aspiring teachers learn more about curriculums and instruction in order to make their own classrooms successful.

"I like [teacher preparation] because you prepare one teacher, and the teacher affects thousands of kids," Ayalon said, who first majored in animal science before switching to education while earning his master's degree at the University of Arizona.

When he's not heading a classroom as a professor, he holds many other titles like volunteer, drill sergeant and New Britain aldermen.

Back in April 2016, Michal, who works as a senior lecturer at Trinity College, attended a talk there by Roger Benham and Heather Sheppard. The two were emergency medical professionals who

had volunteered to travel to Greece to give medical aid to asylum seekers who were coming to shore.

"She came home and said, 'That was really inspiring. Maybe we should go,'" Ayalon recalled. "We were going to go to Portugal or something and have a vacation, but we said, 'Why don't we do something more meaningful?'"

After reaching out to Save the Children, a nonprofit organization whose primary focus is on providing relief and aid to children in developing countries, the two booked their trip.

The unaccompanied boys had been removed from the main camp on the island over safety concerns due to a spike in violence. Ayalon was tasked with teaching and mentoring the boys who had come from countries like Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Syria, while Michal worked to clean the beaches of debris from boats and life vests.

Most boys Ayalon worked with were speaking languages like Farsi, Dari and Arabic, and some even knew very little English.

"It was all a matter of creating a relationship," Ayalon said about his methods in teaching at the camp. "We did simple things like Simon Says. I taught them handball [and] basketball. Many of them didn't know [these activities]."

Originally from Israel, Ayalon served the mandatory three-year military service for all 18-year-old males. At the start of



*Dr. Aram Ayalon speaks with students after an Education Foundation class.*

MARIA BASILEO | STAFF

his service, he was a footsoldier working in basic training, but soon volunteered to command tanks after the October War, otherwise known as The Yom Kippur War, in 1973.

When his service had been fulfilled, the then 21-year-old set off on a four-and-a-half month European adventure with friends in a long-standing tradition for Israelis to travel following their time in the military.

"You graduate high school, and boom, you're in the military. [Military service members] feel like, 'I need to breathe air. I need to explore something else,'" Ayalon explained.

In November 2017, Ayalon won an alderman seat on the Common Council for his neighborhood, Ward 3. As a Democrat, he received 660 votes, electing him to serve CCSU's campus and surrounding streets.

His main objective is serving his ward's needs pertaining to the high number of renters.

"More than 50 percent of people who live in my ward are renters. The apartments they live in are not in good shape," Ayalon said, vowing to serve low-income and Latino populations. "[They have] absentee landlords and landlords that aren't treating their renters well. That's my number one priority."



# SGA Responds To Campus Sexual Misconduct Report

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CCSU's Student Government Association will take action after last week's sexual misconduct report. KRISTINA VAKHMAN | STAFF

Fruin said that she hoped Dr. Toro and her office would “really support the bystander trainings and make sure that they can help promote it not just to students.”

“I think after these [sexual misconduct]

findings, [the bystander trainings would] be really beneficial and a start for people who are curious into how they themselves can change and be a productive person in our campus climate,” Fruin stated at the meeting.

After the SGA floor was opened up for discussion, Senator James Angelopoulos suggested that a committee be formed for students to have a say in the hiring of university faculty, saying that student involvement in the process could “curb some of the behavior” cited in the investigation’s report.

“Let’s face it, the best judges of the professors are the ones who are judging them constantly, which is us,” Angelopoulos said. “It’s been speaking volumes that having the candidates come into classrooms sporadically throughout the semester may not be the best course of action when departments are hiring.”

Multiple senators suggested surveys where students could anonymously express their take on the current campus climate and could raise behavioral concerns. SGA Treasurer Kristina DeVivo highly supported the implementation of such surveys.

“We need to be hearing directly from students. Instead of doing what we think they need, we should do what they actually need from their responses,” DeVivo said.

She also proposed the creation of a “resource guide,” explaining that, while there were several already on campus, not all students were aware of the on-campus assistance CCSU provides for numerous issues.

“We should be continuously showing CCSU students the resources Central has to offer them because a lot of times, they don’t know where to go. People don’t know we have these offices that can help them. If we had a resource guide for Student Government, it’d be something to remind students that they’re safe and they have resources to go to,” DeVivo elaborated.

Whatever the initiatives that would end up being administered, there was a resounding consensus in the room that action needed to be taken. Senator John Carpa advised the SGA to even ask Dr. Toro personally what she thought the Senate could do in ensuring that “past behaviors, mistakes and inaction are not repeated,” as she wrote in her email announcing the investigation’s findings.

“We want to make this place better and more safe,” Carpa said.

@KRISDVP

# Author Speaks On The Rich History Of Eastern Europe

BY ISABELLA CHAN  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Over a dozen people gathered in Central Connecticut’s new Willard-DiLoreto building to listen to George Rados speak about the long and rich history of a country some may seem to know little about — Macedonia.

Gilbert Gigliotti, an English Professor for CCSU invited Rados, author of “Makedonia: The Gordian Knot Unraveled,” to speak on the history and politics of the Republic of Macedonia.

Rados spoke on the origins of the country and the division into Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria and Albania.

“One thing on our planet that does not lie is the edging on stone. That cannot be changed. All monuments that have been found within Greece-Macedonia, Albania-Macedonia, Bulgaria-Macedonia, everything is written in Greek,” Rados said.

Rados also touched upon the current state of the Republic of Macedonia’s government, which is currently divided on several matters amongst its people.

According to Rados, the Republic of Macedonia’s government has attempted several times to change the country’s

name to just Macedonia, which many the people disagree upon since they do not relate to ancient Macedonia. He claims most of the population is Bulgarians, Turkish, Serbians, Gypsies and very few Greeks.

With the country’s division, Rados emphasized the importance of placing faith into one’s country first rather than its political parties.

“When you have to protest against your own government because you feel patriotic and the government is not doing the service it’s supposed to be doing, it is a very sad affair,” Rados stated.

“We have our differences here in the United States. We do protest unless we are violent in our protest our government never [attacks] us. But as a historian, I’ve found that most people are for the party and not the country. Please, young people, do not do that. Be passionate about our country as a whole not do not be passionate about the political party alone.”

Gigliotti hoped Rados’s visit would encourage students to become better informed on the Republic of Macedonia.

“His view was very balanced and insightful and someone from the region who know understands it can bring something which I cannot,” Gigliotti said.



George Rados (above), aimed to inform students on the history of the Republic of Macedonia. ISABELLA CHAN | STAFF

“I wanted my students to get a history of the region [and] with so many members in the greek community here at Central that made it exciting,” he continued.

Gigliotti said he hopes the experience will be useful for students when the class visits the city of Giannitsa, which was originally part of North Macedonia, later this semester.

“I developed this class specifically to bring students to Giannitsa, with hopes

to also draw students to Central and just to get more of our students to the various sister cities,” Gigliotti said. “The trip will include visits to Ancient Pella, a visit to the foot of Mount Olympus and other various things in the region.”

Giannitsa is one of many of New Britain’s several sister cities across the world, others are located in Japan, Sicily, Poland and Germany.

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# What’s New, CCSU?

BY SARAH WILLSON  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

- The Central Activities Network is hosting a 60’s themed stand-up show featuring comedian Kiry Shabazz in Semesters on Wednesday, Jan. 30 at 7:30 p.m.
- A “self-defense” Martial Arts Fitness Class will take place on Thursday, Jan. 31 at 10:30 a.m. in the Memorial Hall Recreation Room.
- The “Flix Flux” Exhibition Opening, sponsored by the Art Department, will begin on Jan. 31 at 4 p.m. in the FA FA Center Gallery.
  - This week’s “Devils Den @ 10 p.m.” will feature “That 70’s Bingo.”
- A “Chinese New Year Lunch” will take place on Friday, Feb. 1 at Hilltop Cafe beginning at 11:45 a.m.
  - CAN will host its Winter Formal on Feb. 1 at 8 p.m. in Alumni Hall.
- A “Public Planetarium Show” will take place on Feb. 2 from 8 to 10 p.m. in the Nicolaus Copernicus Hall building.
- There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive in Alumni Hall on Monday, Feb. 4 and Tuesday, Feb. 5 from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.



# CT Woman Inspires Hope With ‘Covery Boxes’



Stephanie Lionetti self-started her own business for women battling addiction and eating disorders.

ILOVEFC.COM

BY SARAH WILLSON  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Some of the darkest days for Stephanie Lionetti were those spent in treatment for her eating disorder and addiction.

“It’s a very lonely feeling when you’re in recovery,” Lionetti said. “It’s really hard to be in a place where you don’t have a lot of connection with the outside world.”

Now 33, the woman who found herself in and out of recovery centers across the country for nearly a decade is working hard to make sure that the isolation she felt while in treatment is something no other woman would ever have to go through.

Lionetti’s self-made business, which she calls “Covery Boxes,” features a “little box of love” with various items in it that someone might find useful throughout her recovery journey in a treatment center.

“Every box is really uniquely different. I never order the same thing twice,” Lionetti said. “There’s also some comfort things in the boxes too, like socks. Even chapstick and hair ties are great.”

Lionetti also said her boxes, which she puts together herself, can feature other items like jewelry and notebooks.

The idea stemmed from Lionetti’s experiences in over a handful of treatment centers. Her parents, she said, would always ask what she wanted them to send her.

“The first thing I ever asked for in treatment early on was a bracelet that had something inspirational. I still have that bracelet,” Lionetti said. “I wanted something to remind me every day why I was there. [I wanted to] hold onto that feeling that people believe in you when you don’t believe in yourself.”

Lionetti said she can relate to that feeling of self-doubt and self-deprecation.

“I think when both my addiction and my eating disorder came to a head, I was in such a bad place,” Lionetti said. “I just didn’t have that desire to live anymore, and that’s what really scared me because I felt so defeated inside.”

Then, being in and out of treatment centers for nearly a decade, Lionetti moved back and forth across the country seeking out help.

She explained how, at each facility, there was a “box opening” period where those being treated had the opportunity to open gifts and mail.

“There were never a lot of boxes coming in,” Lionetti said. “No one really knew what to send us or what was allowed in the facilities because there was and still is a lot of restrictions.”

Others who are recovering from an eating disorder, like 23-year-old Brianna Millins, said that receiving some of the “Covery Boxes” has been nothing short of inspiring.

“I love the boxes,” Mullins said. “I have a few myself and I also have friends who in the past couple years have been struggling or are

personally struggling, and I’ve gotten them boxes. They’ve loved them as well.”

Like Lionetti, Mullins said she too can testify to the recovery process often being an incredibly difficult one.

“When I was in treatment, I had the same experience where I would get a letter in the mail or somebody would send me a gift and it made my day,” Mullins said.

Though Mullins said some of the boxes she received helped her pull through recovery, it was really seeing Lionetti at multiple National Eating Disorder Association Walks (NEDA) that helped her the most.

Mullins, who is the National Walks Associate for NEDA, said meeting and getting to know Lionetti at walks across the country was a privilege.

“I’ve gone to several walks that she’s had sponsorships at, so I’ve gotten to know her very well through working with her,” Mullins said.

Lionetti travels across to various locations around the country every year with NEDA. The goal of the walks is to raise money for prevention and support programs, as well as create a unified force to show that eating disorders are no match for its victims.

According to NEDA, the life-threatening illnesses that eating disorders pose is only growing in size, citing that upwards of 30 million Americans suffer from an eating disorder.

Despite this, NEDA said that eating disorders receive less than \$1 in research funds per person affected. Other “major mental illnesses” receive \$70 in research funds per person.

Eating disorders are also believed to have the highest mortality rate out of any mental illness. Though the illnesses impact 13 percent of women, particularly college-aged students, men suffer from them as well.

Though the numbers may be high, Lionetti said few people come forward to share their battle experiences. Now, she’s trying to change that by sharing her story.

“[Sharing your story] is hard because you’re really vulnerable,” Lionetti said. “There are days where I really struggle with being that open about being in recovery and dealing with mental illness and addiction.”

Though difficult, Lionetti said that voicing her experience is what continuously keeps her in recovery.

“It’s just so important that you share a message with other women who are going through the same thing,” Lionetti said. “It’s so hard but it’s also what lets me know that I’m not alone.”

Still, the best part of it all, Lionetti said, is getting to see her customers unwrap her gift.

“Even talking with other women and seeing their reactions to the recovery boxes and seeing them light up is really great,” she said. “I get to keep making more and more because of it.”

Lionetti credits the growth of her business to a chance encounter in New York at her stepmother’s store.

She went on to explain that she and a board member for NEDA began talking. From there, Lionetti joined the conversation and spoke of her company.

“I told her about the recovery boxes and what I did and she just put me in touch with NEDA and we developed such a strong relationship,” Lionetti said.

For Mullins, however, who is now close friends with Lionetti, one of the best parts about getting to know her was getting to watch her business take off.

“It’s awesome because I’ve gotten to see her company grow,” Mullins said. “She’s dedicating her life to making someone’s day, somebody that she doesn’t even know, and I think that’s amazing and beautiful.”

Though Lionetti said she is not comfortable disclosing the number of requested recovery boxes she gets in a year, she said there are always as many boxes donated as there are purchased.

And with the boxes growing in size, so is the love that comes with them.

“Hope would be that one thing that I really want to bring to women,” Lionetti said. “There were so many times where I felt so defeated and that’s really why I created recovery boxes to have hope for myself and connect family members and loved ones on the outside.”

*Anyone interested in customizing and purchasing a recovery box can visit [Coverbox.com](http://Coverbox.com).*

@SARAHWILLSON

## TIME Covers That Sparked Controversy

BY MARIA BASILEO  
STAFF WRITER

Many of us look to prestigious institutions like TIME Magazine for societal and cultural commentary. The magazine chooses their “Time’s Person of Year” every December, but publishes cutting-edge material all year round.

The magazine covers trending topics, mostly surrounding political and economic subjects, and their articles have always been known for their incisive takes. From time to time though, the images gracing their covers have stirred up more attention than the editorial behind them.

A few, including one week’s cover of Donald Trump looking down at a migrant child, has the possibility of going down in history as one of the most memorable of all time. Though the magazine has been in print since 1923, here are what can be considered the three best covers of the last 18 years.

### 1. “Welcome to America”

The “Welcome to America” cover was released on June 21 and immediately created an uproar amongst politicians and citizens fighting the Family Separation Policy. It depicts a young Honduran child crying while gazing up toward President Trump with the caption “Welcome to America” above them.

The image brewed controversy for more than one reason, but primarily because it reveals the harsh reality for immigrant children on the southern border.

Three days after the cover’s release, news outlets and fact-checkers discovered that the toddler depicted was not, in fact,

separated from her mother and placed in a holding facility. The original image shows the child’s mother detained by police, but the two were never separated.

Some call the toddler a symbol for the greater issue of a mass migration rather than an example of the separation policy, while others argue the cover is inaccurate and drives a false story meant to be believed by readers.

### 2. “Are You Mom Enough?”

Jamie Lynne Grumet and her 3-year-old son, Aram, posed for the May 2012 cover as the face attachment parenting. The cover also struck up discussions due to societal expectations placed upon breastfeeding mothers.

The controversy from the TIME Magazine cover stems from the age of Grumet’s son, who was far beyond the typical breastfeeding age for most children. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends mothers breastfeed continuously until six months and with food until a year old.

Many people reacted negatively to the image because of the child’s age, though there are beneficial health factors to continued breastfeeding. The Mayo Clinic cites balanced nutrition, boosted immunity and improved health for children and mothers choosing to breastfeed beyond infancy.

The cover fueled another topic: public breastfeeding. Critics of the practice see it as inappropriate or sometimes even indecent exposure, which is a misdemeanor. All states, excluding Idaho, have passed laws protecting mothers and allowing them to breastfeed wherever they deem necessary. TIME also published a “behind the cover” explanation of the motivation, photographer and photo.

### 3. “Tragedy in Boston”

The “Tragedy in Boston” May 2013 cover took the world by storm with a striking image of a wounded child from the second blast at the Boston Marathon.

A terrorist attack enacted by two brothers, now known as the “Boston Bombing,” rocked the Boston Marathon’s finish line in April 2013, killing three people and wounding over 200. The majority of injuries were caused by shrapnel in pressure cooker bombs.

The controversy in the TIME Magazine piece lies in ethical journalism. The heartbreaking image broadcasted the ethical lines editors and reporters must decide to cross or not cross in order to accurately portray stories.

Discussions on whether or not a bloody child was absolutely necessary to the storytelling undoubtedly circulated in TIME’s newsroom.

Many other news outlets and magazines caught flak for their reporting of the “Boston Bombing,” including Rolling Stone who had the face of one of the brothers on the cover. Rolling Stone was accused of glamorizing terrorism and the exploitation of circumstances for profit. Many claims like these spiral around journalist institutions in the light of a tragedy.

TIME Magazine has a responsibility to its readers to inform them as accurately as possible while still remaining an edgy institution handing out highly sought after titles. The controversies hidden within covers fails to compare to the long and interesting past of the publication, such as naming Adolf Hitler “Man of 1938” due to his work in unifying Austria and Sudetenland.



# News In Brief

BY SARAH WILLSON  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

## Hartford Residents Vote For City’s First Residential District:

A “residential services district” could soon come to Hartford after a vote by property owners supported the endeavor, the Hartford Courant reported.

According to the Courant, residents started “pressing for the district months ago,” advocating that for decades, upkeep in Hartford’s Frog Hollow neighborhood has been scarce.

The district will include 41 homes along four of Hartford’s streets.

Mayor Luke Bronin will meet with residents in the coming weeks, the Courant said, adding that residents will nominate six people for the governing board.

## Longest Government Shutdown Comes To An End:

The government is officially reopen for business after Friday marked an end to the longest shutdown in United States history.

The resolution President Donald Trump announced on Friday afternoon was quickly passed by both the House and the Senate later that evening.

With the promise of only being open for three weeks, Trump noted the ticking time clock, saying that “negotiations [for the southern border wall] with Democrats will start immediately,” but it will “not be easy to make a deal.”

The reopening brings a sigh of relief to 800,000 federal government workers who, for the past 35 days, were without pay. Museums and national parks are also officially back up and running.

Despite the end of the shutdown, Trump is still set on building a steel barrier wall along the U.S-Mexico border, tweeting: “We will build the wall!”

## Church Attack in Philippines Kills 19:

At least 20 people are dead and 42 injured after a twin-bomb attack took place at a church in the southern Philippines, according to BBC News.

The attack occurred during Sunday mass in a Roman Catholic Church. As soldiers responded, the second device exploded in the parking lot.

The area in which the attack took place has served as a foundation for Abu Sayya Islamist militants, who are blacklisted by the U.S. and the Philippines as a terrorist organization, BBC said.

As of Monday, no one had claimed responsibility for the attack.

@SARAHWILLSON

# LiveSafe App To Uphold Campus Safety



The LiveSafe app provides CCSU students with easy access to the campus police.

BY NATALIE DEST  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

In the wake of an on-campus sexual misconduct scandal, students at Central Connecticut are hoping the LiveSafe app can increase their campus safety.

“Whether it’s a sexual harassment case, a stalking case or any type of violent case, students need to know that can feel safe when walking around the campus,” Central junior Steven Barth said. “As a campus community, it is really important that the student body and faculty can walk around the entire campus not feeling in danger.”

With a student enrollment of 12,000, campus-wide safety remains a necessity for Central’s administration, especially with recent action taken place by President Dr. Zulma Toro regarding theater professors Joshua Perlstein and Thomas Delventhal.

“It’s nice to see that the school is finally taking initiative for student safety,” freshman music major Alexis Volpe said. “It is really nice to see President Toro and other faculty change the policy for the school’s sexual misconduct and finally make a change for once. I think the LiveSafe app is another step towards that change, too.”

The university encourages students to download the LiveSafe application to act as another form of communication between CCSU and their students in case of emergencies.

According to the Central website, the LiveSafe mobile app “provides students, faculty and staff with a direct connection to CCSU police so that everyone can easily communicate their safety needs.”

Junior and criminal justice major Erica Kulla believes the LiveSafe app to be a smart idea from the university.

“I think the LiveSafe app is a really good and smart concept for students to have free access to. It is definitely a tool that with help students feel much more safe while on campus, especially with everything that’s been going on recently,” Kulla said.

The LiveSafe app provides students with certain emergency features in the palms of their hands, such as location sharing with 911, campus police contact, emergency procedures and a safety map.

The app also has a “Sexual Assault Assistance” feature that was added after the initial allegations against the two theater professors and campus outcry. This feature allows students with contacts to Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention, the university’s Counseling Center, Student Health Services and the Women’s Center.

Anna Kelly, one of the women who spoke out publicly

regarding her personal encounters with Perlstein, expressed how she wishes more students were being taught about the emergency outlets the university provides.

“It seems pretty obvious to me that, in general, when it comes to students’ safety, more need to be educated,” she said. “Reflecting on the wake in the new revelations regarding the school, how suddenly the Women’s Center is visible and recourses are putting themselves forward, word of these outlets are finally being spread forward. But that was never the case before. Unless you are a victim, you don’t really know what is available to you as a student.”

Not only has the sexual misconduct case sparked controversy regarding campus safety, but last year’s arrest of CCSU’s former head of the Office of Student Conduct, Christopher Dukes, for kidnapping and strangulation also has students concerned for their well being while on campus.

“As if the sexual misconduct case wasn’t enough to frighten students, the scandal with Chris Dukes definitely makes things a little more concerning,” education major Bailey Murphy said. “Hopefully the [LiveSafe] app can help ease some students while they’re on campus and other emergency tools as well.”

In addition to the LiveSafe app, students can also access blue lights that are administrated around campus as well. These lights act as another form of public safety for students that indicate a phone for direct assistance to university police for any emergency at any time of night.

“It’s definitely easy to get scared walking around the campus at any time of night, especially by yourself,” Kulla said. “Knowing that the blue lights are spread around campus makes me feel a lot better on top of the LiveSafe App.”

@NAT\_DEST



The CCSU LiveSafe app can be downloaded on your mobile device.

JULIA JADE MORDAN | STAFF

# SGA Briefs

BY KRISTINA VAKHMAN  
NEWS EDITOR

The Student Government Association meets every Wednesday at 3:05 p.m. in Bellin A and B in the Student Center. These briefs are from the SGA’s meeting on Jan. 23.

- The Government in Transition Forum is Feb. 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and will include Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz and Senate President Pro Temper Martin Looney in attendance, among others.
- The External Affairs Committee will continue its #PayUp campaign, which aims to protect interns and student teachers from exploration after Governor Ned Lamont and several Connecticut senators expressed their support to write legislation for the initiative.
- The Finance Committee will soon be holding several 20-minute budget training for clubs to help them “know what [the SGA] is looking for,” according to Treasurer Kristina DeVivo. Dates will be announced in the near future.



EDITORIAL

## Connecticut Needs Free Tuition

The reality of taking out thousands of dollars in student loans is one that over two-thirds of college students are faced with by the time they even enter their twenties.

Last year, it was reported that over 44 million Americans hold approximately \$1.5 trillion in student debt, according to Forbes. That number is only expected to rise.

The average college graduate, according to CNBC, has about \$37,000 in student loans, a \$20,000 increase compared to 13 years ago. Now, the average student is forced to fork over a nearly \$400-a-month loan payment. Because of this, college graduates are having to put their lives, and sometimes their family’s lives, on hold in order to repay what is most of the time the federal government.

Though it may be virtually impossible to receive a “free” education, there are steps the United States and the state of Connecticut can take to help ease the burden of student loans.

Newly inaugurated Democratic Governor Ned Lamont proposed tuition-free community college for state residents who would promise to live and work in Connecticut after graduation. Not only is the idea appealing to those not wanting to sign their name on a student loan contract, but it’s also a way for the state to help aid its decreasing population problem.

One state that has implemented tuition-free college for middle-class citizens is neighboring New York.

With this, nearly one million families who are making \$125,000 a year or less will qualify to attend college without tuition costs, according to New York’s website.

Of course, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos reminded the country that nothing is truly “free,” as students will still have to pay additional fees like room and board, textbooks and other living expenses. Still, free tuition has the ability to reduce a students debt up to over \$6,000 a year in New York.

The program, known as The Excelsior Scholarship, began in the Fall 2017 semester and is “being phased in” over a three year period. The only catch is that students who utilize it must plan to live and work in New York after graduation for the same number of years they received funding.

Not only helpful to middle-class families, free tuition would also help motivate high school graduates to apply for college. Those who are accepted, according to Forbes, are much more likely to attend and earn a degree. In fact, college enrollment is expected to rise by 10 percent with New York’s new implementation.

With Lamont’s proposal, Connecticut, and one day the rest of the United States, could easily follow in the footsteps of New York and help ease the financial burden that so many young people are forced to carry.

As New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said, “[Education] should always be an option even if you can’t afford it.”

# Congresswomen Pave Way For A Female Future



Congresswomen like Ayanna Pressley, left, and Jahana Hayes, right, are making the future female. KRISTINA VAKHMAN | STAFF

BY CINDY PENA  
STAFF WRITER

The 2018 midterm election brought about significant change in our democracy, specifically due to the record-breaking amount of women elected to the United States’ Congress. Among the many newly elected members of the 116th Congress, 42 of them are women.

According to the Center for American Women and Politics, women now make up 23.4 percent of the members in the House of Representatives and 25 percent of the members in the U.S. Senate. Overall, about a quarter of the 535 members in the 116th Congress are women.

This, of course, is a gradual improvement from the many years of lack of representation of women in political positions.

Although there is still room for improvement, this surge of women in the

2018 midterm elections is inspiring and reassuring to myself and other females across the country.

So who are these women representing us in Congress? Here are a few:

Jahana Hayes (D-CT) - Hayes is Connecticut’s first African-American member elected to Congress. She represents the 5th congressional district, which includes areas in New Britain and other surrounding towns. Hayes does not have an extensive background in politics. Instead, her background is in education. Her accomplishments in education include being 2016’s Teacher of the Year. She has also stated on numerous occasions that education is a priority in her policy agenda. Hence, as a former educator, she helps improve the lack of diversity of teachers in Congress.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) - At the age of 29, Ocasio-Cortez became the youngest member ever elected to Congress.

## The ‘Wall’ Isn’t Really About The ‘Wall’

BY DANIEL FAPPIANO  
LAYOUT EDITOR

For 35 days, the United States government remained shut down as Congress refused to give President Donald Trump \$5.7 million in federal funds for his proposed border wall. While Trump and Congress recently came together to reopen the government temporarily, the U.S.-Mexico border wall is still arguably the biggest debate in our country today.

While Republicans argue that the wall will limit illegal immigration and overall continue to “Make America Great Again,” Trump’s proposal is more than just a structure along the country’s southern border. If the wall were to be built, it would function as a monument as to what we have become as a country.

Trump has stated his distaste for Latino-Americans multiple times, with most of his focus being towards Mexicans. In 2015, Trump tweeted, “The border is wide open for cartels and terrorists. Secure our border now. Build a massive wall & deduct the costs for Mexican foreign aid!”

Later that year, when Trump announced his candidacy for president, he said, “When Mexico sends its people, they are not sending their best. They’re not sending you. They’re sending people that have lots of problems and they’re bringing those problems with us. They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists.”

Clearly, Trump feels that Mexicans

are not good people. With Trump being so open with this opinion, his followers are likely to hold the same idea. But the statistics show that the Mexican people Trump despises are not America’s biggest worry when it comes to crime.

According to the Cato Institute, a public policy research organization, 409,708 natives of Texas were convicted of crimes in 2015. Comparatively, 17,785 legal immigrants were convicted while just 15,803 illegal immigrants faced charges. In March of 2018, a study published by Michael T. Light, an associate professor of sociology at Purdue University and Ty Miller, an associate professor of sociology and criminology at Winthrop, stated that between 1990 and 2014, states with larger populations of illegal immigrants tended to have less crime than those with lower populations of illegal immigrants.

Of Light and Miller’s findings, The Washington Posts’ Christopher Ingraham wrote that “they concluded that not only does illegal immigration not increase crime, but it may actually contribute to the drop in overall crime rates observed in the United States in recent decades.”

Despite Trump’s bold claims that Mexico is sending nothing but criminals, reports show that immigrants commit less crime than that of people born and raised in America. Trump’s claims are unsubstantiated and are made out of hate rather than fact. Trump has given his followers a reason to hate Mexico and a reason to support the wall.

However, wall or no wall, immigrants are still entering America. Not only

Ocasio-Cortez is also not an ordinary politician. During her campaign, she said that she refuses to accept donations from corporate organizations and lobby groups. Instead, she funded her campaign through small donations from the public. Additionally, she prides herself as a working-class citizen from the Bronx, who previously worked as a bartender. Despite her little political experience, she managed to accomplish one of the biggest upset victories in the 2018 midterm primaries by defeating the 10-year incumbent, Joe Crowley.

Sylvia Garcia (D-TX) and Veronica Escobar (D-TX) - Both these women are Texas’s first Latinas serving in Congress. Prior to being elected, Garcia held a seat in the Texas Senate. Escobar’s background includes serving as a county judge and county commissioner.

Not only are Garcia and Escobar representing women, but also Hispanics, another minority group lacking representation in Congress. According to The Guardian, there are only 32 Hispanics in the 116th Congress, with 11 of those 32 being women. Therefore, as Latinas, Garcia and Escobar are truly reflecting a minority group in the population.

These are a just a few of the many stories of our new 116th Congress. Despite the differences between my views and some of their policy ideas, the importance of these women holding political office is crystal clear. In order to represent the 160 million females in the U.S., we need a proportionate amount of female representatives. Although we are not completely there yet, these women are paving the way for other women, like myself, who aspire to hold public office in the future.

are they just entering, but they are contributing to the country’s workforce. According to the Pew Research Center, 66 percent of unauthorized immigrants had been in the U.S. for more than a decade in 2016. In total, about 7.8 million unauthorized immigrants were in the country’s workforce. Clearly, if immigrants are trying to get into the country, they want a better life for themselves or their families. They want to work and would, therefore, be repaying our country.

According to CBS News, construction was the most likely occupation for immigrants in 2015. Around 9 percent of foreign-born workers held a job in the field. Some immigrants come to this country with nothing but the clothes on their back and a dream. Trump’s wall takes that dream away from them just because they weren’t born American. If Trump or any American is worried about an immigrant taking their job, then perhaps they should consider working harder.

America has tried to be the world’s superhero throughout history. We went to places like Vietnam and Iraq in an attempt to help solve a problem we weren’t originally involved in. But now when all immigrants want is a better life, America can’t be that superhero?

If the wall is built, it might discourage some immigrants from trying to enter the country. However, more than anything else, it shows how Trump’s speech has helped turn America into a more racist and unapologetic country for all.



# We Should Be Ready For A Female President

BY SHAINA LAPUEBLA  
MANAGING EDITOR

Is the land of freedom and equality ready to exhibit unadulterated equality by electing a female president in 2020?

When I was little, my father told me that I could be anything I wanted and I believed him. At age of seven, I firmly decided that I wanted to become the first female president.

Of course, my father always believed in my dreams, but when I told his friends, they laughed at me. They said women are not presidents, but mothers. Since then, my dreams have dissipated, but that doesn't mean that dream should be deemed farfetched and eventually abandoned.

Women have been deemed equal to men for quite some time, yet this negativity still clouds women's aspirations.

"You must make women count as much as men. You must have an equal standard of morals, and the only way to enforce that is through giving women political power so that you can get that equal moral standard registered in the laws of the country," Emmeline Pankhurst, British political activist and leader, declared. Pankhurst thoughtfully affirmed that equality should actually be equal.

Yet, it's 2019 and this progressive nation has never elected a female president. There have been 26 countries to elect a female head of state and 63 total since 1960, according to the World Economic Forum, but not in the U.S.

The first woman to be elected leader was Sri Lanka's Sirimavo Bandaranaike in 1960, while Iceland's Vigdís Finnbogadóttir was the first female to be voted in as a country's president from 1980 to 1996. Finnbogadóttir remains to this date Europe's longest-serving woman head of state of any country.

Since the mid-60s, according to the Pew Research Center, five female leaders have served more than 15 years for their respective countries.

The independent variables of the occupation remain unchanged. It is primitive to place a person's sex as a negative qualification in determining a president. To say a female's decision-making is inferior to a male is ignorant. If anything, a female president's compassion for the people of her nation would be a great asset to the position.

Women are said to be emotional. They "care too much" and are "too sensitive." Women are criticized as irrational and not having the capacity to fully understand politics. It is touted that women cannot be trusted to protect our country in a crisis.

Women can be trusted to take care of the children, the literal future of our country, but not trusted to take care of our nation?

The instinct to protect rather than conquer, which is a typical male instinct, would serve America better. We need protection and to defend those within our borders and not fight those outside of them.

People seem to oddly love the perversely illogical and borderline racism often spewing from President Donald Trump's mouth solely based on the fact that

he is considered to be a great businessman. He made a mockery of the ideal businessman by getting a significant head-start from his affluent parents and trampling over others.

To say a woman is incapable of performing the duty of president is an opinion driven by fear. It is entirely hypocritical to think that America would be weaker as a nation with a female president. However, not every female fits the part to lead, but the same applies to men (insert Trump).

As a nation, we should have more trust in our leadership with a female in charge. Consider the fact, according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons, that 93.3 percent of incarcerated citizens are male next to a minuscule 6.7 percent incarcerated females. When it comes to doing what is right and just, odds favor a female.

There is also a tendency to bomb, invade or fight other countries that threaten us. More often than not, we are targeted because America has the impression that we are superior to others. The U.S. government likes to flex its muscles rather than fixing the situation and developing ways to cease fire and perpetually cooperate.

Females will nourish our country and not destroy it. A majority of society is afraid of change or anything that goes against the 'norm' fabric. It is understandable to be wary of the unexpected future, especially when traveling down an altered path. Without change, however, we would not have made the paramount historical accomplishments we have come to revere today.

@SHAINA\_LAPUEBLA

# CCSU Needs An Independent Reporting System



CCSU needs a third-party when it comes to investigating sexual misconduct on-campus.

JULIA JADE MORDAN | STAFF

BY TOM HOPKINS  
STAFF WRITER

Last week, The Recorder reported on the investigation into sexual misconduct allegations against theater professor Joshua Perlstein that began back in April of 2018.

The investigation concluded that theater professors Perlstein and Thomas Delventhal "repeatedly engaged in sexual misconduct and inappropriate behavior with several students."

Perhaps even more troubling, the investigation found complaints of sexual misconduct against Perlstein going back over a decade that were either dismissed or insufficiently investigated by The Office of Diversity and Equity.

The report is damning for the Office of Diversity and Equity and the Human Resources Department. According to the report, former Chief Diversity Officer Rosa Rodriguez and her predecessors were "not welcoming or friendly, and, in some cases, intimidating

and/or lacking follow through." This negligence allowed sexual predators to roam the campus, free to prey on the students the university is supposed to protect.

The university failed its students in the worst possible way.

This failure highlights the need for a third-party reporting system for incidents of sexual misconduct, assaults and other sensitive matters the university clearly cannot be trusted to handle. This third-party needs to be completely independent from the university so there are no conflicts of interest.

Obviously, incidents such as sexual misconduct by professors are embarrassing for the university. It does damage to Central's reputation and its carefully crafted public image. For every bit of bad PR, parents will think twice about sending their children to study here, which gives the university and its administrators incentive to twist, ignore or bury the truth. CCSU even has a director of public relations whose job it basically is to do just that.

But CCSU's reputation and enrollment numbers

come second to the well-being of its students, or they should.

There needs to be a separate entity where students can report sexual misconduct complaints and can count on being welcoming, understanding and to be taken seriously. The third-party should then have the freedom to investigate and report on the matter to not only the university, but to the public.

The Shipman and Goodwin report is dated Jan. 10, but was not publicly released to Central Students until Jan. 22, almost two weeks later. It seems as if the university likely delayed the release of the report to figure out how it was going to handle the situation and the inevitable blowback. But why should CCSU get to decide when the truth comes out?

This is a public institution, partially funded by state money. The report, upon its completion, should have been released publicly and appropriately fully redacted to protect the identities of the survivors. Students should have had been able to be part of the discourse on what should be done.

The Recorder reported that some survivors felt that they were left in the dark during the long investigative process. Also, according to survivor Brooke Emigh, CCSU President Dr. Zulma Toro wasn't as supportive in private of the investigation and its survivors as she was in public.

"With the investigation with [Perlstein] going on, I also didn't feel as though President Toro was giving the theater department much encouragement and support through these issues. I feel as though she tried to support the theater department as a department, but not the students that make up [it]. I didn't feel safe to talk about it to the university," Emigh told The Recorder.

We can never allow anything like this to happen again at CCSU. Dr. Toro wants to retool the entire Office of Diversity and Equity to better handle these incidents going forward, but the system of anyone investigating themselves is fundamentally flawed. CCSU needs a completely independent system that will not fail where our administrators have.

@centralrecorder on Instagram





# Theater Department Holds Auditions For Spring Musical ‘Sweeney Todd’

BY NATALIE DEST  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Whether you have previous acting and or singing experience, or not but are interesting in stepping out of your comfort zone, this is your chance to.

Central Connecticut’s theater department is holding its annual spring musical auditions for this semesters tale of “Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street.”

One of the darkest musicals ever written, this 1979 thriller is an unsettling tale of a Victorian-era barber who returns to his home in London after 15 years of exile to take revenge on the judge who ruined his life. When vengeance takes over, Todd swears retribution on the entire human race, murdering as many people as he can.

‘Sweeny Todd’ is operatic, dark comedy, stunningly terrifying and beautiful all in one musical. If this sounds like the type of musical you would like to be a part of, why not try out?

Central Theater Director Ed Wierzbicki and Amanda Maffei are looking for any CCSU students interested in being a part of the production to participate in auditions. Slot times will be posted this week for auditions in Maloney Hall on Thurs, Feb. 7, from 5 to 9 p.m, with callbacks on Fri, Feb. 8, from 5 to 9

p.m.

The directors ask students to prepare one short song selection of your choice, most likely one verse and a chorus of a solid actable song. Students are allowed to sing a song from any musical including “Sweeney Todd” itself.

In addition, students are asked to bring their sheet music to the audition for the pianist to use and a personal resume, including all previous acting and singing experience.

It is important to remember that you are acting the song.

According to the directions, the song should be about something that matters, aim to keep the acting real and believable. If your singing is strong enough for the show, you may be asked on the spot to perform a monologue, so have one handy prior to your audition.

Chances are you will be asked for a call back with more to sing and read from “Sweeney Todd.”

Whether you are nervous or this is your forte, there is no harm in trying. If you are interested in being part of the production, pick a song you are comfortable singing, practice daily and take a chance.

For more information, you can find the audition process and sign up sheet in Maloney Hall outside the theater. Good luck to all the Blue Devils that audition.

@NAT\_DEST

# The Story Behind Studying Abroad

BY SHWAR ZAIDI  
STAFF WRITER

Studying abroad for college students can be one of the best experiences not just for their school career, but for their entire lives. Studying abroad may be expensive, but it is not a waste. It is a gateway to make new friends, learn about different cultures and adapt differently.

Three students came from different countries to study abroad here at Central Connecticut, with more reasons than their distinctive dialects. Holly Green came from Scotland, Erik Hedman came from Sweden and Marius Ullrich came from German stated that they decided to come to Central for the great experience, the job opportunity and experience the contrasting language.

“One of the reasons why I am studying abroad is because the job and great quality that comes with studying abroad for

jobs. It makes you special and different from other people,” Green stated.

“Another reason [for me] is because it was also about language. I wanted to improve my English. I also would like to do an international job. It is also good to improve your personality and makes you more opened to get to know people and become more outgoing,” Marius Ullrich added to Green’s response.

Traveling from their countries to the U.S. helped them become more social and independent since they ventured solo.

However, studying abroad can be difficult.

According to these students, they had difficulties as a Blue Devil because the looming timetable of only spending a single semester on campus challenged the friendships they forged. Money also posed as an issue since the currency ratio in this country outweighs their countries.

“We are only paying

for dorms and food here and yet still it is so expensive,” Ullrich said.

According to Green, Central’s campus is larger than her own university in Scotland and the class structure is drastically different.

“Here [CCSU] we have classes and then have midterms and final exams. But in Sweden, we do one course for full class and then have final exams and then scores are released. Here we need to be attentive and have good attendance,” Green said.

“However, people are friendly here and even if I’m at a store someone can come up and easily make a conversation with me,” Erik Hedman continued.

Overall, never be afraid of studying abroad. At first, it may be difficult adjusting but it is worth it at the end. It helps you get to know people and be more outgoing. You learn more and know different cultures. Take risks and it will come a long way.

# CCSU Art Gallery Presents: ‘Fix Flux’

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JULIA CONANT  
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Central Connecticut brings a taste of Romania to New Britain with an upcoming art exhibit. This exhibit features works created by students from one university in Romania. It is known as the “Fix Flux,” which is opening on Thurs., Jan. 31.

All of the art featured in the exhibit comes from Partium Christian University in Oradea. The collection consists of art featured are print media, logos, branding, posters, illustration and poetry.

“Over the past 15 years, the arts at Partium Christian University in Oradea, Romania have been taught with a unique perspective, one that focuses on helping students attain the perspective of an artist while becoming ‘Creative Laborers,’” CCSU art professor Dr. Broadus-Garcia said in a statement. “Students consider their role in communicating to others through their use of subject matter, media and form. Resulting portfolios are creative, engaging and informative.”

PCU student Kinga Nagy illustrates and communicates her message through art. Her photo series entitled ‘Fragment-Whole’ will be featured in this exhibit. The series depicts Nagy in several simple positions surrounded by drawn outlines of herself. The outlines serve as the illusion of movement. Nagy’s purpose in creating Fragment-Whole was to communicate where she believes is the dawning of happiness.

“[Fragment-Whole] is a series of photos in which I am the only character. The topic of the photos is myself, to be more precise, my body and its parts,” Nagy stated. “The work is based on the notion that the source of our happiness is not outside but within

us.”

Another PCU student Tímea Kőszegi piece “Alto Princesses” was inspired by several Hungarian bands. She created a potential logo energized by lyrics from the bands’s songs. Kőszegi used a subject that she personally found interesting and allowing her to showcase her artistic ability while also sharing her interests to the world.

“I consider this a prolific topic because [it gives] me total freedom,” Kőszegi said, in regards to her piece. “In addition to illustration, special emphasis was placed on creative typography which appears as graphic elements in the project.”

PCU’s Ramóna Kovács illustrated the app “The Geeky Kitchen.” She designed her artwork as an app due to the current technologically advanced society; people generally tend to be fixated on apps and phones. Kovács could not help but notice this and decided to make a statement about it through her artwork.

“Nowadays everywhere we go, we come across people checking their phones,” Kovács said. “Do they only throw a glance at it while waiting for the bus or check it out extensively while being in a doctor’s waiting room? What can be more entertaining during the long wait than a mobile application? A part of my project is designed exactly for that, a game to relieve boredom.”

Not only does the Fix Flux exhibit display the three aforementioned artists, but artwork from several of their peers. Come visit the opening reception of Fix Flux on Thursday, Jan. 31 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the CCSU Art Gallery. The exhibit will be open until Feb. 28, Monday to Friday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and is free for everyone.

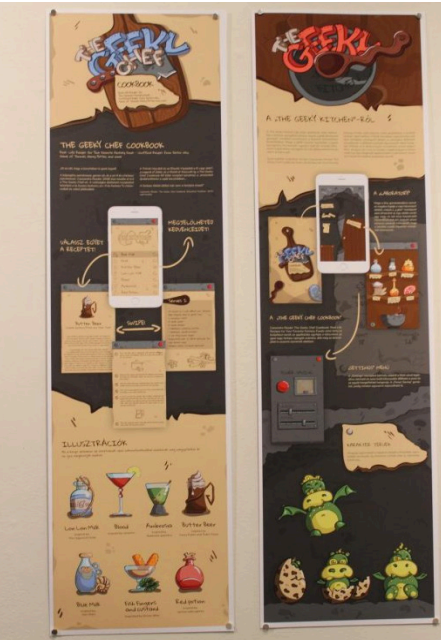
@JULIA\_CONANT



CCSU HOSTS FIX FLUX EXHIBIT



FRAGMENT-WHOLE BY KINGA NAGY



THE GEEKY KITCHEN BY RAMONA KOVACS



ALTO PRINCESSES BY TIMEA KOSZEGI



# WFCS Hosts Blue Devil Lip Sync Battle



Alissa Anglis cheered on her competitor Mark Kraeger for winning against her.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JULIA CONANT  
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Students were encouraged to step on stage, solo or in a group, giving the DJ the name of the song they wanted to perform and lip sync their heart out. After that, a challenger would arise and do their own lip sync performance. Once both performances were completed, the panel of judges gave their input then audience applause determined the winner of that round.

Last Thursday, Central Connecticut’s radio station



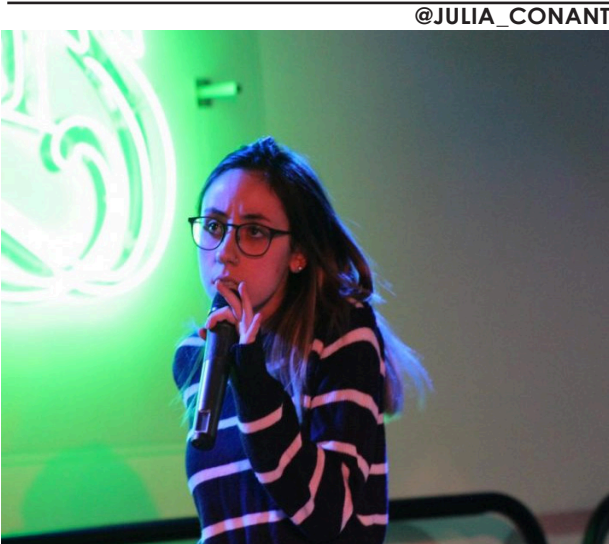
James Iovanna and Andrew Chavez lip synced to Hoodie Allen’s “No Interruption.”

WFCS hosted Devil’s Den @ 10 with a lip sync battle. The night consisted of five main lip sync battles. The first battle featured Leah Jensen and SGA treasurer Kristina DeVivo, who met only minutes before their performance. DeVivo and Jensen performed Queen’s “Bohemian Rhapsody” and looking at their on stage chemistry, you would never guess that they had just met that night. The challenger Steven Dwyer strutted on stage performing Sia’s “Cheap Thrills.” The judges and audience were evidently more captivated by Dwyer’s solo performance, making Dwyer the first champion of the night. For the next battle, James Iovanna and Andrew Chavez came prepared in matching white tee shirts and khaki pants. They performed Hoodie Allen’s “No Interruption.” The boys seemed to have a strategy to their performance by engaging with the judges. Iovanna and Chavez would point at them and lip sync, “I’ll give it to you no interruption.” Erik Kryzanski challenged this dynamic duo with an even more impressive performance of Gucci Mane’s “Both.” Unfortunately for Chavez and Iovanna, their matching outfits were not enough to sway the audience causing Kryzanski to win the second round of the battle. To start off round three, Helen Moore performed Cee Lo Green’s “Forget You.” She wowed the audience with her dancing and confidence but was challenged by Alexis Reid, Tatiana Cooper and Tavon Smith, who performed Migos’s “Bad and Boujee.” These three had a strategy to engage with the audience by walking around the room, weaving in between tables. Despite this seemingly solid strategy, Reid, Cooper and Smith could not match Moore’s undeniable energy, handing Moore the third win of the night. An intense battle arose next, as the two competitors in round four had history. Freshman Mark Kraeger faced off against his former freshman orientation leader, Alissa Anglis, making for a captivating mentor versus mentee scenario. Anglis performed Cardi B’s “Money,” while Kraeger performed Ariana Grande’s “Thank U, Next.” Apparently, Anglis taught Kraeger well during his orientation, because the mentee beat the mentor, making Kraeger the fourth winner of the night. For the final battle, Maxwell Kwashie performed



Bryce Corey lip synced to Trippie Redd’s “Dark Knight Dummo.”

Bruno Mars’s “Calling All My Lovelies” against Bryce Corey and Treyvone Walker’s performance of Trippie Red’s “Dark Knight Dummo.” Kwashie called all the lovelies and the championship. Not only did everyone who performed receive a prize, but the event also provided free food and free posters that students could have customized with a photo of them. Overall the lip sync battle was a lively event full of energy, the perfect way to spend a Thursday night on campus.



Helen Moore lip synced to Cee Lo Green’s “Forget You.”

# Aquaman A ‘Must Sea’ In Theaters



Aquaman hit theaters Dec. 21.

BY TESSA STACK  
STAFF WRITER

Once again, Warner Brothers Pictures has outdone themselves with their latest superhero movie- the rendition of DC Comics, Aquaman. Aquaman, also known as Arthur Curry, is played by Jason Momoa who takes on the duty of bringing a son of the land, king of the sea to life. Many people know Momoa from his short-lived role as Kal Drogo in the HBO series Game of Thrones. The casting director couldn’t have chosen a better person or actor to bring the protector and her of land and sea to life. Aquaman starts off with Queen Atlanta fleeing her arranged marriage and meeting a lighthouse keeper. They find love despite being from worlds apart. The outcome, a son of which is destined to unite the two divided worlds from which she

leaves to protect giving another heir to the Atlantian throne. Along the way, we see the creation of Black Manta, the supposable the villain of the film, the meeting of the Ariel red-haired Princess Mira, played by Amber Heard and a prince mad with power wanting to destroy the land and become Ocean Master. All the while telling the Tale of Atlantis, including the search for the most powerful trident of the One True King. Aquaman surrounds a mission to collect an item to claim the right of King to usurp Arthurs younger brother. This is a movie for the whole family to see. The dad jokes included make Aquaman the go-to movie who likes action, sci-fi, comics, a good moral story and something the whole family can see. This cinematic blockbuster was directed by James Wan. Aquaman has been estimated a total of earning 94

million at the opening weekend box-office alone. This movie is equipped with outstanding visual effects, the close attention to detail of costumes that did the comics justice, and makeup effects. In the past, D.C. has sometimes been vastly known to not shed the best light from longtime fans when it came to the end fighting sequence. With James Wan’s Aquaman, this is arguably not the case this time around. Aquaman must have been the best superhero origin story of this decade right, alongside Wonder Women. Aquaman is a must-see movie, despite introducing Black Manta as a Main villain, only to shove him aside for the story leaving a cut scene at the end hinting he will be in the next one. I give Aquaman a rating of 4/5 blue devils for the epic plot, storytelling and visuals but not having a strong foundation of an epic villain such as Black Manta.



# Ringing In The New Year With Kesha



Pop-star sensation Kesha celebrates 2019 with her fans at Mohegan Sun Arena this past New Years Eve.

BY CAROLYN MARTIN  
STAFF WRITER

Some people stay home on New Years Eve, some go out to bars to party, but me? I went and saw Kesha at Mohegan Sun.

Now this show came as a surprise to me, I had not heard any press about it and I soon came to find out why: it was not a tour show. It was just one specific show that happened to be on New Years Eve.

Either way, Kesha is everything that encompasses nostalgia to me and I was not about to pass up an opportunity to see her.

Once I arrived at the casino, I could tell this was not just any other day; it was packed. But that is to be expected on such a “party” holiday. Now since this show did not have the prestige of being part of a tour line up there was no set opener; it would just be Miss Kesha Rose herself.

So it was a nice touch when I finally made it to my seat that a DJ was playing music while we waited. Most of his mixes

KESHA

were enjoyable, but he tried so hard to get the crowd involved — when most people had not made it inside yet. It was not the worst crowd reaction I have seen, but it definitely was not one of the best.

However, all of that faded away when Kesha came on stage. She opened the show up with her song “Woman” (off her latest album Rainbow).

It is an empowerment song and it definitely got the crowd going. She continued playing hits like “Blah Blah Blah,” “Timber” and “Blow.”

During the concert, she renewed the vows of her friend’s parents. As it turns out, she’s licensed to do that — now that is something I did not know about her.

After a brief time off stage she came back and preformed, arguably, two of her most popular songs: “Praying” and “Tik Tok.” Those are two songs even non-fans of her know so the entire arena was filled with a chorus of voices up until she took her final bow of the night and exited the stage.

Sad you missed out on the event? Fear not, Kesha is not taking a break just yet. From February 17 to 21 she is allowing fans to join her for four nights on her “My Weird & Wonderful Rainbow Ride.” This cruise ship will set sail from Tampa, Florida and travel to Nassau, Bahamas. While aboard passengers can see Kesha perform in two different shows and concerts, watch the performances from drag queens and the DJ. Kesha is also hosting a lip sync battle so be prepared to wow the queen.

But wait, there’s more.

It would not be a Kesha experience without a dance party with fellow fans, so of course that is on the itinerary too. And trips are much more fun with friends so Kesha is bringing some along. Guests will also be treated to the likes of Girl Talk, Betty Who, Superfruit and a few others.

To get tickets you can go to [www.kesharainbowcruise.com](http://www.kesharainbowcruise.com).

# Netflix It: ‘Neon Genesis Evangelion’

BY SAM PAPPAS  
STAFF WRITER

Netflix made nerd history last November by licensing the 1995 Psychological Mecha anime “Neon Genesis Evangelion” to appear in their 2019 Spring lineup. This got a lot of attention in the anime community, as the original series was previously only available in America through expensive DVD box sets or illegal streaming sites.

The question remains: why should you, a busy (and most likely broke) college student spend time watching an obscure Japanese television show about an angsty teenager named Shinji, beating the tar out of extraterrestrial monsters (who may or may not be Biblical references) with his giant purple robot?

‘Evangelion’ is one of the most intense and downright nihilistic series. With heavy themes of depression, existentialism and religious allusions leading into a total apocalypse on a massive universal. In a nutshell, it is lighthearted fun for the whole family.

‘Evangelion’ starts it is 26 episode run as wonderfully animated and slickly-directed action series with eye-catching character designs and masterfully written dialogue and characters.

However, as the series ran on, its director, Hideaki Anno, found his depression worsening due to his previous few projects being failures, and his studio, “Gainax” struggling to meet episode deadlines. Several episodes were scrapped and remade late into production and



Japanese anime “Neon Genesis Evangelion” has finally arrived on Netflix for streaming.

NSS MAGAZINE

Anno had to rewrite the script and deviate from the story on the fly, all while his stress continued to accumulate.

The final product of “Neon Genesis Evangelion” is a window into the mind of its director and his struggles with depression. It is celebrated as a masterpiece for good reason, as it is themes have been deeply relatable and even eye-opening for people who have suffered from mental illness and depression, same as Anno.

Once you are finished with the main series, you can check out “End of Evangelion” a 1997 85 minute movie that serves as a sort of “True Ending” for the series.

In this version, Anno tells the original ending he had in mind for the story, without the time constraints or limitations of a television release. This film also contains the most graphic and potentially disturbing content that would never be allowed on traditional television.

The complete Evangelion series and film, start to finish, are both brilliant works of art that push the boundaries of film making. Evangelion is a viewing experience nothing can replicate, and if anything written here sounds relatable or even slightly interesting, then check out the series when it releases on Netflix sometime in the next few weeks.

You would be doing yourself a disservice missing out on this show, so grab some snacks, abandon all sense of hope and get in the robot Shinji.



DARYL LAPUEBLA | CONTRIBUTOR



# Will A Poem A Day Keep The Anxiety Away?

BY SHAINA LAPUEBLA  
MANAGING EDITOR

According to the National Association for Poetry Therapy, the use of therapeutic poetry has been used since primitive rites, where shamen would use chants to ensure the welfare of an individual or the whole tribe. Poetry’s rhythmic patterns, much like music, can illuminate powerful nonverbal reactions within one’s self and help alleviate any stress.

Poetry can curate a balance between jobs, life and school because it puts a voice to their anxieties. Poetry gravitates emotions to the surface, while assisting in the resolution surrounding prioritizing family, friends, work, education and leisure activities.

Taking the moment to read a poem can help a person pause, reflect and possibly experience more happiness, which can also help calm one’s mind and still one’s soul.

Four contemporary poems to ease the daily worries.

“Here and Away” by Neil Hilborn

Neil Hilborn is the only slam poet on this list and he also has a book called “Our Numbered Days,” which features this poem and most of his current works. Listening to him speak “Here and Away” can send chills down one’s spine because of the raw emotions in his voice. The beginning of the poem seems rather suicidal and melancholy but the tone changes when he says “But isolation is not safety, it is death. If no one knows you’re alive, you aren’t.” From his perception, hiding away from the world is equivalent to one’s demise before their breath ever escapes their lungs.

Hilborn expresses that you are not alone in your turmoil and he says “so on those days, this is what I tell myself: whatever you are feeling right now, there is a mathematical certainty that someone is feeling that exact thing.” It is hard sometimes to remember you are not the only one who has struggled and suffered because it tends to eat you alive. The best ways to fight anxiety and fear is to let the world know you are here, to let someone know you need guidance and support.

Towards the closing of this poem, Hilborn acknowledges that everyday will not be easy, but that does not mean it is the end of the world. He says “So please, if you want to continue existing do something. Learn to make clouds with only your breath. Build a house, even if every wall leans to the left.” It is vital to

understand that you should not dwell or nitpick every mistake you make but appreciate the effort and strength that was necessary to accomplish your goals.

“Failing and Flying” by Jack Gilbert

This poem kicks off with the line, “Everyone forgets that Icarus also flew.” This refers to the Greek mythology story of Icarus, who flew too close to the sun resulting in his wax wings to melt. This depicts that all people remember from the story is that he fell from the sky and that that he flew. Gilbert wants to emphasize the rise rather the fall of Icarus. Jack Gilbert’s interpretation of flight shows how Icarus achieved freedom from his imprisonment by King Minos.

Gilbert uses diction to convey the importance of remembering the past rather than fearing it. He talks about losing a relationship but focuses on the significance of the good aspects of that relationship. When two people become distant, they tend to focus on the fact that it ended rather than appreciating that it existed. Gilbert’s message is embodied in the lines “But anything worth doing is worth doing badly.”

Anxiety can start when someone loses a friendship or relationship because people tend to grieve the cessation of it. It is important to remember that if something is considered worth doing, then it does not matter if it was done badly or if it ended badly, but that it happened. In order to combat the anxiety caused by sudden loss, one must acknowledge that the bond existed and those happy memories are worth thinking about rather than only the negativity.

This poem depicts that Gilbert wants the reader to break away from any restrictions that fixate on the grim thoughts one might create. Instead Gilbert draws focus to the silver lining, even if the silver lining is on a garbage bag. Concentrating solely on unhappiness puts a negative outlook on life that could inhibit the living of a happy life.

“won’t you celebrate with me” by Lucille Clifton

“won’t you celebrate with me” by Lucille Clifton translates the making of one’s self and how it requires experience, insight and readiness to consider how a person is contoured by their cultural context, influences and languages. This poem begins with an inquiry that

reflects both an invitation and a plea. Clifton’s tone is meek and apologetic. The lines “won’t you celebrate with me/what i have shaped into/a kind of life? i had no model” asks the reader to celebrate a “a kind of life” that she shaped rather than the life she’s made. This small distinction allows for the interpretation that the speaker bears witness to the difference between the lives of others and her own emerging self-consciousness.

The process of developing self-awareness is what the poem illustrates as its focal concern. The lines “born in babylon/both nonwhite and woman/what did i see to be except myself?” is an allegorical reference to the legacy of exile and differences she inherited during the civil rights movement. Clifton speaks of the awkwardness of creating a new sense of self-awareness that she was thrown into after the so-called American Dream was taken from her. When confusion and anxiety strikes an individual, they cannot allow it to engulf their identity but build something new from the ashes.

Clifton’s use of language changes and becomes more vivid, inventive and lovely because the speaker gains strength from her experiences and a higher level of confidence in her ability to stand alone.

“we are all born/so beautiful/the greatest tragedy is/ being convinced we are not” by Rupī Kaur

This poem is from Rupī Kaur’s book “Milk and Honey” that focuses on survival. This book details the experience of abuse, violence, loss, love and femininity.

This poem is about commemorating the beauty each and every person on this planet possess and to throw away all the negativity people may have hurled at you. Anxiety can creep into your mind due to people in your life intent on making you feel worthless, but their opinions of you have no purpose bogging down your potential. It is vital to comprehend that your life is worth living, you are worth it and you are capable of more than you think.

Kaur’s purpose in this poem is to pinpoint the notion that everyone started from the same place, their mother’s womb, and grew into two people’s beautiful creation. A person is more than just the labels people have given and everyone should unsubscribe to such labels. A person’s identity is crafted by the individual, not by the bystanders.

@SHAINA\_LAPUEBLA

## Word Search: January 30

X	W	E	C	T	C	U	D	N	O	C	S	I	M	U
Y	L	R	O	B	E	R	M	O	R	R	I	S	V	V
C	W	A	E	D	K	K	N	D	O	R	F	T	I	P
O	O	U	A	Y	A	L	K	P	B	R	N	Q	L	Y
N	B	D	N	A	F	O	M	G	U	V	O	A	A	H
G	R	I	Y	R	N	D	R	I	H	D	E	N	A	T
R	E	T	R	R	N	E	N	B	N	U	L	I	R	R
E	P	I	E	U	D	I	S	A	A	H	T	M	T	A
S	U	O	L	M	D	V	M	M	Y	R	T	E	I	C
S	S	N	L	Q	C	O	A	W	I	W	A	A	G	C
R	C	Y	A	E	S	H	D	E	N	T	B	J	U	M
J	L	L	G	S	S	L	V	W	X	V	H	Q	E	C
H	R	R	O	E	N	A	M	A	U	Q	A	I	S	S
B	P	R	K	M	P	D	N	S	R	E	K	A	L	L
B	D	A	T	P	D	X	B	A	Y	A	L	O	N	K

### Word List

1. MCCARTHY
2. ROSSOMANDO
3. VILA ARTIGUES
4. ROBERT MORRIS
5. NESMITH
6. LAKERS
7. SUPERBOWL
8. AYALON
9. CONGRESS
10. MLK
11. MURRAY
12. MISCONDUCT
13. FRUIN
14. AQUAMAN
15. BATTLE
16. GALLERY
17. AUDITION
18. KESHA
19. ABROAD
20. ANIME



# Vila Artigues Gives Women’s Basketball ‘True Point Guard’

BY RYAN JONES  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Traveling: for a point guard, there are few words you would want to hear less than it. For Bruna Vila Artigues, a different kind of traveling has kept her basketball dreams alive.

Originally from Catalonia in Spain, Vila Artigues played overseas during the early stages of her life. Three years ago, however, Vila Artigues moved to the United States, fully intending to continue her basketball career.

The change of scenery for Vila Artigues brought with it a change in play as well, as she explains: “At the beginning it was hard, I lost a lot of confidence. Basketball over here is more physical, so it was a shock.”

Comparing her move to America to her switch to Central Connecticut this year, Vila Artigues explained “my freshmen year was tough for me, and I thought coming to a new school would be tough, but it has been easier than I expected.”

Vila Atrigues credits head coach Beryl Piper and her teammates for making the transition to Division I basketball. “Coming to DI, I was really scared, I didn’t know what to expect,” she admitted. “The environment, teammates and coaches just made it easier. From the first practice, I felt really comfortable.”

Piper has had nothing but praise for Vila Artigues. “Bruna is a true point guard. She gets us into the offense and sets us up, that’s really important for us,” Piper said.

Vila Atrigues running the point for the Blue Devils has reshaped the scheme of the team completely. Senior captain Kiana Patterson now plays primarily at shooting guard, relieving her of the point guard duties she has had for most of her collegiate career.

This change of pace seems to be beneficial, as Patterson has averaged 16.5 points per game so far this season, up from last year’s total of 13.9.

Listed at 5 feet 6 inches, Vila Artigues is hardly the tallest on the court. However, the guard’s gritty



Vila Artigues has started all 17 contests for the Blue Devils this season.

JULIA JADE MORAN | STAFF

rebounding is another talent Piper was keen to mention, though the numbers may not particularly show it.

“Bruna is not a tall kid, but rebounds the basketball really well,” Piper said.

Vila Artigues had her best game of the season against Saint Francis (PA), where she collected a career high in points (nine) while adding on two steals, a block and three assists. Piper believes this was “the best game she’s played all year, all around.”

For Vila Artigues, this game was only the beginning, but a great pick me up.

“I think everybody needs a game where they feel confident so they can start building that up,” she said. “I felt really low the past few games. I wasn’t feeling myself,

and that game really helped me.”

While the Blue Devils’ season has not gone according to plan so far, Bruna believes in her team moving forward.

“I think with these last two games [against St. Francis (PA) and Robert Morris], we all built a lot of confidence. Those are the two best teams in our conference, we can do this,” she said.

“We just need to put some small pieces together, reduce the mistakes we are making, and I think we can do it. We lost some close games that we didn’t have to lose, we just have to keep going from there and stay confident,” Vila Artigues said of her team’s key to success.

She repeated once more, “we can do this.”

@RYANJONES385

# Super Bowl LIII Preview

BY TREVI ALICKOLLI  
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Following a historic set of football games during Conference Championship weekend, the New England Patriots will face the Los Angeles Rams in Super Bowl LIII for the right to be crowned champions on Sunday.

Both the AFC and NFC championships required overtime to decide the victors for the first time in NFL history, per NFL Research.

If those games are any indication, we can all expect an excellent Super Bowl performance by both teams and a game worth the watch despite being a fan of either teams or not.

This is the second time the Patriots and the Rams will meet in the Super Bowl. In fact, Feb. 3 will mark the 17-year anniversary of their last meeting, when the underdog Patriots won Super Bowl XXXVI 20-17 on a last-second field goal by Adam Vinatieri against the then St. Louis Rams.

Almost two decades later, nearly everything is different except Bill Belichick and Tom Brad, which are the only constants.

This time they will face the young superstar head

coach-quarterback duo in Sean McVay and Jared Goff.

Both teams have played great football all postseason, led by their prolific offensive attacks and opportunistic defenses.

During the postseason, they are first and second in offensive total yards-per-game (YPG). New England with 511.0 and Los Angeles with 418.5, according to NFL.com statistics.

The YPG may weigh in New England’s favor but looking closer, the two team’s yards per play is nearly identical, 5.9 and 5.8 in favor of New England.

New England’s offense has led this team to their fourth Super Bowl appearance in five years because of a stellar running attack and nearly flawless offensive line.

Sony Michel, the Patriots rookie running back, is leading the NFL in rushing yards this postseason after a regular season slowed by injuries. Michel has 242 rushing yards and five touchdowns, also leading the league.

Brady has the most passing years in the postseason with 691, which can be attributed to being kept clean by the offensive line. The Patiors veteran quarterback has dropped back to pass 90 times and has not been sacked. Pressure on Brady is going to be key for the Rams.

During the recent offseason, Los Angeles went

all out to boost their defensive line, adding the talent of Ndamukong Suh and Dante Fowler Jr. to increase pressure on the quarterback.

But the all star on the D-line is Aaron Donald, who led the league with 20.5 sacks in the regular season. He will no doubt be a point of emphasis for the Patriots’ offensive strategy.

Even with a star-studded defense, the Rams offense may be the better bunch out of the two.

Led by the creative mind of McVay, this offense includes a 1000-yard rusher and leading touchdown scorer in Todd Gurley and 2000-yard receivers.

If the Patriots hope to win, the keys to victory are establishing the run, continued dominance of the offensive line and getting at the very least one or two defensive stops.

The keys for the Rams are getting Gurley back in his rhythm and staying disciplined on defense.

Neither of these teams are supposed to be here. New England was an underdog in Kansas City and Los Angeles was a blown call away from being sent home against New Orleans. But they are here nonetheless.

On Sunday, we will find out who will finish with a fairytale season and who goes home heartbroken.

@ATREVI013

## CCSU Weekly Sports Schedule



- Men’s Basketball
- Thursday, Jan. 31, 7 p.m. vs. Saint Francis (BKN)
  - Saturday, Feb. 22, 3:30 p.m. vs. Bryant
- Women’s Basketball
- Saturday, Jan. 2, 1 p.m. vs. Bryant
- Swimming and Diving
- Saturday, Feb. 2, 12 p.m. vs. LIU Brooklyn
  - Sunday, Feb. 3, 12 p.m. @ Rhode Island
- Men’s and Women’s Track and Field
- Friday, Feb. 1 @ New England Championships
  - Saturday, Feb. 2 @ New England Championships



# Swimming And Diving Drops First Home Meet

BY GABRIEL ANTON  
STAFF WRITER

The New Year brought new experiences for Central Connecticut's swimming and diving team as they held their first home meet of the season against Northeastern in a tightly knit battle that eventually saw the Huskies victorious with a score of 147-90.

But the meet also saw Central's first time participating in the diving events this season and saw as a considerable improvement over the Florida International during the winter break in all 13 events.

Junior Valentina Gomez added nine first-place points to the Blue Devils total, winning the women's 1000-yard freestyle. Her freestyle success is consistent with her outings at the Florida International meet, as she mirrored her first place position there in the 500-yard freestyle.

Per usual, CCSU did well in the freestyle events, as sophomore Katie Czulewicz placed second and third in the 200 and 100-yarders, respectively, while freshman Simona Visinski placed second in the 100-yard freestyle.

In addition, Central garnered the top two positions in the 200-yard freestyle relay race. One team comprised of freshman Jeannette King, senior Kaitlyn Troy, Visinski and Czulewicz, while the other freshman Destiny Johnson, sophomore Erin Brown, and freshman Hallie Perrin and Gomez, and placed first and second, respectively.

Troy and King both competed in the 100-yard backstroke along with junior

Alexis Fredericks and got second, fourth and fifth place.

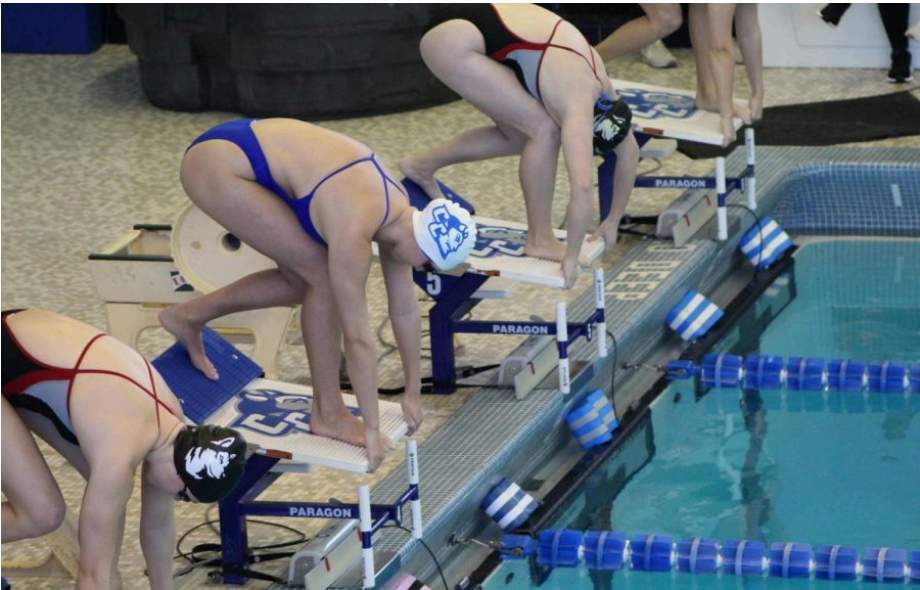
"We were better than we were a couple weeks ago against Florida. We've got a lot of training behind us, which is just the best to know that it counts," head swim coach Bill Ball stated.

This improvement came in the form of juniors Gracie Regan and Fredericks, coming in second and fourth, respectively, in the 200-yard individual medley. Prior to this meet, Central garnered the bottom four spots in a race with eight participants against Florida International.

Central's performance in the 200-yard medley relay was consistently mediocre earlier this season as they came in fourth or lower at the Bryant-Wagner tri-meet, as well as Florida International. They edged up a noticeable amount this Saturday by coming in second with a team comprised of Troy, King, freshman Mariana Espino and sophomore Katelyn Mann.

Gomez continued showcasing great skill in the 100-yard butterfly, proven in her earlier meet against Florida International, where she came in second and at the Eastern College Athletic Conference Winter Championship, where she came in 23rd out of 89 competitors. She has consistently been placing in the top three positions in this event for a majority of this season, adding another second place spot against the dominant Northeastern last Saturday.

In the 200-yard breaststroke, Espino, Lindgren and Mann garnered the top three spots in the event this Saturday, showing laudable improvement from previous meets.



The Blue Devils will host LIU Brooklyn and honor its seniors on Saturday. JULIA JADE MORDAN | STAFF

Although Central has further refined their efforts in the freestyle, backstroke, butterfly and breaststroke events, there is still a little more room for growth all around.

"Hopefully we'll get our legs back a little bit, we need a little more kick in the back half of our races," Ball said. I think our performance looks strong, it's just a matter of getting a little more speed. The potential is definitely there, we just need to continue to keep improving."

Ball plans to land more competitors in the top three positions in each event.

"In the next week or so, we'll start to bring the volume down a little bit more on yardage and start to focus more on being sharper and to make our pacing a little bit better. Race-pace work, starts, turns, just sharpening a bit of everything," he said.

Preparation for next the meet against LIU Brooklyn will also be aided by the fact that points can now be expected from the new divers. Nicolle White and Lauren Wilcox lead the one and three-meter diving events for Central in points but fared behind the Northeastern competitors who secured the top four and three spots in both events, respectively.

"This is the first time they've been ready to dive. All three of them are first-year divers. At this meet, we wanted to make sure they were able to complete all six dives," Ball said.

The Blue Devils will face LIU Brooklyn at another home meet on Saturday. It will be senior day, celebrating the efforts of Aidan Devers and Troy, who have been fundamental to Central's success in the backstroke and freestyle events.

## NEC Men's Update: Robert Morris Pulling Away From The Pack

BY PATRICK GUSTAVSON  
SPORTS EDITOR

It is almost at the halfway point of Northeast Conference men's basketball schedule, and this week's slate of games shows the continued parity, as six teams have an identical conference record. Out of the 10 teams, only two teams won both their contests.

One of those teams to do so was Robert Morris, improving to a 7-1 record, giving them a two-game lead in first place. The Colonials bested Sacred Heart by eight on Thursday, the largest margin of victory in a night of hotly contested games.

They then took down Wagner in a defensive slugfest, with neither team eclipsing 60 points. The Colonials have consistently been the best defensive team in the conference, the leaders in scoring defense and scoring margin.

The other big winner of the week was Fairleigh Dickinson. Previously sitting at 2-4, the two wins puts the Knights tied for third in the conference. They edged out a

tough two-point win against Saint Francis (BKN) before dominating Bryant in Smithfield. They now sit at 4-4 and are in a six-way tie for third place.

On the other hand, one of the big losers of the week was Sacred Heart. The Pioneers entered the weekend with a 4-2 record but faced the tough Pennsylvania road trip against RMU and Saint Francis (PA) and were unable to come away with a win, falling to the Red Flash by just one point, nearly mounting a late comeback.

The Pioneers still sit in a comfortable position in the standings. The same cannot be said for Central Connecticut, who also lost both their contests, extending their losing streak to four games. The Blue Devils nearly broke the streak when they traveled to Bryant, but a last-second Bryant three doomed CCSU. They then returned home to be dominated by LIU Brooklyn, trailing by 30 at one point in the second half. The Blue Devils now sit at 2-6, two games out of a playoff spot and will have work to do to earn a spot in the conference tournament.

It was an up and down week, to say the least, for the

defending champion Blackbirds of LIU. They traveled to Mount St. Mary's who also sits at the basement of the conference, where they were shocked by the Mountaineers in a two-point loss. They rebounded when they dominated CCSU, but struggled in the last 10 minutes, allowing the Blue Devils to cut the lead from 30 to 13, though they still came away with the victory. Led by Player of the Year candidate Raiquan Clark, the Blackbird offense excels in fast-paced ball movement, spearheaded by point guard JaShaun Agosto, who is second in the league in assists.

As for next week's slate, FDU can capitalize on their hot-streak when they host LIU and Robert Morris. The Knights can join the Colonials in separating themselves from the pack with two more signature wins. The Colonials could also extend their lead with a win against FDU or when they host in-state rival SFU.

CCSU and Mount will have the chance to climb back into contention with two home games apiece, possibly adding to the already crowded race for the tournament.

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## Track And Field Sets 17 Personal Bests

BY PATRICK GUSTAVSON  
SPORTS EDITOR

After last week's meet at the Joe Donahue Games, Central Connecticut track and field head coach Eric Blake said the goal moving forward was improving on times and marks. And his teams did just that at the John Thomas Invitational, securing 17 personal bests on both sides

While the women had seven PRs, the star of the meet on Friday was senior Sierra Nesmith, who broke her personal-best time in the 200-meter dash with a time of 24.98, finishing sixth out of 157 competing runners. Not only was this a personal record, but it was also a school record.

Nesmith also competed in the 400-meter run, and while she did not achieve a new personal-best, she finished 16th out of the 113 runner field.

Nesmith is a part of a veteran core on the women's

side that Blake said would be instrumental to the team's success, which also includes runners Dawn Hubbell, Megan Brawner and McKenna Killian, who all competed on Friday.

Freshman Samantha Vasquez set two personal-records on the meet in both the 200 and 400-meter dashes. Junior Taylor Davis also recorded a new best time in the 60-meter dash, finishing 10th out of 38 competing runners.

Also, on the track side, sophomore, Emily Appleton bested her previous record by nearly five seconds in the 800-meter run.

As for Central's women throwers, Danyelle Engels set personal bests for the second straight meet, this time in the shot put.

On the men's side, they topped their teammates by securing 10 new personal bests.

The 500-meter dash was where three Blue Devils

across all classes break personal bests, those being freshman Jason Walton, senior Matt Baum and junior Andrew D'Ovidio.

Andrew Findley and Tim McNamara achieved PRs in the 800-meter dash. Though not breaking his own best time, junior Richard Grudzwick continued to impress, securing a 12th place finish out of 140 competing runners.

On the field side, three throwers improved on their previous bests as Ed Radizon and Andrew McCarthy did so in both the shot put and weighted throw. Junior Nana Kissi also broke a PR in the shot put, finishing 12th of 35 throwers.

Tyrik Henry joined in the fun, leaping 13.41 in the triple jump, also a personal best.

Both teams will be back in action when they take on the New England Championships in Boston on Friday and Saturday, looking to continue to improve on their best times.

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# NEC Women's Update: The Colonials Stand Alone

BY DANIEL FAPPIANO  
LAYOUT EDITOR

Through seven Northeast Conference games, Robert Morris stands alone as the only team left unbeaten. While their offense has been middle of the pack, the Colonials' defense ranks as one of the best in the NEC.

Currently, they lead the league in scoring and field goal percentage defense, as well as scoring margin, turnover margin and total steals. Nneka Ezeigbo continues to be a menace defensively throughout conference play, ranking in the top seven in both steals and blocked shots.

While the Colonials may be the cream of the NEC for now, multiple teams have put themselves in contention for a top-four seed in the conference tournament.

Along with RMU, Sacred Heart was undefeated heading into the week but suffered a big loss to Jessica Kovatch and the Red Flash of Saint Francis (PA).

Despite this, SHU still ranks among the league best in multiple offensive categories. They sit in the top five of scoring offense, scoring margin and field goal percentage. The team does an excellent job of holding onto the ball, as they lead the league in assist-to-turnover ratio and rank second in turnover margin.

Katherine Haines has been a leader for the Pioneers, averaging the fifth most points (16.9) and second most rebounds (9.3) in the league.

One spot below SHU is Saint Francis (BKN). With losses to just RMU and SHU, the Terriers have proven to be one of the more consistent teams in the league.

SFBK has been an offensive dynamo in conference play, ranking first in scoring offense, field goal percentage and three-point percentage. They also rank second in scoring margin and rebounding offense.

The Terriers have multiple different weapons with Jade Johnson averaging the second most points in the league at 18.4, Amy O'Neil leading the league in assists with 7.6, Ally Lassen leading the league in field goal percentage with .526 and Mia Ehling leading the conference in three-point percentage with .467.

At the four seed, both SFU and Bryant are tied with a 4-3 record. Currently, Bryant holds the tiebreaker due to a 66-63 victory over the Red Flash.

The Bulldogs rank in the middle of the pack for most categories. However, they have proven to arguably be the best team in the NEC when it comes to rebounding.

Currently, Bryant leads the league in offensive rebounds along with both offensive and defensive rebounding percentage. The team sits second in defensive rebounds and rebounding margin. Sydney Holloway currently leads the NEC in rebounding at 12.2 per game.

While SFBK has been consistent, SFU has been the exact opposite. They hold both a win over Sacred Heart and a loss to 1-6 Central Connecticut.

Despite their inconsistencies, the Red Flash have the likely leader for NEC Player of the Year in Kovatch. The senior ranks best in the conference in scoring and three-pointers made. Her 20.9 points per game rank 15th in the entire NCAA. Kovatch could score 30 on any given night, always making SFU a wild card.

All three of Mount St. Marys, Wagner and Farleigh Dickinson would round out the top eight if the season ended today. Both CCSU and 0-7 LIU Brooklyn would miss the tournament.

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# Bryant Hands Women's Basketball Sixth Defeat In Seven Games



The Blue Devils sit at 1-6 in NEC play.

JULIA JADE MORDAN | STAFF

BY RYAN JONES  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Looking to climb out of the bottom of the Northeast Conference standings, Central Connecticut's women's basketball team dropped another game Saturday against Bryant. The loss keeps them at ninth in the conference, clinging to a 1-6 record, only better than an 0-7 LIU Brooklyn squad.

The first quarter essentially won the Bulldogs the game. Only able to connect on 23.8 percent of their shots and missing all four of their three-point attempts, the Blue Devil offense could not keep up. The Bulldogs, on the other

hand, came out of the gates hot, shooting 56.3 percent from the floor while getting to the line eight times in the first quarter. Forward Sydney Holloway's 14 first-quarter points also helped Bryant as they jumped out to a 25-12 lead to end the period.

Things were a bit more competitive throughout the second quarter. Bryant's red hot offense from the first was cooled down by some good defense from the Blue Devils, who were able to force five turnovers and held the Bulldogs to a 37.5 percent clip from the floor. Andi Lydon and Emma McCamus lead the way for Central offensively, each tacking on seven points as the team chipped away at the Bryant

lead.

However, many of the problems the Blue Devils faced in the first aided them in the second just the same. They matched their seven first-quarter turnovers with another seven in the second, and while improving from the first quarter, still only shot 27.8 percent in the second.

Kiana Patterson was the CCSU offense in the third. Her nine points were the only scored by starters that quarter for the Blue Devils. Off the bench came three points (one from the line).

Coming into the second half down 20, the offense going cold could not have come at a worse time. While the Bulldogs were only able to score 14 of their own in

the quarter, their 12 point lead heading into the fourth looked miles away.

Two straight clutch baskets from Patterson would cut the once monstrous Bryant lead to just five in the fourth. The Bulldog offense would wake up not long after, pulling away as they brought the lead to as much as 14 before winning the game, 72-60. The final score could have been even worse for the Blue Devils, had the Bulldogs not shot an abysmal 4-12 from the line in the fourth.

The Blue Devils were outscored 42-22 in the paint on the night, but kept things competitive on the glass, being out-rebounded by the Bulldogs by just one (47-46).

Coming off the bench, McCamus led the way offensively, dropping a career-high and team-best 19 points at an efficient 46.7 percent clip. McCamus also led the team with four assists and tacked on an additional two steals.

Patterson continued her impressive scoring streak, this time coming up with 16 points. Lydon, always a presence on the boards, grabbed nine rebounds for the Blue Devils.

CCSU will take on aforementioned LIU Brooklyn on Monday, hopeful to defeat the winless team and grab their second conference win of the season.

RYANJONES385

# OPINION The Lakers Are Treading Water

BY KYLE FLYNN  
STAFF WRITER

Since the Los Angeles Lakers lost LeBron James to a groin injury during the team's Christmas day win over the NBA champions Golden State Warriors, James' young teammates have struggled significantly to get wins.

Once a top two seed in the Western Conference, the Lakers have dropped 10 of the last 15 without James and backup point guard Rajon Rondo. Bad losses to the Knicks and Cavaliers have them currently on the outside of the playoff picture.

The 15-game stretch is the longest period of time that James has missed in his career, and the team has been offensively challenged without him. The fast pace style of play they prefer has been slowed down without the future Hall-of-Famer, and the half-court offense has been something out of a pickup game.

While the Lakers are still among the best in the league defensively, their offense and free throw shooting are amongst the worst.

Energy is absent from the players at times and it has cost them easily winnable games. It must be made a point to come out with intensity on

both ends of the floor every night in order to win games in an unforgiving conference.

To make matters worse, point guard Lonzo Ball will be sidelined for four to six weeks with a sprained ankle that will force the team to really look themselves in the mirror.

Ball was beginning to prove himself as a leader, taking accountability and being more aggressive on offense. When Ball attacks the basket with purpose, it opens up so much for himself and his teammates.

Kuzma's game is one of the Laker's who have been affected by Ball's absence the most, as he is shooting just 11-for-30 in the short time without him. Kuzma loves to play off-ball and Ball does a great job of taking pressure off him and finding him for open shots.

The return of Rondo is significant for the team in their last few games with James out. Without Ball, he is the only true point guard on the roster and the commanding leader of the team. Rondo can control the tempo at will and set up his teammates for endless looks.

James is likely expected to return Tuesday versus the 76ers and it can not come soon enough.

The player who has suffered the most is guard Josh Hart. Hart was

shooting nearly 40 percent on catch and shoot threes, with a frequent rate of open shots. Since, the volume of open shots attempted has dropped quite a bit, as well as his shooting percentage (28 percent).

He has certainly picked up his slack in other ways like rebounding and diving for loose balls, but the NBA is a make or miss league and Hart's shooting has plummeted.

James has not faced a situation as unique as this one in his career. With one of the hardest remaining schedules in the NBA, the Lakers' odds of making the playoffs sit squarely on James' shoulders. Rather than coasting to the playoffs in the Eastern conference and turning on god-mode once he gets there, James' will have to turn it up a notch, especially defensively if the Lakers want to make it back to the playoffs for the first time in five years.

The Lakers can no doubt turn this season around and give themselves a fighting chance in April, but they will require consistent play and continued growth from their young core.

Although the Lakers are just 5-10 without James, it does not seem like the time to panic, yet.

As it stands right now, nothing is a safe bet when it comes to the future of the NBA's most storied franchise.





McCarthy takes over the Blue Devils after five seasons as offensive coordinator.

JULIA JADE MORAN | STAFF



Rossomando held a 22-34 record in his five seasons at CCSU.

JULIA JADE MORAN | STAFF

# Rossomando Resigns, McCarthy Named Interim Coach

BY PATRICK GUSTAVSON  
SPORTS EDITOR

A familiar face will be taking over the Central Connecticut football program, as the school has promoted offensive coordinator Ryan McCarthy to interim head coach following the departure of Pete Rossomando, who took the role of offensive line coach at Rutgers.

Despite the interim tag, McCarthy will be leading the Blue Devils for the 2019 season. Athletics Director Brian Barrio said that designation was due to the state hiring process.

“This is how we have to do it to have a coach in place right away,” Barrio said. “Otherwise, the search process takes two months, even if I know I want Ryan.”

The announcement of McCarthy’s promotion came at the same time of Rossomando’s departure. It was a decision

that Barrio said had been in the works, as the department was bracing for Rossomando’s potential departure.

“This is something we’ve been thinking about for a couple months,” Barrio said. “We knew Pete would be in demand. This wasn’t unforeseeable. We knew that the economics were that this could happen and we had conversations about a succession plan.”

Barrio stressed the importance of continuity and keeping the staff together.

“We’ve got a staff in place that everyone here believes in, that conducts themselves in a tremendous way on and off the field. Do we need change for the sake of change? I don’t think so. I think what we need is stability and continuity to build what we’ve put in place.”

Barrio applauded McCarthy for his character and leadership skills and cited endorsements of many throughout the CCSU community.

“Every person I’ve talked to from our

football student-athletes, to our staff here, to other people on the staff, to the donors, to Pete, all unanimously felt like Ryan is the guy,” Barrio said.

In five seasons at the helm, Rossomando led the Blue Devils to a 22-34 record. In 2017, the team won the NEC behind a perfect conference record, appearing in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) playoffs for the first time in school history. His departure was first reported by Football Scoop late last Monday night, after he had told the team, in person, per Barrio.

Barrio went on to applaud Rossomando’s handling of the situation, saying he “couldn’t have handled it more professionally.”

Barrio cited the economics of college football, calling the salary difference of being on a Big 10 staff and a Northeast Conference head coach “massive” and “unmatchable.”

“It’s a difference to the point where it’s such a good move for his family and

his security that I can’t do anything but congratulate him,” Barrio said. “But I want it to be clear to everyone on campus that this is entirely amicable, he handled it all professionally and everybody here wishes him the absolute best.”

Since Barrio was not at CCSU for the NEC championship, he had a different takeaway of Rossomando’s legacy.

“The biggest thing that will stick with me is that he took a program that probably didn’t have the best reputation on campus and he built it into a team full of young men that people respect, that represent us well, that are great student-athletes,” Barrio said.

Moving forward, Barrio feels the program is on the rise and the success will continue to make strides under McCarthy.

“I think that’s a room full of guys that want to run through a brick wall for Ryan McCarthy and I think you’ll see it on the field next year,” Barrio said.

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# Men’s Basketball ‘In A Funk’

BY PATRICK GUSTAVSON  
SPORTS EDITOR



The Blue Devils trailed by 30 in the second half to LIU Brooklyn.

JULIA JADE MORDAN | STAFF

Entering the season, Donyell Marshall believed his Central Connecticut men’s basketball team had the potential to win the Northeast Conference. But eight games into the conference slate, they are 2-6 and on the outside looking in of even making the conference tournament.

Marshall said his team is, “in a funk,” following two more losses.

The Blue Devils were in a position to break their losing streak on Thursday when they traveled to Bryant in an incredibly evenly-matched contest, with neither team leading by more than seven points at any time.

Both teams traded runs in the closing minutes, leading to a 60-60 tie with just 34 seconds remaining.

With just nine seconds left, Bryant’s Sebastian Townes hit a three, handing the Blue Devils their third-straight loss.

Marshall said the loss hit his team hard and believes it affected the way they came out when they returned home to take on LIU Brooklyn at home on Saturday.

The Blue Devils came out flat in the first half, surrendering 52 points on the home court. They struggled to contain the Blackbird offense, who was moving the ball in transition, displaying strong ball-movement and hitting open shots. Specifically, the Blue Devils had little answer for Ty Flowers, a stretch big who hit three threes. Raul Frias also hit three triples in the first half.

After trailing by 20 at halftime, Central did not come out of the half particularly strong, with the Blackbirds extending their lead to 30 with just under 13 minutes left in the game.

Marshall said his team did not come out with enough fight and even placed blame on himself.

“Right now, I’m struggling as a coach. We’ve just got to get the guys more engaged. We’ve got to get them to believe. I think sometimes when you go through stretches like this, they can get down on themselves,” Marshall said.

But CCSU was not done yet; cutting the 30-point lead to 12 with under three minutes remaining.

While Marshall believed his team played with more intensity and inspiration, he said his team “can’t get down 30 to get inspired.”

One of the biggest stories from the previous two losses was the lack of Tyler Kohl. The team’s leading scorer averaged just 5.5 points against Saint Francis (PA) and Robert Morris.

In the two most recent contests, Kohl averaged 14.5 points and even had a double-double against Bryant.

Marshall said Kohl is “getting there” and “getting better,” but says he is still getting frustrated as team’s clamp down on him.

“Teams know that he’s the key to our team and I think sometimes he gets a little frustrated,” Marshall said. “You’ve got to learn to play through that and keep playing.”

The Blue Devils have now lost four in a row and would miss the NEC tournament should the season end today.

Despite the struggles, Marshall insists his team has not given up and still believes.

“None of us are happy, but we’ve got to keep fighting,” he said. “I’m sure a lot of people have given up on the season, but we haven’t. We lost six in a row, but we can turn it around and win the next 10. We’ve got to take it one thing at a time.”

As the Blue Devils take things one day at a time, Marshall said he will be preaching a message.

“The message is that we believe. We believe as coaches. You’ve got to believe,” Marshall said. “We’re the ones that are in there practicing every day, we’re the ones that are traveling. It is us. We’ve got to keep believing in ourselves and we’ve got to keep believing in them. As the leader, I still believe.”

Marshall also believes that if his team gets hot, they can still contend in the NEC.

“I still think we’re as talented as any team in this league and if we can get into the NEC tournament, I still think we’re dangerous,” he said. “We’ve got to stick together and try to make the run and let the chips fall where they may.”

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